

**VILLAGE OF HILLBURN
Annual Organizational Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2023 - 7:00PM**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING held on Monday, April 3, 2023, in the Community Room, 37 5th Street, Hillburn, NY, commencing at 7:00PM.

PRESENT: **Joseph P. Tursi, Mayor**
 Bernadette A. Tarantino, Trustee
 David H. McNally, Trustee
 Terry Rice, Village Attorney

RECORDER OF MINUTES: Robin Miele, Clerk-Treasurer

Meeting was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Joseph P. Tursi. Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Mary M. Boone led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tursi recognized the presence of Town of Ramapo Police Chief Martin Reilly.

The Invocation was offered by Pastor Paul DeLalla of Lighthouse Worship Center.

The Oath of Office was administered by Village Justice Jerome Jefferson to the newly re-elected Mayor, Joseph P. Tursi, for the two-year term commencing April 3, 2023 and ending on April 7, 2025.

The Oath of Office was administered by Village Justice Jerome Jefferson to the newly re-elected Trustee, Bernadette Tarantino, for the two-year term commencing April 3, 2023 and ending on April 7, 2025.

The Oath of Office was administered by Village Justice Jerome Jefferson to Ernest Buonocore to serve as Associate Justice for the official 2023-2024 year.

Retention of Services

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to retain Terry Rice, Esq. as the Village Attorney for the 2023-2024 official year.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to retain Brooker Engineering, PLLC as the Village Engineer for the 2023-2024 official year and to accept the 2023-2024 Village Engineering Consultant Proposal.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to retain Berard & Associates, CPA's P.C. as the Village Auditor for the 2023-2024 official year, in accordance with the first year of a 5 year contract approved 4/25/2022.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

Mayoral Appointments and Designations (Official Year 2023-2024)

DEPUTY MAYOR.....	<u>Bernadette A. Tarantino</u>
ASSOCIATE VILLAGE JUSTICE.....	<u>Ernest Buonocore</u>
VILLAGE CLERK and TREASURER.....	<u>Robin G. Miele</u>
ASST VILLAGE CLERK and TREASURER.....	<u>Mary M. Boone</u>
DEPUTY CLERK.....	<u>Yvonne Van Dunk</u>
DEPUTY TREASURER.....	<u>Parquiris DeLeon-Van Dunk</u>
VILLAGE ATTORNEY.....	<u>Terry Rice</u>
VILLAGE PROSECUTOR.....	<u>Eric Holzer</u>
VILLAGE ENGINEER.....	<u>Brooker Engineering, PLLC</u>
VILLAGE ASSESSOR.....	<u>Scott Shedler</u>
VILLAGE AUDITOR.....	<u>Berard & Associates CPAs P.C.</u>
PLANNING CONSULTANT.....	<u>Nelson, Pope & Voorhees</u>
CO-STREET COMMISSIONERS.....	<u>Bernadette A. Tarantino & David H. McNally</u>
WATER COMMISSIONER.....	<u>Joseph P. Tursi</u>
POLICE COMMISSIONER.....	<u>Joseph P. Tursi</u>
CO-RECREATION COMMISSIONERS (Youth & Seniors)...	<u>Bernadette A. Tarantino & David H. McNally</u>
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR.....	<u>Thomas M. Conklin</u>
ASST. DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR.....	<u>Shane S. Starr</u>
BUILDING and FIRE INSPECTOR.....	<u>Lawrence McMannis</u>
BUILDING DEPARTMENT CLERKS.....	<u>Parquiris DeLeon-Van Dunk</u>
.....	<u>Yvonne Van Dunk</u>

PLANNING BD. CLERK, COURT CLERK.....	<u>Yvonne Van Dunk</u>
DEPUTY COURT CLERK.....	<u>Parquiris DeLeon-Van Dunk</u>
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CLERK.....	<u>Robin G. Miele</u>
CLERK-TYPIST.....	<u>Robin G. Miele</u>
WATER DEPT. CLERKS.....	<u>Robin G. Miele</u>
.....	<u>Yvonne Van Dunk</u>
FIRE ALARM INSTALLATION/MONITORING.....	<u>Electro-Lock, Suffern, NY</u>

The following RESOLUTION was offered by Trustee Tarantino and seconded by Trustee McNally who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Mayoral appointments and designations have been made for the 2023-2024 official year,
BE IT RESOLVED that the appointments and designations are hereby approved by the Hillburn Village Board; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the salaries and wages for the appointees shall be as set forth in the 2023-2024 budget.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Members:

Unexpired 5 Year Term Ending April 2026 – (Resignation of Patricia Osterhoudt)

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to approve Mayor Tursi’s appointment of Tanya Cirincione to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the unexpired five-year term ending April 2026.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

5 Year Term Ending April 2028

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to approve Mayor Tursi’s re-appointment of Laurens Winter to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the five-year term ending April 2028.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

Appointment of Planning Board Member - 5 Year Term Ending April 2028

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to approve Mayor Tursi's re-appointment of Ashleigh Jennings to the Planning Board for the 5-Year Term April 2028.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

Schedule of Regular Meetings and the Scheduling Procedure of Special Meetings

The following RESOLUTION was offered by Trustee Tarantino and seconded by Trustee McNally who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Regular Meetings of the Village Board of Trustees are held twice a month,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees be held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month;

AND WHEREBY, it is the desire of the Mayor and the members of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Hillburn that Special Meetings of the Village Board shall be held when deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS, such Special Meetings should be held when deemed necessary by either the Mayor or either one of the Trustees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Special Meeting can be called by any member of the Village Board on a 24 hour notice by notifying the Village Clerk who shall notify the other members of the Board as to the time and place of the Special Meeting and to fully comply with the Open Meetings Law that requires notifying the public and the news media.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
David McNally, Trustee
Noes: None

Designation of Village Depositories

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to designate the following banks as the Village Depositories:

- J.P. Morgan Chase
- Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company (M & T Bank)
- CLASS (MBIA – Municipal Investors Service Corporation)
- Webster Bank (formerly Sterling National Bank)
- *Bank of Greene County

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
 Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
 David McNally, Trustee
 Noes: None

Designation of Village Newspaper and Other Media

IT WAS RESOLVED by the Village Board to designate **The Journal News** as the Village Newspaper, and FURTHER, other newspapers may be designated to carry the Village's legal notices, in addition to the Village website.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
 Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
 David McNally, Trustee
 Noes: None

Procurement Policy Review (Updated Policy Adopted 4/5/2022)

A MOTION was made by Trustee Tarantino and seconded by Trustee McNally to adopt the Procurement Policy with no changes.

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
 Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
 David McNally, Trustee
 Noes: None

Mayoral Address was delivered by the Honorable Mayor Joseph P. Tursi Attached

2023-2024 Tentative Budget – A Public Hearing is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 4/11/2023 at 7:15PM.

The Benediction was offered by Pastor Irene DeLalla of the Lighthouse Worship Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM. **Approved by Village Board.**

Ayes: Joseph Tursi, Mayor
 Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
 David McNally, Trustee
 Noes: None

MAYORAL ADDRESS

4/3/2023 Annual Organizational Meeting

Joseph P. Tursi, Mayor

I would like to begin this evening by thanking all the residents that exercised their right, as Americans, to vote in the recent village election. As evidenced by the number of votes in the election, it does prove that every vote matters. Just a few votes either way and Mrs. O'Blenis could be standing up here delivering this address to you instead of me. So don't ever be complacent when it comes to voting.

Tonight, I would like to highlight some of the achievements of our administration over the last four years. And I say "our" because it is the work of Deputy Mayor Tarantino, Trustee McNally and former Trustee Bonnie O' Blenis, as well as myself, who worked together for the betterment of our village.

Upon taking office, we immediately sought to shut down the illegal dumping that was occurring at Creelman Road. While this case is still in litigation, due to the hazardous materials dumped on the site, we remain steadfast in ensuring that the site is cleaned up as has been ordered by the Supreme Court of Rockland County.

We have worked diligently to ensure that our fire department, one of our most important departments in the village, has the tools necessary to perform their volunteer duties. One of these tools was the purchase of 40 Scott air pack tanks that allow firefighters entry into a fire incident. At \$1000 apiece, over \$40,000 total, this purchase was made with the assistance of the Rockland County Sewer District. Costing village taxpayers zero dollars.

We have also mounted an aggressive campaign for funding grants through our locally elected state and federal officials. While we are not 100% successful in receiving grants, we have received some that have helped us to begin repairs on the Veterans Memorial Park pond, new equipment for the fire department and DPW, as well as a grant to scan and preserve village documents in the cloud, reducing storage and making it easier on the office staff.

We have used NYS CHIPs funding every year over the last four years to do road pavement projects and sidewalk repairs and will continue doing so as long as the state provides the funding.

The village purchased a new backhoe, as well as a new dump truck with a salt spreader, giving the village two spreaders to combat winter storms.

We also replaced the antiquated lighting in village hall, the community room, as well as the bay in the firehouse with LED lighting, which will reduce utility costs and bulb replacement.

For the last 20 years, the village has partnered with Habitat For Humanity to bring affordable housing to the village. Out of the 10 homes that Habitat has built in Rockland County, no other village or town has provided more homes than Hillburn. We lead the county with four homes out of 10. I think that's pretty impressive.

There has been some investment made in our water system as well. We hired a company to do leak detection of the water system and some major leaks were found and repaired, which has greatly reduced our water usage and water costs.

The village has put in place a hazardous materials program for residents that allows them to rid themselves of these dangerous chemicals from their home safeguarding their home, children and pets.

Although it's taken nearly 4 years to accomplish, Split Rock Mountain has been saved from development. Working with the Rockland County Sewer District and the New Jersey Land Conservancy, the property was recently turned over to the Ramapo Lenape Land Trust, forever keeping it in its natural state.

The village has also fostered strong relationships with the County of Rockland and the Town of Ramapo. The latter of which was instrumental with the repair of the 4th St. Bridge. Although it's a distant memory now, the bridge that goes over the railroad tracks was in disrepair for quite some time. That project cost nearly \$1 million. Money that the village did not have. That would be over half of the village's yearly budget. The town stepped up to the plate and saw the need for the repair and made it happen. That was a huge accomplishment for the village.

But we're not done yet. Work has begun on Veterans Memorial Park pond. Engineering and well drilling to supply water to the pond have begun.

As you know, four years ago, the village began collecting it's own garbage with the garbage truck generously donated by Salamone brothers. This has saved the village \$160,000 over the last four years. But this equipment needs to be stored indoors. That's why we are in the planning process to rebuild the 5th Street DPW garage where we can store our newly purchased backhoe, garbage truck, and other equipment, and keep them safe from the elements.

So, the village has kept busy maintaining and providing new services to our residents. But, as you know, these services need funding. I am also sure that you know that the economy is a bit in a downfall right now. So I am happy to announce that there will be no village tax increase in the upcoming budget that I have proposed to the Board.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our community organizations. The Hillburn Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. Our Planning and Zoning Boards. The Hillburn Community Scholarship, and of course the Hillburn Seniors. Justice Jefferson and Associate Justice Buonocore, Village Attorney Terry Rice, Village Engineer Eve Mancuso and Building/Fire Inspector Larry McMannis and Village Assessor Scott Shedler.

And, as always, we couldn't do this without the best staff: Robin, Yvonne, Day and Mary in the Village Office, Tommy, Shane, Nelson and Matt at the DPW and special thanks and appreciation to my colleagues Deputy Mayor Tarantino and Trustee McNally.

As I've said from the beginning four years ago.....*"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work"*.

Thank you all so much.

Mayor – Village of Hillburn