



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF
Plandome Heights

37 Orchard Street, Manhasset, New York 11030
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Kenneth C. Riscica
Mayor

Eric Carlson
Daniel Cataldo
Mary Hauck
Jerry Love
Kristina Lobosco
Norman Taylor
Trustees

Marie Brodsky
Clerk - Treasurer

Susan Martinez
Deputy Clerk

Katherine Hannon
Court Clerk

Cye E. Ross, Esq.
Village Justice

Mary Breen Corrigan
Village Prosecutor

Edward P. Butt, AIA
Village Building
Inspector Stormwater
Mgmt. Officer

David Lisner
Emergency Mgmt.
Coordinator

Maryann Grieco
Architectural Review
Board, Chair

Eugene O'Connor
Zoning and Appeals
Board, Chair

Trey Harragan
Technology Advisory
Board, Chair

Mary Gabriel
Historian

May 6, 2024

RE: Engage and Inform – Resident Petition

Dear Residents and Friends –

This is an update to my attached April 4, 2024 letter about the petition for a vote on two March 5, 2024 Board actions. Petition proponents told residents the following, in writing, and then urgently sought their signatures:

- The vote is "...to preserve our rights as residents to vote on the acquisition of property for a Village Hall."
- "Because the Village is considering purchasing a property without a bond, this petition will preserve our right to vote on this matter"
- "...the Trustees passed a resolution to transfer restricted capital reserve funds to the general account."
- "...stopping this current resolution to transfer capital funds may be our last opportunity to preserve our right to vote on this matter."

None of this is correct. These assertions, and the premise of the petition, are not consistent with the facts or the vote requested. Further, there is no actionable Village Hall proposal.

The actual petition filed is **not** about a Village Hall, it is a vote on bookkeeping, in the Capital Fund rather than in the General Fund, for expenditures that will be made in any event for: (1) "soft costs" of evaluating village hall possibilities and (2) our digital project (as we did before) that is funded from grants not capital reserve. Capital Fund expenditures require permissive referendum, General Fund expenditures do not. Further, there are no transfers from the Capital Fund to General Fund. The bookkeeping we proposed follows the State Comptroller's Best Practices that we exclude these non-recurring expenses from the General Fund that we use to calculate your tax levy (see reverse side).

The Village has decided that spending your time and money on a confusing and divisive debate about the complexities of bookkeeping is not in the interest of the Village or its residents. Therefore, and in the spirit of reconciliation and harmony as well as for the reasons below, the Village has withdrawn both March 5, 2024 resolutions and so no vote is required.

Reasons for the change. Resolution #1 on soft costs is overbroad and so it is withdrawn and replaced with a new resolution on soft costs that is more specific and much more limited. Resolution #2 was done on March 5th to accommodate bills coming due in April and May. The passage of time has made that resolution pointless, so it is withdrawn.

Sincerely,
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
**BY: TRUSTEES: NORMAN TAYLOR, DANIEL CATALDO, MARY HAUCK,
KRISTINA LOBOSCO, ERIC CARLSON AND JERRY LOVE** and

Kenneth C. Riscica
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April 4, 2024

Dear Residents – RE: Engage and Inform

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 fully informed 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.”

Resolution #1 – Soft Costs – 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 presentation to residents, 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.

Resolution #2 – Digital Records – 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