

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Westhampton Beach held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 165 Mill Road, Westhampton Beach

**PRESENT: Mayor Conrad Teller
Trustee Patricia DiBenedetto
Trustee Charles Palmer
Deputy Mayor Hank Tucker
Trustee Ralph Urban**

**Clerk-Treasurer Rebecca Molinaro
Village Attorney Richard Haefeli**

Meeting called to order at 5:09 p.m.

Mayor Teller made a motion to open a Special Meeting.

Mayor Teller stated that in the interest of saving taxpayer money he contacted the New York State Comptroller's Office to request their services. He did not feel this resolution was necessary since the Comptroller performs this at no cost.

RESOLUTIONS

Authorize Village Services

Motion by Deputy Mayor Tucker:

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the Village Board that there may have been certain discrepancies with the finances of the Village including but not limited to payroll and expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board is concerned about said past financial discrepancies and the possibility of continuing financial discrepancies, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, as per its duties under New York State Village Law, desire to affirm that the finances of the Village are being handled in full compliance with the Village's fiscal policies, New York State Law and the rules and regulations of the New York State Comptroller's Office

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board retains the services of Scott B. Augustine, Attorney and past Village of Bellport Attorney and Clerk to review and investigate the financial transactions and records of the Village to assure that the Village Clerk/Treasurer has and is currently complying with all the policies of the Village, the New York State Comptroller's Office and the laws of New York State, at the rate of \$175 per hour, with a cap of \$5,000.

The Village Clerk/Treasurer, bookkeeper and Village Auditors are directed to assist Mr. Augustine in his review. If Mr. Augustine determines that an outside/independent auditor that specializes in municipal finances is needed to assist him then he shall solicit approval from the Village Board prior to retaining the service of said auditor.

Seconded by Trustee DiBenedetto and approved. 4 Aye, 0 Nay.
Mayor Teller voted no.

Village Attorney Richard Haefeli stated that a resolution needed to be added to authorize an appraisal for a park fee on the Conway property since the Planning Board was having a meeting tomorrow and it was an oversight not to have it done as the last meeting.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Tucker to add on a resolution. Seconded by Trustee Urban and unanimously approved.

Authorize Appraisal Services

Motion by Mayor Teller:

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorize Jim McLaughlen to perform an appraisal on the Conway property for the purposes of assessing a park fee and the cost of the appraisal will be at the applicant's expense.

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Tucker and unanimously approved. 4 Aye, 0 Nay.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Dear Speir, said he has a few questions. He asked what are the issues? Who is Mr. Augustine? Aren't you in the middle of an audit?

Deputy Mayor Hank Tucker said that the resolution speaks for itself and he is not going to discuss, there are personnel issues. They aren't saying something has or has not happened but want to be sure.

Mr. Speir said that is fine but what are you saying needs to be investigated?

Deputy Mayor Tucker said he is not going to discuss it, the resolution speaks for itself.

Victor Levy asked who are the auditors the Village uses, are they government auditors? Don't they have experience?

Deputy Mayor Tucker said it is Satty and Levine.

Mr. Speir asked how much do they cost?

Village Clerk Rebecca Molinaro said she believed around \$30,000 but she would to check the resolution. They do the village hall side and the Justice Court.

Deputy Mayor Tucker said yes they do us and the Justice Court.

Mr. Speir said why wouldn't you use the Comptroller's Office, did you speak to them?

Deputy Mayor Tucker said he did and they are focused on school districts and local governments aren't a priority and we want this done right away. They look at places where there is malfeasance.

Mr. Speir said so you don't believe there is malfeasance here?

Deputy Mayor Tucker said he is speaking for himself, there are other members of the Board here who may want to speak. The resolution speaks for itself. Sometimes you have to spend some money to save money. We have been saving money in the Village.

Mr. Levy asked so why are you spending more money? What are the attorney's qualifications?

Deputy Mayor Tucker said there may be a payroll issue and some irregular payments. I'm not going to say anymore.

Mayor Conrad Teller said he did not hire Mr. Augustine.

Deputy Mayor Tucker said he had no further comments.

Mayor Teller made a motion to close the Special Meeting at 5:25 p.m. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Tucker and unanimously approved. 4 Aye, 0 Nay.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Molinaro
Village Clerk-Treasurer