

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PLANDOME HEIGHTS VILLAGE HALL
FEBRUARY 3, 2025; 7:00 PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present:	Mayor	Kenneth C. Riscica
	Trustee	Daniel Cataldo
	Trustee	Mary Hauck
	Trustee	Norman Taylor
	Trustee	Eric Carlson
	Clerk-Treasurer	Marie Brodsky
	Village Attorney	Christopher Prior, Esq.

Absent:	Trustee	Kristina Lobosco
	Trustee	Jerry Love

Also Present:	Rosemary Mascali	Resident, President Plandome Heights Civic Association
	Paul Mascali	Resident
	Marijo Lantier	Village Consultant

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Riscica called the meeting to order and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor reports that we gather today on the one year anniversary of the passing of Trustee Gus Panopoulos. Gus was taken from us too quickly, and too soon, having passed suddenly and at 53 years of age. Trustee Panopoulos served the Village for over 8 years, since April of 2015, and was a beloved member of the Board of Trustees. The Mayor noted that Trustee Panopoulos brought special skills as an accomplished attorney and entrepreneur which made him a *talented Trustee*. However, his love of the village and its residents made him an *extraordinary Trustee*. Our Board, like, We continue to feel his loss deeply, as does his family, friends, and the greater community. Part of his legacy is that we have several “Disciples of Gus,” recruited by Gus, serving the Village in various roles. They remind us of how we miss Gus. In respect of this difficult anniversary, and by motion made by Trustee Norman Taylor and seconded by Trustee Daniel Cataldo, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, that the continued sorrow and condolences of the Trustees be communicated to Trustee Panopoulos’ family, his wife Irene and twin daughters Ava and Grace, as conveyed in this resolution with our continued wish, “*May God rest his soul and comfort his family,*” and that they find peace in Pastor’s enduring message: “Thank God we had Gus.”

RESOLVED, that the flag of the Village of Plandome Heights be lowered to half-staff in respect of the passing of Trustee Gus Panopoulos one year ago and that such flag shall remain in that state for one week.

The Mayor noted the next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees’ January 06, 2025 Regular Meeting. The Trustees confirmed that they read the draft minutes. After

discussion, upon motion by Trustee Hauck, seconded by Trustee Carlson, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Regular Meeting in the form presented by the Village Clerk-Treasurer are hereby accepted and approved, as amended, and the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby instructed to file the minutes in the minutes book of the Village.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to Village Operations.

The Mayor reported on his discussions with Richard J. Nicoletto, Town Attorney for the Town of North Hempstead, regarding the Long Island Rail Road's Webster Ave Bridge project. Those discussions addressed the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Long Island Rail Road, The Railroad Construction Company, Inc., the project contractors, and the Village's decision, by resolution at the January 6, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting, to deny the MTA's proposal to stage the project in the Village right-of-way on the Plandome Pond Park side of the bridge, involving the likely removal of Village trees, without any compensation to the Village. The Mayor noted that removing trees from the Village ROW without permission creates exposure to prosecution in Village Justice court and to fines imposed by the Court. The Mayor will provide further updates as they become available.

The Mayor then discussed the Storm Drain Cleaning to be performed for the Village by Meadow Carting. The Mayor reported that the work has not yet been completed due initially to mechanical problems with Meadow's equipment, and then due to cold weather that prevents effective performance. The Mayor will provide further updates as they become available.

Mayor Riscica then addressed the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee (MBPC) and its request for payment of the annual dues of \$1,800. Mayor Riscica observed that MBPC assigns that same amount to all village members, regardless of geographic size, population, amount of frontage on Manhasset Bay, assessed value of properties, resources and impact, which vary greatly among the 13 participating Villages. The Mayor observed that a more equitable approach would determine dues amounts for village members based upon those considerations. He also noted that his repeated communication of that viewpoint to the MBPC representatives has not led to any change, but that the Village does obtain benefit from its membership. After discussion, and upon motion made by Trustee Cataldo and seconded by Trustee Taylor the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Village renew its membership agreement with the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee on the terms stated, but that the Village remit payment of its dues with a letter to the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee expressing the Village's continued concerns over the method of allocating dues among the member villages.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to a recent Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) application from Newsday LLC newspaper for an electronic copy of the village payrolls for FY2023 and FY2024 listing all employees, including full-time, part-time, and seasonal workers. The Clerk-Treasurer, as the Village's FOIL officer, will process that application.

The Mayor then discussed the Village Hall Landlord's request for the Village to review and verify proof of payment for multiple specified invoices. The Clerk-Treasurer has completed her investigation but has been unable to meet with the Landlord to review her findings. To date, the Clerk-Treasurer is awaiting a response from the Landlord.

Mayor then provided a synopsis of the current Village Financials. The Mayor states that, as expected, revenue from Building Department activity was significant, causing surplus so far in the current fiscal year.

Mayor Riscica stated that the next order of business was the approval of the Abstract of Claims. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Abstract of Claims Number 11 of the Budget Year 2024 – 2025 for claim numbers 238 – 266 in the amount of \$47,813.35, has been reviewed and approved by the Trustees, and is hereby accepted, as amended.

At 7:57 p.m. Trustee Cataldo moved to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss real estate and seek the advice of counsel. This motion was seconded by Trustee Carlson. All Trustees present were in favor.

At 8:21 p.m., the Mayor announced that executive session ended with no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Brodsky
Clerk-Treasurer

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PLANDOME HEIGHTS VILLAGE HALL
FEBRUARY 3, 2025; 7:00 PM**

Exhibit 1. Reflections on the one year anniversary on the passing of Trustee Gus Panopoulos

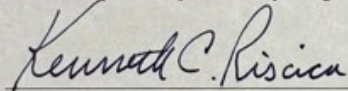


**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
VILLAGE HALL
February 3, 2025**

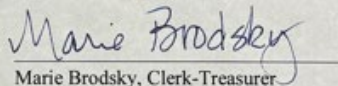
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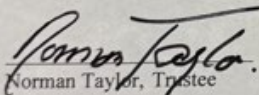
Kenneth C. Riscica, Mayor



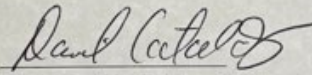
Marie Brodsky, Clerk-Treasurer

Dated this February 3rd, 2025

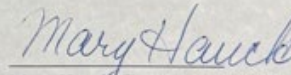
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:



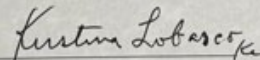
Norman Taylor, Trustee



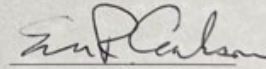
Daniel Cataldo, Trustee



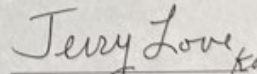
Mary Hauck, Trustee



Kristina Lobosco, Trustee



Eric Carlson, Trustee



Jerry Love, Trustee

