

Plandome Heights

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Kenneth C. RiscicaMayor

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Katherine HannonCourt Clerk

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Village Building
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Mgmt. Officer

David Lisner Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator

Maryann Grieco Architectural Review Board, Chair

Eugene O'Connor Zoning and Appeals Board, Chair

Trey HarraganTechnology Advisory
Board, Chair

Mary Gabriel Historian April 4, 2024

Dear Residents – <u>RE: Engage and Inform</u>

The Village has received two petitions to hold votes on resolutions of the Board of Trustees approved in March. First, let me welcome such engagement, thank you. Second, I assure you that the vote will be held according to the law.

Some have been told that the petition was "...to preserve our rights as residents to vote on the acquisition of property for a Village Hall." As you will see below, that is not the case. And no Village Hall transaction was requested for a vote; so there is none. So, this assertion, and the premise of the petition, is not consistent with the facts or the vote we will conduct.

So, I write to ensure that you are <u>fully informed</u> about the content, purpose and intent of those resolutions, which are on the reverse side of this letter and I refer to them below as "Resolution #1 – Soft Costs" and "Resolution #2 – Digital Records."

<u>Resolution #1 – Soft Costs –</u> The Board has begun incurring, and will continue to incur, "soft costs" associated with our search for a possible new Village Hall by lease or purchase. Such costs permit the Village to prepare materials for due diligence for <u>presentation to residents</u>, such as site plans, layouts & renderings related such space.

We believe that the NY State Comptroller prefers that these non-recurring costs be separated out of the General Fund so that the operations used to generate your tax levy are not "distorted" by non-recurring expenditures, risking unsound tax levies. Including such costs as expenditures in the capital reserve fund as "Best Practices" also subjects them to permissive referendum. Spending these costs from the General Fund is not subject to referendum.

The Village recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to use Best Practices for soft costs.

<u>Resolution #2 – Digital Records –</u> In October 2023, the Village was awarded a grant from NY State for approximately \$25,000 to fund the next phase of our digital records project.

We believe that the NY State Comptroller prefers that these non-recurring costs be separated out of the General Fund so that the operations used to generate your tax levy are not "distorted" by non-recurring expenditures, risking unsound tax levies. Including such costs as expenditures in the capital reserve fund as "Best Practices" also subjects them to permissive referendum. Spending these costs from the General Fund is not subject to referendum.

The first phase of the project, approximately \$55,000, was done as proposed by the Village.

The Village recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to use Best Practices for digital.

I hope this is helpful; facts, not drama. I welcome your continued engagement Sincerely,

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS

Kenneth C. Riscica

Mayor@PlandomeHeights-NY.Gov

LEGAL NOTICE

Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Board of Trustees of the Inc. Village of Plandome Heights at a regular meeting of the Board held on March 4, 2024, duly adopted a resolution amending a previously approved appropriation not to exceed \$600,000 from the Village's Capital Reserve Fund for capital projects relating to existing Village roadways, street signs, street lights, parklands and leasehold interests; under the March 4, 2024 resolution, [a portion of] the unused balance [currently approximately \$151,000] of the previously authorized appropriation may now be applied to fees and expenses for professional services, including without limitation engineering, surveying, design, appraisal, financing, and legal services, and other 'soft costs' relating to the possible acquisition of a leasehold or fee ownership interest in real property and improvements for Village governmental purposes; said resolution is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to the General Municipal Law.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Marie Brodsky Village Clerk/Treasurer March 06, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Incorporated Village of Plandome Heights

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Board of Trustees of the Inc. Village of Plandome Heights at a regular meeting of the Board held on March 4, 2024, duly adopted a resolution appropriating the sum not to exceed \$90,000, from the Village's Capital Reserve Fund, to be applied to certain capital improvement projects relating to the digitization of Village records, which resolution supersedes and replaces a prior resolution appropriating the sum not to exceed \$60,000 for such capital projects, in order to increase the authorized expenditure by \$30,000, and which resolution is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to the provisions of the General Municipal Law.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Marie Brodsky Village Clerk/Treasurer March 06, 2024