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VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

-----X

PUBLIC HEARING
ON TENTATIVE BUDGET
AND
BILLS #1 & #2 OF 2026

-----X

BEFORE: KENNETH C. RISCICA, Mayor
DANIEL CATALDO, Trustee
MARY HAUCK, Trustee
NORMAN TAYLOR, Trustee
ERIC CARLSON, Trustee
GERARD LOVE, Trustee (Virtual
Non-Voting)

DATE: April 6, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Village Hall
37 Orchard Street
Manhasset, New York 11030

VILLAGE COUNSEL: CHRISTOPHER PRIOR, ESQ.
VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER: MARIE BRODSKY
REPORTED BY: JOANNE HORROCKS, CSR

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Board of Trustees

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MAYOR RISCICA: We are opening the public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the tentative budget and to receive input from the public, if any, on the tentative budget. Have you made the tentative budget available?

THE CLERK: On the Board vote?

MAYOR RISCICA: It needs to be available for them whether they take it or don't take it. But they also need the one page of changes.

THE CLERK: Yes.

MAYOR RISCICA: You can put that page of changes.

So the purpose of the hearing is to review the tentative budget which was published at our March 2nd monthly meeting and has been available to residents since that time.

I have one change to the budget, which is to finalize the clerk's compensation, which was not final in the tentative budget. And the change

1 is necessary. To effectuate that
2 change is a one-page adjustment sheet
3 that I, as budget officer, am required
4 to present, and Marie is printing out
5 copies of that if anyone wants to see
6 it. It changes the total budget was a
7 total of \$200 just by virtue of how we
8 needed to force the number to work.
9 But it's essentially to move money from
10 here to there to there to accommodate
11 the clerk's raise.
12

13 To summarize the presentation,
14 which I made in the March meeting which
15 I'm ordering the clerk to put in the
16 record of that meeting was a
17 power-point presentation that
18 summarized that the state comptroller
19 reports what we have been experiencing
20 which is 22 percent inflation over the
21 past five-year period, and our tax
22 increases have been not only 15, have
23 been 15 percent. So our taxes are well
24 behind our cost increases. We have
25 been able to do that because we have

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nonrecurring revenue mostly in interest income that has largely covered that shortfall. That nonrecurring income is dwindling, and so we have to cover that shortfall which we are doing over time.

We did 3.5 percent last year, 3.2 percent this year to catch up. And that's eventually the rationale behind the budget.

The budget happens to be durable, and I say durable in the sense that it doesn't change a lot year after year. The biggest variables are whether we have a lot of snow, snow removal expense and related road repair. And there's been a continuous march over time to increase compensation of our staff, because we have needed to move our compensation scale higher in order to retain people. And so that's the rationale behind the budget.

I have received no communications or comments on the budget. And before I open the meeting for comment from

2 residents, I'll ask if anyone on the
3 Board has a comment. We have pretty
4 thoroughly discussed this. I don't see
5 any need to go over it again.

6 Hearing none, I will open it up
7 to residents.

8 MS. MASCALI: I will. Rosemary
9 Mascali, 36 Bournedale Road South.

10 I understand that the snow was a
11 big year this year, so I'm not as
12 opposed to the increases as I have been
13 in the past. But I do think that it's
14 looking like interest rates are not
15 going to be going down.

16 MAYOR RISCICA: I'm sorry, I
17 didn't hear you.

18 MS. MASCALI: It's just
19 speculation, but it looks like interest
20 rates are not going to be going down
21 given what's happening.

22 MAYOR RISCICA: I'm buying CDs,
23 and they are down. I was surprised how
24 much they were down.

25 MS. MASCALI: Interest?

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MAYOR RISCICA: 3.3 percent is pretty low. Some of that is different institutions, that different emphasis at different times. But the rates are definitely down. Will they continue to go down? I share your view that maybe they won't. I think there's going to be some inflation on what's going on. Somebody even suggested a rate hike. I don't think that's going to happen.

MS. MASCALI: But the, you know, with all the construction going on, I think that the building permit fees are also going to --

MAYOR RISCICA: They are definitely above budget.

MS. MASCALI: Right. So I don't think the increase is necessary, but it's not anything that's I think anybody in the Village is going to cause a huge hardship.

So given what we had with snow this past year, I'm not as opposed as I was last year.

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Board of Trustees

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MAYOR RISCICA: Thank you for
that.

And I would just add the
additional comment and this is
reflected in the state comptroller's
opinion of our finances that there's a
fundamental principal in municipal
finance that you cover your operating
expenses with your property taxes and
other revenue items. You don't rely on
building which is, you know, fluctuates
wildly.

I have shown a chart where one
year it was \$150,000, other years it's
\$40,000. So you need to take some long
view of that, and I think we are. The
result is we have had surplus after
surplus, and I don't view that as bad.
I think that will serve the Village
well over time.

Any other comments or questions?
Hearing none, I would ask for a motion
to close the public hearing.

TRUSTEE CARLSON: I'll make that

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motion.

MAYOR RISCICA: Second. All in favor?

(Whereupon, all Board members indicate in the affirmative.)

MAYOR RISCICA: We have a second public hearing. What's Bill Number 1 on again, Chris?

MR. PRIOR: Bill Number 1 addresses the --

MAYOR RISCICA: So this is a second public hearing.

MR. PRIOR: Yes. The issue that we had was we wanted a local code provision that gave us the right to enforce the Village Justice Court violations that until we have this in place a violation of state law with Vehicle and Traffic Law.

MAYOR RISCICA: Talking about parking.

MR. PRIOR: Snow into the street. We have a provision that prohibits depositing stuff in the street but not

snow.

MAYOR RISCICA: This essentially adds a word to the existing provision of the code to include snow as items that cannot be deposited in the street by residents and, therefore, would permit us to make local violations for people who shovel their snow into the street which is unsafe and was a real issue this year because the snow never melted. People put the snow in the street, it was there for two weeks. The traffic wore it away, of course. It's not like you throw it in the street because the sun is out and it's going to melt. And we want the ability to have enforcement of that and fines.

So that's the purpose of the bill, and it was published publicly. And we have talked about it thoroughly. So unless there's other further discussion of the Board, I would open it up to the public for any discussion? No discussion.

2 I ask for a motion to close the
3 public hearing.

4 TRUSTEE HAUCK: I make the
5 motion.

6 MAYOR RISCICA: Second. All in
7 favor?

8 (Whereupon, all Board members
9 indicate in the affirmative.)

10 MAYOR RISCICA: Bill Number 2.

11 MR. PRIOR: Bill Number 2 is
12 designed to establish a minimum fine,
13 staggered fines for repeated parking
14 violations. So we have three tiers.
15 The first violation would have a
16 minimum fine of \$50, a maximum of \$150.
17 It would then go up for the second
18 violation that happens within three
19 years. And then if you have three
20 within five years, it's another tier of
21 violations with a floor and ceiling in
22 both cases.

23 Right now, you have just a
24 provision for fines of up to \$100. And
25 I think the Village has been a bit

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frustrated that the fines have been imposed substantially less than the maximum and thus this proposed change.

MAYOR RISCICA: And did we include in the bill any change to how we could enforce the parking law or just the fines?

MR. PRIOR: Just the fines.

MAYOR RISCICA: I think the two perhaps should be coupled that the Village should perhaps have the ability to write its own tickets for violations of the Village Code.

And right now, we do not have in our code a code enforcement officer, and that is not an accident. That is the deliberate will of the elders when they wrote the code or rewrote the code out of believe -- I wasn't there, so I don't know, but I believe out of the desire to not bother residents with extensive and minor enforcement items.

The example I give is in senior housing, we have some seniors who have

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nothing to do and spend their days
jotting down violation of the house
rules that their neighbors make. And
that's not the kind of community that
we wanted to be, and there are people
who feel fairly strongly about that.

And mayors have suggested to me
dealing with the problems we discussed
earlier that I should simply have our
code enforcement officer go out and
write tickets, and then I explained we
don't have one by code and what have
you.

So I raised all of this in the
context last meeting of everything
happening in parking, and my concern
that with our very warm and generous
judge that parking fines at \$25 were
not going to be meaningful to stopping
the parking problem that we have had.

I subsequently learned that the
tickets are being written not on our
code but on VTL by Nassau County Police
and that our court is assessing those

2 fines at \$100 plus a \$25 surcharge. So
3 people are paying a \$125 fine for the
4 parking situation that we described,
5 some of which as we openly admit is
6 because of our signage.

7 So I'm not sure that the problem
8 that I envisioned when I suggested that
9 we change our code needs attention in
10 the code at this moment. Fines are
11 being written for a meaningful amount.
12 People who get the fines tell me
13 they'll never park there again because
14 it's \$125. It's not insignificant.
15 \$25, they would park there all day
16 long.

17 So my feeling is that we should
18 complete a public hearing so we're open
19 to doing this if we want to sometime in
20 the near future, but I'm not inclined
21 to act on it.

22 TRUSTEE HAUCK: So again, the
23 judge can still bring down that fine?

24 MR. PRIOR: The judge can always
25 bring down the fine. The one thing

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that he cannot do is exceed the
ceiling.

Judges can use their discretion
and fine less than the floor that we
added here. But right now there is no
floor and having a floor at least lets
the judge know the trustees think it's
appropriate, can't exceed it but can go
below the floor.

And I think a low floor is a good
thing inside the Village for normal
residents who have someone stay
overnight in the Village, and they
didn't think to call to the Village.

I got a ticket once leaving my
car out while my driveway was seal
coated, and it was obvious I was there.
I was the resident.

So I think it's good to have a
slap-on-the-wrist fine for infractions
like that.

TRUSTEE HAUCK: So you need the
floor?

MR. PRIOR: The floor is intended

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to guide the judge to not go as low as
he might otherwise go.

MAYOR RISCICA: What I'm saying
is I think we want to leave the judge
alone right now, because the problem
that I perceived seems to be working
differently than I understood it.

People parking in the situations
that we are experiencing are getting
\$125 fines. That's what the prosecutor
is advocating. That's the what the
court clerk is advocating. It's going
to the judge, and he's not changing it.

So I think the problem that I saw
in raising this issue and asking a way
to come up and solve it is working
effectively. And I would prefer to
have had the public hearing so we have
discussed this issue, it's open to us
to change if we want to, but I am not
inclined to change it at this meeting
at this time.

And I think that the issue of
having a code enforcement officer,

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while I may think that's a good thing,
I think it requires a little more
socialization, because some people
think it's not a good thing, number
one. And number two, which one of us
wants to be that person? Do you want
to be writing tickets to your neighbors
on a Sunday because they park
illegally?

TRUSTEE CATALDO: No, just in
front of the Mayor's house.

MAYOR RISCICA: I don't want to
do it. So I think it requires more
socialization, and I think it requires
a plan that some trustee doesn't have
to be the bad guy. And I don't have a
plan for that, you know.

Plandome Manor rents the code
enforcement officer from Flower Hill.
We can do that. If we generated enough
fines, then we would be motivated to
pay out what we pay out.

MS. MASCALI: That's what we
don't want. That's why I agree no one.

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Board of Trustees

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MAYOR RISCICA: And I hear you,
and I hear you loudly.

TRUSTEE TAYLOR: Deputize the
assistant clerk, make her a part time.

MAYOR RISCICA: When Susan lived
in the neighborhood, that's who I
talked to about it. But she doesn't
work here anymore.

TRUSTEE TAYLOR: It would make
sense though. Just use her randomly
and not overuse.

MAYOR RISCICA: But you've got to
do it on the weekends, and the clerk
isn't coming here from Freeport to do
that on a Sunday.

TRUSTEE TAYLOR: We talked about
this for years and years code
enforcement.

MAYOR RISCICA: So is there
anymore discussion? Any discussion
from the public?

MS. MASCALI: I would agree with
the elders' assessment of not going
quickly at all to a code enforcement

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officer. I think that starts a whole
different tone to the Village, and I
would disagree with that.

I think if it's \$125 now, I agree
with you that you don't need anything.
I think that's a strong enough
deterrent.

MAYOR RISCICA: Hearing no
further comments, I suggest a motion to
close the public hearing?

TRUSTEE CARLSON: Motion.

MAYOR RISCICA: Second. All in
favor?

(Whereupon, all Board members
indicate in the affirmative.)

* * * * *

This is certified to be a true and accurate
transcript of my stenographic notes taken in
the above-captioned matter.



Joanne Horrocks, CSR
Official Court Reporter