

**MINUTES OF THE 1172nd MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF KINGS POINT
April 3, 2023
Adopted on May 10, 2023**

The 1172nd meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Kings Point was called to order by Mayor Kouros Torkan at 6:10 p.m. on April 3, 2023, at the Village Hall of the Village of Kings Point, 32 Steppingstone Lane, Kings Point, New York 11024.

PRESENT: Kouros Torkan, Mayor
Hooshang Nematzadeh, Deputy Mayor
Ebi Victory, Trustee
Tedi Kashinejad, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Gomie Persaud, Village Clerk Treasurer
Stephen Limmer, Esq., McLaughlin & Stern, LLP, General Counsel
Dan Flanagan, Police Commissioner
Domenick Stanco, Superintendent of Public Works

ABSENT: Ira S. Nesenoff, Trustee
Chris Aiossa, Superintendent of Building Department

Mayor Kouros Torkan opened the public hearing on the tentative budget for the Village's 2023/2024 fiscal year, which has been posted on the Village website for the residents to review. The Mayor stated that the Board of Trustees, as it always does, has worked very hard to keep taxes down for the coming year. Among the difficulties faced by the Board, as usual, are the State mandates and other cost increases over which the Village has no control. Although most people think that the State mandated Tax Cap is 2%, in fact, the 2% is a maximum cap and the cap is actually the lesser of 2% or a computation based upon the cost of living. This year the Tax Cap for the Village is only 1.02%. Although it was with great difficulty, the Board developed a budget this year that is less than the Tax Cap, while retaining all of the high-quality services that the residents of the Village expect and deserve.

The tentative budget for the Village's 2023/2024 fiscal year is \$18,566,804.00. Of that budget, the Police Department represents 51%, Debt Service 10%, Fire/Ambulance 10%, Professional Services 6%, Administrative 5%, Garbage/Tree Removal 5%, the Public Works Department 5%, Maintenance 4%, the Building Department represents 3%, and the Court 1%.

No one asked to be heard and the Mayor closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Trustee Ebi Victory, seconded by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh by resolution # **2023-**

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58, the Board unanimously adopted the **tentative budget as the final budget and set the Village tax rate at \$38.49**. A copy of the tentative budget is on file with the Village Clerk.

Mayor Kouros Torkan opened the public hearing on **Bill 2C of 2023**, a proposed local law to amend Chapter 161 of the Code of the Village of Kings Point to limit the use of attic space. No one asked to be heard and the Mayor closed the public hearing. Upon motion by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh seconded by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, by resolution # **2023-59**, the Board unanimously approved the Bill as **Local Law 2 of 2023**. A copy of the Local Law is on file with the Village Clerk.

Upon motion by Trustee Ebi Victory, seconded by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, by resolution # **2023-60**, the Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented of the **Board of Trustees meeting** of March 14, 2023.

Upon motion by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, seconded by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, by resolution # **2023-61**, the Board unanimously approved the payment of **audited claims** as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| a. General Fund: | \$ 117,232.89 |
| b. Trust Fund: | \$ 26,680.16 |

A copy of the abstract of claims is on file with the Village Clerk.

Upon motion by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, seconded by Trustee Ebi Victory, by resolution # **2023-62**, the Board unanimously accepted the **Building Department report** for the period of March 2023, showing the total fees deposited of **\$142,307.75** into the General Fund and **\$275,000.00** into the Trust Fund. A copy of the report is on file with the Village Clerk.

Upon motion by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, seconded by Trustee Ebi Victory, by resolution # **2023-63**, the Board unanimously accepted the **Village Justice Court report** for the period of March 2023, showing the total fees and surcharges deposited of **\$19,323.00** into the General Fund. A copy of the report is on file with the Village Clerk.

Upon motion of Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, seconded by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, by resolution # **2023-64**, the Board unanimously **adopted the 2023/2024 Tentative Assessment Roll as the Final Assessment Roll**, and directed the roll be filed with the Village Clerk, and a notice of such filing be published in the Great Neck Record.

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The Village Clerk/Treasurer advised the Board that there was difficulty in obtaining Inspectors of Election for the Village's annual election because of the requirement that there be two Democrats and two Republicans residing within the Village and, upon the suggestion of the New York Conference of Mayors, requested that the Board adopt a resolution expanding the residency requirements for the Inspectors of Election from just the Village to all of Nassau County. Upon motion by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, seconded by Trustee Ebi Victory, by resolution # **2023-65**, the Board unanimously changed the residency requirements of Inspectors of Election for the annual Village of Kings Point Village Election to be held on **June 20, 2023**, from just the Village of Kings Point to all the County of Nassau.

Upon motion by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, seconded by Trustee Ebi Victory, by resolution # **2023-66**, the Board unanimously authorized the Village Clerk/Treasurer to appoint Inspectors of Election once the list becomes available from the Board of Elections pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law of the State of New York, and based upon the requirement that one-half of the inspectors be members of the Democratic Party and the other half be members of the Republican Party. Alternate Inspectors of Election for the annual Village Election will be appointed if needed from the list based on their availability on **June 20, 2023**; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the Chairperson and each of the other Inspectors shall be compensated at the rate of **\$200.00** for the day.

The Board discussed the growing problem of **Antisemitism** and the documents from the **American Jewish Committee** that included a proposed resolution that was recently adopted by the Town of North Hempstead. Upon motion of Trustee Ebi Victory, seconded by Trustee Hooshang Nematzadeh, by resolution # **2023-67**, the Board unanimously adopted the following resolution, as proposed by the American Jewish Committee:

WHEREAS antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society;

WHEREAS Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate;

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WHEREAS the deadliest attack against the American Jewish community took place on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers and injuring several more;

WHEREAS state officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must be given the tools to do so;

WHEREAS valid monitoring, informed analysis, and investigation, and effective policy-making all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions;

WHEREAS the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations. That definition reads in full:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

“To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:”

“Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms, and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.”

“Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:”

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- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers), or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

“Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law.”

“Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship, and

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cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.”

“Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.”

WHEREAS the IHRA Working Definition has proven to be an essential tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism;

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Section I: The Village of Kings Point adopts the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples.

Section II: The Village of Kings Point will ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for police and other Village agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

The Board reviewed the request from Nelson & Pope, the Village engineers for additional construction observation and office support for the 2022 Roadway Improvements project. Upon motion of Trustee Ebi Victory, seconded by Trustee Tedi Kashinejad, by resolution # **2023-68**, the Board unanimously approved the cost of not to exceed **\$23,000.00**, for the additional construction observation and office support for the 2022 Roadway Improvements project.

Mayor Kouros Torkan announced that the next meetings of the Board of Trustees would be May 10, 2023, and June 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. respectively.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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Gomie Persaud
Village Clerk-Treasurer