

**Board of Trustees
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Chester held its monthly meeting at the Village of Chester, 45 Main Street, Chester, NY conference room at 7:00 pm, on Monday, February 5, 2024.

Members present: Mayor Christopher Battiato, Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly, Trustee, Brian Boone, and Trustee Anthony Laspina. Trustee, Alan Battiato, was absent.

Also present: Clerk/Treasurer Angela O'Neill, Water Commissioner Gary A. Green Jr., Chief of Police, Timothy McGuire, Village Code Enforcement Officer John Orr, street superintendent, Charles Bono and Village Attorney, Donald J. Feerick, Jr.

7:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING opened: Local Law 2 of 2024 Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Fire & EMS Workers. No comments submitted. A motion to close the public hearing was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly, seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:02PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Christopher Battiato called the meeting to order at 7:03PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIT OF THE BILLS: A motion to pay the audited bills of January 2024 was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by trustee, Brian Boone. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes of January 8, 2024, was introduced by Trustee, Alan Battiato, and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion was unanimously approved.

POLICE REPORT:

1. Personnel:

- Nothing To report.

2. Citizen Issues:

- Nothing to report.

3. Public Safety Issues:

- Officers have been out enforcing the NYS Vehicle and traffic laws, 336 tickets were issued for the month of January. 336 tickets have been issued this year.

4. Facilities:

- Nothing to report.

5. Equipment:

- Nothing to report.

6. Vehicles:

- Nothing to report.

7. Other:

- Village snow ordinance is currently in effect until April 15th, 2024. Parking is prohibited from 3 am to 6 am on all Village streets.

8. Department Activity:

<u>Call Type</u>	<u>January 2022</u>	<u>January 2023</u>	<u>January 2024</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Calls for Service	176	189	222	176	189	222
Criminal Cases	39	40	43	39	40	43
Arrests	17	30	30	17	30	30
Traffic Accidents	9	7	11	9	7	11
Tickets/Month	353	539	336	353	539	336

Submitted By: Chief Timothy McGuire

A motion to accept the police report as submitted by Chief, Timothy McGuire was introduced by Trustee, Brian Boone and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

CASH BALANCES ENDING JANUARY 31, 2024:

<u>FUND/BANK ACCOUNT</u> <u>ENDING BAL</u>	<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>(DISBURSEMENTS)</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
---	-----------------	------------------------	-----------------

General Fund

Savings (Sterling National Bank) 2,919,696.01	--	--	6,296.99
Checking (Orange Bank & Trust) 519,567.90	385,001.37	583,327.91	23.72
Savings (Orange Bank & Trust) 3,868,655.95	--	--	5,936.95

Savings (NY CLASS)	--	--	2,381.53
535,165.32			

Water Fund

Checking (Orange Bank & Trust)	33,406.35	109,495.42	102.10
389,604.41			

Sewer Fund

Checking (Orange Bank & Trust)	39,733.88	160,897.45	8.24
40,935.54			

Capital Projects Funds

H01: Water (Sterling Natl Bank)	--	2,408.84	124.51
57,976.51			

H02: General (Orange Bank & Trust)	--	14,275.87	29.10
117,010.27			

H03: Sewer (Orange Bank & Trust)	--	--	--
270,852.74			

<u>Cumulative Fiscal Year Interest Earned by Fund 06/1/2023 – 1/31/2024 FYE 5/31/23 as of 1/31/23</u>			
General Fund	\$	\$ 97,379.43	\$ 35,385.36
Water Fund	\$	758.87	75.23
Sewer Fund	\$	83.98	54.44
Capital Projects	\$	1,496.28	468.54

Treasurer's Discussion:

- 1. STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES:** Attached.
- 2. 2023-2024 SEWER:** Sewer bill collection continues. Installment #4 is due by 3/31/2024. Unpaid sewer balances as of 3/31/2024 will be re-levied on to the 6/1/2024 Village Property Tax Bill
- 3. NYSDOT 165K GRANT:** Final payment of \$10,959.33 was disbursed by NYSDOT for the Downtown Municipal Parking Lot Capital Project. Photos of the project produced by Trustee Brian Boone were submitted to NYSDOT. This project is now closed.
- 4. ANNUAL AUDIT:** The Village's Annual Audit FYE 5/31/2023 is complete. Financial statements will be available in the next couple of weeks.
- 5. 2024-2025 BUDGET PREPARATION:** The Village Board and department heads have started working on the upcoming budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela O'Neill
Village Treasurer

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Clerk/Treasurer, Angela O'Neill, was made by Trustee, Alan Battiato and seconded by trustee, Brian Boone. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUILDING REPORT:

Steris – Nucifora Blvd.

- 1– Site work continues.

78 Brookside Avenue Tractor Supply

- 1- Old section is now open.
- 2- Issued permit for installation of 1000 Gallon propane tank.

7-9 Greycourt Avenue

- 1- Interior work underway.

34 Meadow Avenue

- 1- Interior work underway.

107-109 Brookside Avenue Castle.

- 1- Foundation wall in progress.
- 2- Slab floor.
- 3- Structural steel being installed.

106 Main Street

- 1- Smoke Shop is now open.

28 Academy Ave

- 1- Project now complete.

73 Brookside Ave McDonalds.

- 1- Issued permit for inter renovation.

1 Moffatt

- 1- Issued permit for covered from porch.

11 North Hudson

- 1- Issued permit for renovation of single-family home.

48 Leone Lane BYK

- 1- Issued permit for cooling tower replacement.

Regards,

John S. Orr

Code Enforcement Officer.

A motion to accept the building report as presented by Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, John Orr, was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

STREET REPORT:

We were called out 3 times during the month of January to deice and clear the streets. During the month of January, we used a total of 100 tons of salt and 20 ton of sand/salt. After each storm, the equipment was washed and serviced for the next storm.

In addition to the snow, we had a couple of rain storms that produce heavy rains with wind, which had us out checking and cleaning out catch basins and picking up branches

During the month we have been going around picking up Christmas trees one or two times a week.

We spent a couple of days filling potholes with cold patches.

We washed the Christmas Merrills off the windows of the stores downtown.

We replaced a few street and warning signs at the intersection of Kings Hwy. and Leone Lane that were knocked down by tractor trailers as they entered into Leone Lane.

We have been going around picking up garbage throughout the village.

A motion to accept the street department's report presented by the street superintendent, Charles Bono, was introduced by Trustee Brian Boone and seconded by trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

WATER REPORT:

- 1] Daily filter plant and well operations continue.
- 2] Twice per week filter cleaning continues.
- 3] Monthly and quarterly samples were taken to the lab.
- 4] Mark outs for Dig safe NY continues.
- 5] Worked with contractor to replace service line at 55 Brookside Ave.
- 6] We replaced 2, 6-inch valves and a Tee between the 2 wells. We also revamped some other old piping.
- 7] All 3 tank mixers are up and running. Underwater Solutions replaced the altitude valve at Princeton Street tank. We will be replacing a swing check valve in the spring.
- 8] We performed the Clean in Place procedure for the membranes at the plant.
- 9] Quarterly customer accounts were read.
- 10] We flushed dead-end mains, including Whispering Hills and the Elementary school for water quality purposes.
- 11] Meter replacement and backflow preventor testing continues.
- 12] We had all our vehicles NYS Safety inspected by Orange County Tire.
- 13] We worked with a contractor who broke the service line while repairing a sewer line at 13 Hambletonian Ave.
- 17] Walton Lake is 5 inches over pin level.

A motion to accept the water department's report presented by the water commissioner, Gary Green, was introduced by Trustee Brian Boone and seconded by trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Montreal & Quebec Trip 6/10-6/14/2024 \$939/per person – For more information and reservations please call Michelle Deshler @ 845-325-7227.

HISTORIAN REPORT:

- On January 11th, applied for a student assistant for the Gardiner Foundation Semi quincennial Summer Fellowship Program. This program will offer fellowships to 50 students from seven colleges and universities (Canisius College, Cornell University, Brooklyn College (CUNY), SUNY Geneseo, the University at Albany, SUNY Potsdam, and Stony Brook University). Each student will be available to work approximately 150 hours over the course of the summer of 2024.
- On January 18th, met with the Orange County Historian, Johanna Porr to provide updates to Ms. Porr on the various assignments, including a paper on the Maple Avenue School and the Rev War history of the National Registry of Historic Places listed Yelverton Inn. The Yelverton Inn idea of an event being held there was discussed with Ms. Porr as a speaker, along with other related figures. Ms. Porr mentioned her acquaintance with Dr. Matthew Dziennik, Associate Professor of British and British Imperial History at the United State Naval Academy at Annapolis and potential future introduction.
- On January 19th, received an email from Town of Chester historian, Clifton Patrick. The email conversation was from Kai Sorenson, Director of Podcasts for the Balancing Life's Issues organization. Mr. Sorenson was interested in learning more information about the Black History of Chester as February is Black History Month. Mr. Lefkowitz offered to provide his previously written research paper on the famed Harlem Hellfighters All-Black Regiment of the First World War, focused on the local members of the unit including Roy S. Howard, who served as the personal assistant to future Representative, Hamilton Fish. The offer was appreciated for future use.
- On January 20th attended a Chester Public Library event with the Chester Historical Society President, Nancy Hom George, was in attendance. Briefly spoke with CHS Trustee, Leslie Smith, about writing an editorial in the Chronicle, to raise public knowledge about the potential plans for the Maple Avenue School. Mr. Lefkowitz's conversation with Mrs. George was about the Village of Chester acquiring display cases, which the CHS no longer needed.
- E-mailed Mr. Rick Ramsdell, owner of the Yelverton Inn, about holding a ceremony on 9/3/2024 for the 250th anniversary of Henry Wisner being chosen as the local delegate to the First Continental Congress. The event would be held on Main Street and would serve as the formal kick off of the Orange County Semi quincennial Commission's commemoration activities as it is the first major Rev War event in the County.

- On January 26th, met with Mrs. Valerie Desharnais of the Minisink Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Organization. Mr. Lefkowitz was providing advice and support in Mrs. Desharnais' efforts to restore the 1862 Battle of Minisink (1779) Monument located in Goshen for the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2029. Mr. Lefkowitz recommended that the West Point Museum may be helpful as they have similar monuments on their site and the Warwick Historical Society as they are knowledgeable on historical preservation/restoration. Having volunteers participate in the monument's restoration was raised as a possibility. As well, as the Minisink chapter of the DAR dedicated a plaque on the Yelverton Inn to its historical significance, Mr. Lefkowitz spoke to Mrs. Desharnais about the DAR also participating in the proposed event at the Yelverton Inn.
- On January 30th, consulted about budgetary matters with the Town of Chester Historian, Clifton Patrick. As Mr. Patrick has held his position for 20 years and has a significant plethora of knowledge and experience in the field as a Public Historian, he is the best individual to consult on the subject. Mr. Patrick provided Mr. Lefkowitz with recommendations on what services, organizations and conferences would be useful to pay for or investigate. The Association of Public Historians of New York State Conference, which is annually held in Long Island was especially advised as a good opportunity to network and take workshops to expand historian abilities. In addition to the budget, Mr. Patrick agreed to also reach out to Mr. Ramsdell about his property hosting a Rev War 250th event in September. If any further assistance or advisement was necessary, Mr. Patrick made it clear he would help however possible.
- On January 31st, from 6 to 6:35pm, Mr. Lefkowitz met with Village of Chester Mayor, Chris Battiato, Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth Reilly, Clerk/Treasurer, Angela O'Neill to discuss 2024-2025 budget. 2023-2024 budget of \$300 expenses were reviewed. 2024-2025 requests were submitted, to include an online archive system accessible to any branch of the Village Government, and possible attendance to the 2024 APHNYS Conference "It's a Whale of a Tale: Outstanding Narratives in New York State History, being held from September 16-18, 2024, at Denford's Hotel & Marina in Port Jefferson, Long Island as well as 3 additional memberships. The group agreed to further discuss increases to the budget for 2024-2025.

A motion to enter the Historian's report to the record was made by Trustee, Anthony Laspina and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

24-5 RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2024 AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE AT CHAPTER 89 (TAXATION) TO ADD ARTICLE IV GRANTING EXEMPTIONS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Chester, New York (“Village Board”) from time to time reviews its laws, rules, and regulations to be certain the same are consistent with all current lawful practices as well as best practices to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Village residents; and

WHEREAS the Village Board desires to adopt a local law to Amend the Village Code at Chapter 89 (Taxation) to Add Article IV Granting Exemptions to Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers; and

WHEREAS, upon notice duly published and posted, a Public Hearing was held on said Local Law on February 5, 2024, wherein public discussion was heard concerning the merits of said Local Law and after hearing from all those present wishing to speak and acknowledging that no written comments had been received, the Village Board declared the public hearing closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Board as follows:

- Section 1. All “WHEREAS” paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.
- Section 2. The Village Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 2 of 2024 entitled, **“AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE AT CHAPTER 89 (TAXATION) TO ADD ARTICLE IV GRANTING EXEMPTIONS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS”** providing a tax exemption for First Responders as attached hereto as Schedule “A.”
- Section 3. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to enter said Local Law into the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law book of the Village of Chester, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law by filing the Local Law in the Office of the Secretary of State in the State of New York.
- Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Brian Boone.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Reilly	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[]	[]	[]	[X]
Trustee Brian Boone	[X]	[]	[]	[]

Trustee Anthony LaSpina [X] [] [] []

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

**24-6 RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 11, 2024,
INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A ZONING OVERLAY
DISTRICT IN THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER – RIDGELINE PROTECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board hereby schedules a public hearing to consider a local law to establish a zoning overlay district in the Village of Chester – Ridgeline Protection on March 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter as can be heard.

Introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Reilly	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[]	[]	[]	[X]
Trustee Brian Boone	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Anthony LaSpina	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

24-7 RESOLUTION APPROVING ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

WHEREAS the Village of Chester annually reviews and approves licenses for electrical inspectors in the Village pursuant to Chapter 45 of the Village Code (Electrical Inspections); and

WHEREAS, the Village Code Enforcement Officer has received applications from five (5) inspection agencies with a total of fourteen (14) electrical inspectors and has determined that such agencies and inspectors are compliant with the requirements of the Village Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Village Board as follows:

- Section 1. The above “WHEREAS” clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
- Section 2. The Village Board hereby approves the Electrical Inspection agencies and inspectors as annexed to this Resolution for calendar year 2024.
- Section 3. The mayor, and any officer, employee or consultant as directed by the Mayor is hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution.
- Section 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Introduced by Trustee, Brian Boone, seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[]	[]	[]	[X]
Trustee Brian J. Boone	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Anthony LaSpina	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

2024 CERTIFIED ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING FIRMS AND INSPECTORS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO CONDUCT ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

Commonwealth Electrical Inspection Service, Inc

176 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545

Office 585-624-2380

Inspector: James Cocks 845-325-0158 – E-Mail jfclou1@yahoo.com

Electrical Underwriters of NY

50 Hy-Vue Drive, Newburgh, NY 12550

Office 845-569-1759

Inspector: Ernie Bello 845-220-7634 – E-Mail ernie@eu-ny.com

Inspector: John Taylor 845-597-5072 – E-Mail chelseat84@gmail.com

Inspector: Alfred Shauger 845-793-7814 – E-Mail alshauger@yahoo.com

Inspections on Time

809 Highland Lakes Road, Middletown, NY 10940

Office 845-233-6711 / E-Mail info@inspectionsonline.com

Inspector: Anastasia Zervakis 845-648-0202 – E-Mail ana@inspectionsonline.com

Inspector: Emmanouil Zervakis 845-649-1330 – E-Mail manny@inspectionsonline.com

Inspector: Alfred Shauger 845-800-6038 – E-Mail alfred@inspectionsonline.com

Inspector: Maria Mendez 845-649-8985 – E-Mail maria@inspectionsonline.com

New York Electrical Inspections & Consulting, LLC

1 Wedgewood Lane, Middletown, NY 10940

Office 845-343-6934

Inspector: John Wierl 845-551-8466 – E-Mail jwierlnyeic@gmail.com

Inspector: Andrew Traverse 845-629-7423 – E-Mail traverseandy@yahoo.com

Inspector: John M. Wierl 845-699-9191 – E-Mail jwierlny122@yahoo.com

Swanson Consulting and Associates, Inc.

29 Richard Street, Sloatsburg, NY 10974

Office 845-496-4443

Inspector: Adam Frank 845-401-4859 – E-Mail service@swansonconsulting.biz

Inspector: John Hamilton 845-549-0708 / 321-427-2279 – E-Mail JMH118@live.com

Inspector: Emanuele Labianca 845-799-8100 – E-Mail elabianco.consulting@gmail.com

24-8 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS the Village Board of the Village of Chester (“Village Board”) wishes to enter an agreement with CS Professional Suite Software (“CS Professional”) to provide the Village with software to be used for the benefit of the Village regarding tax and accounting needs; and

WHEREAS the proposal form for said software has been presented to the Village Board and reviewed by legal counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Village Board as follows:

Section 1. The above “WHEREAS” clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

Section 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to accept the proposal of CS Professional Suite Software as presented to the Village Board.

Section 3. The Mayor or any other officer, employee or consultant as directed by the Mayor are authorized to take any and all necessary actions to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Introduced by Trustee, Anthony Laspina, and seconded by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Christopher Battiato	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth A. Reilly	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Alan Battiato	[]	[]	[]	[X]
Trustee Brian J. Boone	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Trustee Anthony LaSpina	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

SHEN YUN Outreach Manager, Quan Sha provided a quick presentation of the Shen Yun 2024 performance that includes music and dance representing five millennia of traditional Chinese culture that had been lose under communist rule. The performance features one of the world's oldest art forms, classical Chinese dance. Performances are back in N.Y. at Lincoln Center and SUNY Purchase. Ms. Quan Sha is looking for local support to keep the show going and protect cultural freedoms.

Community Outreach Manager, Ms. Judy Tao briefly discussed Gan Jing World, an online platform that offers morals and traditional values with content that promotes non-violence and fosters a culture of care, kindness, mutual respect, and trust among individuals, withing families and throughout society.

A motion to allow composition of a letter of support for Shen Yun was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sue Bahren, on behalf of the Chester Historical Society, is requesting for a waiver of planning and review fees totaling approximately \$1,000 to apply for a lot line change related to the acquisition of (2) parcels currently owned by Orange Bank & Trust to be donated to the Chester Historical Society (93 Brookside Ave). A waiver of fees does not include legal and engineering costs the

Village of Chester may incur for this project. All professional fees incurred by the Village during this project will be paid by the Chester Historical Society. A motion to waive planning review and inspection fees up to \$1,000 was made by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and Trustee, Alan Battiato. The motion was unanimously approved.

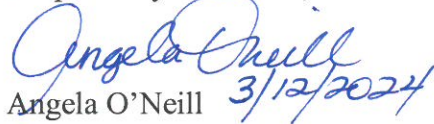
On behalf of the Town of Chester Board, Tom Becker is looking for open communication between the Town and Village of Chester, especially as it pertains to any project that may involve both municipalities to take advantage of shared engineering services as Lanc & Tully Engineering, is the firm used by both the Town and the Village of Chester.

Mayor, Christopher Battiato asked Tom Becker if he's had an opportunity to investigate the well matter. Tom Becker replied he would be doing this tomorrow.

A motion to close the meeting and go into executive session was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to close the executive session was introduced by Deputy Mayor, Elizabeth A. Reilly and seconded by Trustee, Anthony Laspina.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela O'Neill
Clerk/Treasurer