

December 14, 2006

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harrison, Westchester County, New York, was held at the Municipal Building, 1 Heineman Place, Harrison, NY, Westchester County, on the 14th day of December at 7:30 PM, Eastern Standard Time. All members having received due notice of said meeting:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephen Malfitano Supervisor

Joseph Cannella)
Thomas Scappaticci) Councilmen
Patrick Vetere)
Robert Paladino)

ALSO ATTENDING

Frank Allegretti Town Attorney
Joseph Latwin Deputy Village Attorney
Fred Castiglia Village Attorney
Robert Wasp Commissioner of Public Works
Maureen MacKenzie Comptroller
Judy D'Agostinis Director of Purchasing
Ron Belmont Superintendent of Recreation
David Hall Chief of Police

Martin Rogowsky Westchester County Legislator

December 14, 2006

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COMMENTS BY COUNTY LEGISLATOR MARTIN ROGOWSKY
RE: 2007 COUNTY BUDGET AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE
VARIOUS COUNTY SEWER DISTRICTS

Westchester County Legislator Marty Rogowsky, who represents the most of Harrison, but not the West Harrison section, addressed the Board regarding the 2007 County Budget, and the recent action of the County Board to consolidate the various County Sewer Districts.

Mr. Rogowsky stated that the County Board had approved the Budget this past week. He said that the Budget is less than the \$1.6 billion proposed by the County Executive which had a 3.98% tax levy. The tax levy is now at 3.5%, an increase which is within the rate of inflation while still providing all services, with no increases in bus fares or fees. He added that he would defer to Councilman Pat Vetere on the 2007 golf course fees, as Mr. Vetere is now a member of the County Parks Board which sets those fees.

Mr. Rogowsky continued that the County Board had not raised any other fees. He also pointed out that last year, the County had a 3.9% increase which turned into a 0% increase for Harrison due to the application of the equalization rate. He further stated that no one can ever be sure what the actual tax rate will be in each community, as he had discussed with Mayor Malfitano, that we can hope for a 0% increase, but that there is no way to know for certain in advance (of the actual calculations and application of the equalization rate formula.)

Mr. Rogowsky went on to say that the County Budget is still too high, but that \$190 million goes to Albany for Medicaid costs, \$80 million is allocated for services for kids with special needs, adding that these are very good programs but our property taxes should not be paying for them.

Legislator Rogowsky then discussed another part of Budget: the consolidation of the 13 County sewer districts in to one district. He said that he had first proposed this consolidation in 1990, as a matter of tax fairness, as each of the 13 districts were of different sizes and efficiencies, and thus different costs to the rate payers. He added that this year, the League of Women Voters and the League of Conservation both supported it. He continued that it took years to get his colleagues to vote for it, as some had to raise taxes for their constituents to do it. He added that they realized that it was the right thing to do, and so had the courage to do it. Port Chester can be really singled out, as their rate will go down by 50%, down \$300 per year. He further stated that the increase for downtown residents would be \$67 per year, and \$81 per year in West Harrison, with the difference caused as they are in different Sewer Districts.

Mr. Rogowsky continued that he was pleased to see that the Town Board knows how to do the right thing, stating that he had used the same model (for the sewer consolidation) that Harrison had used to consolidate its two water districts, only consolidating the operating and maintenance costs – not the capital costs for each district, as Harrison did, adding that it was the right thing to do.

Mayor Malfitano pointed out that there wasn't any rate increase associated with the consolidation of Water District #1 with WJWW, adding that there had been a transfer of assets between the Town and WJWW, but of substantially the same value. He continued that the Town did raise rates in the downtown area, (Water District #2,) in the prior year to cover a deficit there, but there was no rate increase with the consolidation. Mr. Malfitano pointed out that there have been increased earnings after consolidation, thus keeping rates level.

Legislator Rogowsky commented that there will be 700,000 people paying the operating costs for the entire sewer district, not just, for example, the 10,000 people in Port Chester paying for the full costs for that one District. The 13 sewer districts are now one district (sharing the operating and maintenance costs.)

Mr. Rogowsky also stated that it had taken him 8 years in office, and a total of 17 years to accomplish this consolidation. In response to a question from Mayor Malfitano, Mr. Rogowsky stated that there had been a Public Hearing in July on this exact proposal. At that time it resulted in a tie vote of six to six. The process was then started all over again, and it had to be adopted at this time in order to go into effect this summer.

He continued that the Mamaroneck District is spending \$5 million to test technology, and then will be looking at a bond for \$50 million for the design of a plant for nitrogen removal, and possibly over \$100 million to build it – that cost will now be shared by all 700,000 County residents (who will benefit,) not just the residents within this District. The people who now use Playland and Saxon Woods pool will now be sharing in that cost. He added that the ultimate cost of this (mandated) facility could be hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Rogowsky referred to the proposed sewer installation for 60 homeowners in Quarry Heights in North Castle, at a cost of \$3.5 million which is being paid by the District that includes West Harrison to benefit 60 homeowners. He added that he held it up, until there were assurances that some of the funds would be found "elsewhere." He added that he was still working on consolidating the capital improvements so that just Harrison and Mamaroneck would not be charged this cost, but that would take time.

Supervisor Malfitano told Mr. Rogowsky that some residents without sewers complain about paying the sewer tax, and asked if there was a way to avoid this.

Mr. Rogowsky replied that, right now, property owners can petition the Town Board to be taken out of the sewer district, with the request then sent to the county for action. He added that the applicant must meet certain requirements, ie, if a sewer is right over there, the homeowner must connect, but if a connection is not feasible, then the property can be taken out. He continued that right now the County Board is discussing legislation that the County Sewer District would actually pay people to clean out their septic tanks when and as needed, that this is another way of accomplishing the same thing, (giving service for the payment of sewer taxes.)

Mr. Rogowsky then addressed the matter of the County sales tax. He stated that Nassau

County collects \$1 billion and keeps it all, but Westchester County gives money back to the towns and villages. He added that this “giveback” this year will be about \$3.2 million – close to 10% of the County Budget, thus helping all taxpayers. Mr. Rogowsky stated that \$1 million will go to Harrison’s School District.

December 14, 2006

ACCEPTANCE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the following reports:

- 1a. Monthly report from the Recreation Department for October 2006.
- 1b. Monthly report from the Town Clerk for November 2006.
- 1c. Monthly report from the Department of Public Works for September 2006.
Included is a chart of Complaints and Requests for services during the same time period.
- 1d. Monthly report from the Fire Marshal for November 2006.
- 1e. Monthly report from the Receiver of Taxes for November 2006.
- 1f. Monthly report from the Police Department for October 2006.
- 1g. Monthly report from the Building Inspector for November 2006.
- 1h. Monthly report from the Recreation Department for November 2006.

2. Fifth Annual Report from the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council for October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT WASP,
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ACTING TOWN ENGINEER,
AS HARRISON'S REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE LONG ISLAND SOUND WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to reappoint Robert Wasp, Commissioner of Public Works and Acting Town Engineer as Harrison's Representative to the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to Mr. Wasp and the Board of the Council.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING RE: 2007 PRELIMINARY BUDGET, WITH AMENDMENTS

On motion of Councilman Scappaticci, seconded by Councilman Cannella, with all Board members voting in favor, the Hearing was opened.

Supervisor Malfitano made the following remarks:

“The 2007 budget proposes to increase spending by \$4,420,000 over the 2006 budget. It would bring the total expenditure for Town and Village in 2007 to \$48 million in round dollars. The increase in spending represents just over a 10% increase and the spending increase can be broken down as follows: \$3,820,000 falls into categories referred to as “contractual.” Those categories include the following: the New York State retirement and pension obligations; debt service, medical expenses; salary increases and fringe benefits; and some small other items that we must budget for. The sum total of those category increases is \$3,820,000. They are all contractual. Meaning we are obligated to pay for those increases and expenses. That dollar value increase represents 86.43% of the total spending increase that is projected in the 2007 budget of \$4,420,000. The additional \$600,000 in spending, 1.36% of the total expense, is in categories and line items in the operating budget that are not contractual. These are items we have the ability to control. When I looked at that, again this afternoon, item by item, we tried as much as we possibly can to reduce spending in those line items that we can control. In my review, I have not been able to come up with any additional suggestions. There have been some minor changes that the Board has in front of them, and again I want to reiterate, that when we start talking about budgeting and the budget process, it is not our desire as a Board to increase spending or to increase taxes, but the simple reality of this is, to a very large extent, much of what we are spending is attributable to the contractual obligations that the Town has. I would like to tell you otherwise. I would like to tell you that we could make it all go away, that we could reduce your taxes. We can’t. That is the simple reality of it. So the Board, and principally my office, and the Financial Advisory Committee, and the managers of the Departments and the Comptroller’s office have looked for ways, as best we can, to produce a very responsible budget, and to produce a budget that raises taxes in the least possible way. I believe that after having spent, personally, over 130 hours of my own time, that this Budget does that, and so what we are presenting here this evening for the Board to consider, and act upon, is a Budget that will raise, at this point, our tax rate by 7.397%. The proposed tax rate increase is \$14.28 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. To shed some light on what that means to homeowners, the average assessed valuation in Harrison is approximately \$15,000. This increase would cost the average assessed homeowner a \$214.20 increase in their Town taxes for 2007, or \$17.85 per month. If you reside in lower Harrison, in the Brentwood or Franklin Park areas for example, or in Silver Lake proper, it is more likely that your assessed valuation is approximately \$10,000. In that instance, you would see your Town tax bill rise by \$142.80 in 2007 or just under \$12 per month. That is what this Budget proposes to do. And I have to tell you, sitting here, one of the things that we are charged with, other than being fiscally responsible to the community, is providing a high level of service to the residents of

Harrison. It is not my view, and I don't believe it is the Board's view, that we should compromise the services that we deliver to the community. This Budget provides again for the high level of services that we are all accustomed to receiving. And now I will open the (discussion) to the Board.

“One last comment before I do that: it is always nice to know how we are doing from a credit standpoint, what the rating agencies think of us. Generally speaking both rating agencies in their review of our credit this year, in particularly Moody's Investors Service which is heavily relied upon, (have) viewed the progress that we have made in addressing our structural imbalance in the Budget which has largely been due to our need to absorb an extremely large pension obligation like every other town and village in the state of New York. They view our progress toward addressing that imbalance as being measurable and significant. Moody's views the progress made as a reason to indicate in their credit report that our financial condition has improved in 2006 and will improve further in 2007. I will also state that in both rating agencies reviews, they have made it abundantly clear to the Town and the administrators once again that our use of non-recurring revenues in the budget process to, in effect, balance the Budget is frowned upon and we must make further progress towards eliminating those one-time non-recurring revenue items. For purposes of defining (non-recurring items) for the public, the items that this Board has used over the last two or three Budget years that fall into that category are the following: (1) we have sold real estate to replenish our General Fund balance for payments that we have made from our General Fund balance for items like large tax certiorari settlements and litigation settlements; (2) we have been amortizing, or if you will borrowing, as the State has allowed us to do over the last several years, portions of the large pension fund obligations that the state of NY has required us to pay. This Budget for 2007 addresses both of those areas. (The Budget) cuts in half the revenue received from the sale of assets – it reduces it to \$500,000. And (this Budget) entirely eliminates the amortization of the pension obligation. We absorbed the full cost of the pension obligation in this Budget. We also increased slightly the amount of Fund Balance that is being applied to balance the Budget. It is those items that the rating agencies have looked at and frowned upon, and it is those items we are addressing as we are moving through time.”

The Supervisor then opened the discussion to the members of the Board.

Councilman Paladino questioned the two sheets of changes that had been handed to the Board just prior to the meeting, and if the total tax increase number is 7.397%

Supervisor Malfitano replied the increase is 7.397% and that (the sheets) contain all the changes that make up that percentage. They were not reflected in the (Preliminary) Budget (orange cover), but will be incorporated into the final Adopted Budget.

Mr. Paladino pointed out that the biggest increases (in revenue) are in fees and permits (to be received) by the Building Department -- \$100,000; (additional funds to be received) from Cablevision; in fines and forfeitures; \$150,000 in Contingency; and in Debt Service.

Mr. Malfitano agreed, stating, when we reviewed the revenue side of the Budget today, we discussed Cable fees, and the Comptroller took another look, and we are pretty confident that we will be receiving an increase there. We also looked at the fines and forfeiture category. Towns are now prosecuting the State Trooper traffic violations, and the Town will be a direct beneficiary of that process.

Councilman Cannella asked how much revenue the Town could expect from this change.

Deputy Village Attorney Joe Latwin replied that, depending on how cases are prosecuted, it would be between \$300,000 and \$400,000. He explained that most of the money from fines that will be coming directly to the Town is from traffic matters that are settled reflecting Town code (violations) not State law violations. He added that there are about 120 to 150 cases on the calendar each Court day. He added that Harrison is the busiest court in New York State as we have so many major highways.

Mr. Malfitano added that the Town has two attorneys present at each Court session, spending four hours of additional time prosecuting (these cases.)

In response to a question from Councilman Cannella, Supervisor Malfitano stated that this Budget projects steady short term interest rates and that, for surplus funds invested by the Town in 2007, he expects to do so at a 5% interest rate. He added that he expects the next move by the Federal Reserve Board will be towards easing.

Mr. Cannella also asked, commenting on the current national decline in the housing market, how will that be reflected in Building Department fees and revenue from mortgages and re-financing. He added that this (projections) is a "guesstimate," but wanted the Supervisor's projections.

Mr. Malfitano stated that the Building Department has not seen any decline in applications and fees, that on the contrary, there is a steady flow of applications and he expects that there might be an increase. He added that the mortgage recording tax funds received for 2006 will be over-budget, and the pace continues, with (the Budget showing) a very modest \$100,000 increase projected for 2007.

Mr. Malfitano further stated that, regarding interest expense, the Town went to market today and sold General Obligation bonds to the public of \$8.9 million, about the same as last year's sale. One difference this year, the Town sold additional debt revenue anticipation bonds for funds in anticipation of receiving State funds for the Beaver Swam Brook project; that took us over a threshold of over \$10 million. Within the laws of the State of NY, there is a category where, if a municipal entity borrows less than \$10 million, the law gives a bank a tax advantage which drives the interest rate down by 5 or 10 basis points. Last year we could do that, this year we could not. The average life of bonds for both years was virtually identical. Last year, the net interest cost was 3.845%; this year, it is 3.941%. He added that Harrison is doing very well on interest expense paid.

Roy Porto, resident, pointed out that the major part of the Budget is salaries, and asked how is the Board saving dollars in this area for the residents.

Mr. Malfitano replied that one of the biggest expenses is medical, cost rise 8% to 12% per year. He added that one of the things that the Town can do, for new employees, the Town can have them pay more of their share of medical expenses.

Mr. Porto then asked if the Board knew how much was spent throughout the whole town in overtime in 2006, adding that he knew that the snow removal cost was great, but in general, he asked if it was \$3 million, \$4 million, \$5 million?

Mr. Malfitano said that he could not give the amount, but it was not anywhere near that sum. He added that to the extent that the Town has over-expended in overtime lines, and spent more in 2006 than was budgeted. He added that the taxpayers did not pay for that directly, it came out of surplus or sale of assets. That is what has to stop. In this budget, there is very little difference between the 2006 and 2007 overtime budgets. He continued that this Budget addresses the overtime issues. Harrison focuses all its attention on public safety, cleanup (of leaves, after storms and snow) and highway repair, which is what the residents want.

Councilman Cannella said that the reality is that (the Board) has not done a good job in managing overtime, and he is committed to doing a better job. He added that the only real way to attack it is that management has to be held increasingly accountable, that there are always extraordinary circumstances that can occur, but this Board needs to be more aware, and deal with the issue. He concluded by stating that Management needs to justify it, and the Board needs to be on top of it.

Mr. Porto then informed the Board that he had filed a Freedom of Information request, and learned that between January 2006 and the end of June 2006, the Town's bill for cell phones for employees was \$55,000, for a half year, with \$110,000 probable for a full year. He added that distribution was reckless, with 238 phones in use and some individual phone bills being \$800. He added that one bill was for \$798. Mr. Porto also stated that with other employers, if you go over a certain number of minutes, that cost comes out of your pay. How can the Town spend that much?

Mr. Malfitano stated that he had been looking at the usage month by month, that the Town buys packages, and asked if that 800 (number) which Mr. Porto referred to was minutes, not dollars. He also added that the Town is buying a package and reducing the number of phones might not reduce the costs. He also said that a few people had abused the phones, and those people had been talked to, that kind of use was not to continue. Mr. Malfitano further stated that he did not see any possible savings in this area, adding that the Town had received certain benefits in software, programming and other areas.

Mr. Porto said that he is bringing these things up as every little bit counts, and vehicle use and overtime (also have to be considered.)

Councilman Paladino stated that the overtime cost in 2006 was roughly \$2 million in actual costs, adding that he had just looked at the current fiscal year.

Supervisor Malfitano said that he could give a “guesstimate” that the Town had gone over-budget (in 2006) in overtime in an amount between \$500,000 and \$800,000.

Councilman Paladino asked the Comptroller how much, in Town spending, equals a 1% increase or decrease in taxes?

Supervisor Malfitano stated that it was about \$300,000 in round numbers – that amount in spending equals about a 1% increase or decrease in taxes. Comptroller MacKenzie agreed.

Councilman Paladino made the following comments:

“Much of what the Supervisor has said is absolutely true, and what Councilman Cannella has said regarding the overtime can’t be any truer. The issue is: are we looking at a cup that is half empty or half full? And the reality is that if you look at the Town’s performance over the last several years, the Town’s surplus has dropped from \$7.7 million to \$4.2 million; that the Town has operated at a deficit for the last five years. Our overtime is out of control, and there is no other word to describe it. I don’t think that as a community we have exercised the fiscal discipline that we need to. And as a result we are being presented here with a budget that is 7.39% (higher) which is roughly twice what other communities in the county are passing. The county itself is 3.5% (increase for 2006); other towns are the same. I don’t understand why Harrison taxpayers have to absorb a 7% plus increase. It is incumbent on us to do everything we can to get that number down substantially, if we are going to adopt this Budget this evening, and when I say everything, I mean everything: eliminating any new positions, severely restricting any discretionary spending we have control of, and if necessary allocating more Fund Balance in order to manage this tax increase.

“This is not a tax increase that the Town of Harrison deserves, and it is not fiscally appropriate, and not something in its current form that I can support. I have some general ideas, and would be happy to work on (the Budget.) I have not had a chance to absorb the whole Budget, because I have gotten a lot of sheets from the Comptroller’s office during the last 24 hours which I have been trying to look at. But, from a general point of view, I was very disturbed by the Standard and Poor’s report (rating service) and, as good as we can look in the Moody’s report which is positive in that they maintained our rating, and while the S&P’s reduction was minor and did not affect the bond sale today, there are a lot of signals in the S&P report, statements that should give this Board pause. We should be looking at the problems, focusing on them.

“S & P’s biggest problem seems to be that, even with the application of non-recurring money, this Town has operated at a fiscal deficit for the last five years, and our fund balance has dropped to \$4.2 million. Those percentages, compared to our total budget, have dropped. We need to look at those words and make this budget responsive to those concerns, and at the same time more fiscally responsible to the people of Harrison.

Supervisor Malfitano replied that he would agree with the last comment, that the (Budget) needs to be fiscally responsible. He added the following:

“First: over the last several years the methodology that we have employed here is one of attempting to absorb a very large increase in the pension obligation so as not to place that burden on the back of the taxpayers. You talk about a tax rate increase of just north of 7% and not wanting to impose it on the residents, and I don’t care to do that either. But what I will tell you is that during the course of the last six (6) years, the average annual tax rate increase is just north of 5½ %, and below 5¾% and if you were to compare that to all other communities in the County of Westchester you would find that to be in the bottom third. During that same period of time when this Board chose to use these non-recurrent revenues to modulate the effect of these rather large increases ...

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.... so I have to disagree with you, Bob. I think quite frankly that we are doing an exceptional job of managing the tax side of the equation for the residents of Harrison relative to the experience in other communities. Now we can sit here and argue and debate over the expenditures. I am not going to do that because, again, with regard to the monies that we have spent over and above Budget, they have been related to items like: settlement of litigation which we chose to pay out of the General Fund balance rather than to bond it; settlement of tax certioraris which, combined with the settlement of litigation, amounted to a total of \$2.25 million. Those were both draws on our General Fund balance which this Board voted unanimously to fund out of Fund Balance. We could have borrowed those sums, and if we had done that, our General Fund balance would today approximate about \$6.5 million. We didn’t do that, but at the same time, while we were drawing on our Fund Balance, by vote of this Board, we were also expending more money in categories which were over and above what had been budgeted for in each of those budget years. This Board collectively, and I would say virtually unanimously in each instance, voted to make those expenditures.

“And on that note I think you are going to get unanimous agreement from everyone here, those are the things that need to stop. That is what S&P pointed to when it looked so negatively on our performance. And it’s not over the last five years, it is over the last three (years.) We cannot continue to spend substantially more than what we are budgeted, and that is what this Board needs to manage. That is where the draws came from. The draws on Fund Balance came from, to some extent, our inability to control, if you will, additional expenditures in any one tax year.

“With regards to S&P’s report, I think that I can opine on that and I will. I think I have enough experience to make an informed comment. I spent hours with Standard and Poor’s in their review. Quite frankly, I think they are behind the curve, not ahead of the curve. S&P this year looked at the performance of the Town of Harrison, which by Moody’s standards, and even (S&P’s) if you read their report, our position actually improved but they were unwilling to recognize that. They were unwilling to recognize that because we had over-expended in key categories. They were very upset and

disturbed by that because in their view, if that were to continue, if we were to continue to draw on our reserves -- which is something we can't continue to do, we have to stop -- moving forward, they and Moody's have asked us to move away from the use of applying Fund Balance, sale of assets, and amortization of other expenses, particularly the pension obligation.

"Moody's recognized, in the 2007 Budget, that we had moved measurably away from the use of those non-recurring revenue items, and they encouraged us to continue to move in that direction, and that is exactly what we are going to do. I think, on balance, the one comment that has been made here tonight that is shared by all Board members is that we need to do a better job of administering the Budget. The Budget is what produces the tax rate increase. Our over-expenditure from Budget is what produces the decline in Fund Balance and Reserves. And this Board, virtually unanimously, has accepted that as a direction for the last several years. We cannot accept that any longer. That is the message to the taxpayers and everyone in this room. We are going to do everything that we can this next Budget to produce a surplus from the operation of our Budget as opposed to a deficit."

Councilman Vetere stated that he did not think anything was going to change in this Budget...that the overtime was not going to go down. And he was going on record that overtime would increase because management was not doing their job.

Councilman Cannella replied that if that was the case, it was an indictment on (the Board) rather than anything else, and he hoped the overtime would not increase. He further stated that he agreed with (Councilman Paladino) that the tax rate increase is too high, and he did not think that anybody on this Board is happy with it, but at the end of the day, he thought that it is an unquestionable fact that a Budget, and not in any derogatory sense, can be adjusted, and you can even use the word manipulated, by changing numbers --changing expense numbers, changing revenue numbers, but the reality is that it is a target. The more important thing is where do you wind up at the end of the year, and that is the part that (the Board) needs to be better focused on. Mr. Cannella continued that he had spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the Budget, and he agreed that the increase was too high. If you go down the line items, you are not going to be able to save anything that is not going to make a material difference. The only way to make a real dent in the rate is to adopt a policy where you take the overtime numbers as an example, have an aggregate of "X" dollars of overtime, you reduce that by say 10% or 15%, and you wind up with a mathematical number and you reduce the tax rate. You possibly, possibly, in some cases, might have a greater ability to affect that (expenditure side than the revenue side.) We don't have a sales force to sell more widgets to bring in more revenue. We are a service business.

"My inclination is enforce the Budget that we have. And I agree we have not done that great a job. It is everybody's fault, but it comes to the Board -- (the Board) needs to put in place a process whereby any department that is going to be over-budget by more than a specified amount -- ie Public Works generally has more issues in the winter than they do in the summer, and then referred to the July storms and the tornado ...

Councilman Vetere interrupted and said that “(the comments are) going in the wrong direction. Every time we go out to bid for a job, and start it, before we know it there is an overage of \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000 more than the job is worth. Those things are not going to change because we are not managing right or we are not drawing up the right contracts so these contractors could hold the line on their bidding.” He added that is not happening, we see it all the time.

Councilman Cannella said “that the Board should put in place a policy that, to the extent that there is going to be more than “X”%, a very small percent, of variance with the annualized budget with respect to expenditures, that (the Board members) have an immediate awareness of it, an explanation of it, and try to deal with it (then) rather than wait three, six, seven months into the year and then find out that some particular line item is going to be \$400,000 out of whack.”

Councilman Paladino said he had some comments. He pointed out a line in the S&P report, saying that they were “probably the most ominous six words I have seen in a long time: ‘the Village’s financial position has deteriorated.’ – words right out of S&P’s review.”

Supervisor Malfitano replied that if you looked at the Moody’s report, it would tell that the Village’s financial condition has improved measurably.

Mr. Paladino said he also wanted to comment with regards to looking at line items and slashing and trying to find items to make major cuts in. He continued that the reality is that we have already done that. This Budget already reflects that. The reality is that the Budget for 2007 does not budget \$2 million for overtime ...despite the fact that every year we have budgeted substantially less monies than we have spent. We continually go back to the same number which we all going into the year knowing that (we will spend that amount) and the reality is that whether the number is unachievable or perhaps not realistic, or whether as managers we are not managing. The reality is that this Budget, in the overtime category at least, stands to suffer the same impact as we had this year. And I do not know how much was budgeted in that line item this year, but probably closer to 1.2 million or \$1.3 million vs \$2 million of actual (expense.) We probably overspent that line item by \$700,000 or \$800,000, and that is a fairly substantial sum ... a 2.5% tax increase. And that is just one line item. Yes, you are right that there are items that come up in the year that can’t be managed, and there are items that come in that can be managed. As managers, when you are spending money that you don’t have, what you do is you take from someplace else. And there are probably ...”

Mr. Malfitano stated that, “on that note, everyone is in 1000% agreement. It has to be managed better. Period. And with regard to the over-expenditures, and I want to highlight this as it is important, those ever-expenditures are not affecting the taxpayers directly. They are coming out of our surplus. And that is the thing that the credit agencies, when they looked at our performance over the last couple of years, are very concerned about. They see us drawing on Fund Balance to pay for ...”

Mr. Vetere interjected that they (the credit agencies) see us going into debt.

Mr. Malfitano continued “it is not that at all. Their comment on debt is that (Harrison is) so low on the debt curve that they are not even concerned about that, not even one-tenth of one percent.”

Councilman Scappaticci said: “He personally had spent a lot of time on this Budget, and went through all the line items, and that because of some of the budgeting changes we made to bring us more in line, we probably have a 3% tax increase just in some of the adjustments that were made. So if he factored those in, the real tax increase, year over year, would be about 4.7% rather than 7.4%. That is really what the tax increase is.

Councilman Paladino returned that is not what you are going to see in your tax bill.

Mr. Scappaticci agreed, saying that is not what you are going to see in your tax bill, but if he went year to year, and if he used the same practices as last year, the (tax increase) number would be substantially lower.

Mr. Paladino pointed out to Supervisor Malfitano, to comment on something that (Mr. Malfitano) had said, ‘while it may not directly impact the taxpayers in this town, the surplus is their money and the reality is that if (the Board) wastes it, if (the Board) does not spend it or manage it correctly, it is their money, and it may not translate today ...’

Mr. Malfitano stated that this is on the mind of every single member of this Board.

Councilman Cannella stated that, “to reinforce what (the Mayor) said, obviously the (credit rating reports) are here, and he might be missing a line here or there, but with respect to our debt burden, Moody’s says that ...”

Mr. Paladino interrupted and said: ‘there are millions of dollars of debt, and that it is what the debt service is – it is what it costs us every year to service that debt.’

Mr. Cannella continued that there is nothing (in Moody’s) about the debt level, that is not what this is about.

Mr. Paladino again interrupted and said: “ it is not a question about the total debt level, it is about the debt servicing, it is about what you have to pay every year to cover your debt.”

Mr. Cannella replied that is not material in the Budget, the problem is the outstripping of line items.

Supervisor Malfitano agreed, saying (the debt service amount) is an insignificant total in the Budget.

Mr. Paladino suggested that the (debt service) amount of about \$5 million, he had not looked at all the Budget sheets but ...

Supervisor Malfitano asked the Comptroller the amount of debt service and principal due in 2007.

Comptroller MacKenzie replied that the principal payment due on Village debt in 2007 is \$2.6 million, and the interest is \$1.5 million.

Chief of Police David Hall addressed the Board and said that he heard the discussions about overtime, including Mr. Porto's comments, and that he would venture to guess that the overtime from the Police Department is probably the biggest expenditure relative to the overtime budget. He then addressed Mr. Vetere, stating: In (construction) terms, if you contract a job for \$100,000, and you hit rock when there is no way to know that the rock was there, (you pay for it). The Police Department is the same way, there is no way to know how many storms there will be, how many crimes there will be. He continued that (the Department) can be pro-active or re-active, that he pays taxes in this town, he's lived here better than half of his life, and would like to see that his tax bill is not raised. He added that he is not paid overtime so it does not affect him one way or another. But the truth of the matter is, that if it is going to be a pro-active Police Department, they will incur overtime when they do not want to incur overtime. He added that the Councilmen know what happened last year with the home invasions, with a tremendous amount of overtime in 2005 as well as 2006. He continued that there is something happening now, and all the Councilmen have been appraised of it, so it shouldn't be a shock that there is a lot of overtime now. He then said that, with that being said, the Department could cut overtime, we could cut the officers who make sure the Town House is safe – the four officers who monitor the guns and knives and other stuff that has been taken out (of the Municipal Building on Court days) since the monitoring system was instituted (on Court days.) He continued that the Department could get rid of the D.A.R.E program, the motorcycle escorts for funerals, the High School S.R.O. program, all that could go, and there would be a lot less overtime. But the people in this town are used to the services that the Police Department provide, and leaf pickup and snow plowing. Harrison does not have the problems with these services that other communities have. He added that he is willing to pay the extra \$200, or \$17 per month to get those services. It is not a big deal to him, and he did not think it was a big deal to most of the people who live (in Harrison.) Chief Hall concluded by saying that he thought whoever put this Budget together, the Comptroller, the Mayor and whoever else is on this committee such as Ray Krause, they did a hell of a job, and he would be willing to pay even \$20 a month more for the services he gets. Chief Hall also said that this morning, when he was sitting in his den reading the paper, he heard a crash at the intersection of Harrison Ave and North Street and within less than 30 seconds, there were two cops there. He then said that the people in this Town are used to those services and are willing to pay for it.

Councilman Vetere pointed out that those two cops were not on overtime...they were on duty.

Mr. Porto agreed with Chief Hall, that Harrison does have great services, a great Police Department, but continued that everybody has to take their part, if Management knows that there are times when we need it, spend it to protect our community, but there are times it is wasteful. Management has to think, to plan. He added that three years ago, he had told the Mayor and several of the Councilmen that the Town was going in the wrong direction.

Mr. Malfitano replied that the answer to (Mr. Porto's) comments

“was that the direction of this (Town Board) for the last several years was to take steps and measures to reduce the burden of taxes on the residents of this community, using revenue items to balance or to modulate if you will the tax rate increase so as not to absorb these expense that were demanded of us such as the pension obligations that was a benefit to every taxpayer in this community. What has been an issue for us, which the taxpayers have not participated in out of their pocket, was the draw on Fund Balance, on Reserves, to pay for expenses over budget. And what we are saying here is that has to stop. One of the ways to do that is to manage as best we possibly can, the application of the Budget. This is the Bible, this is what we are spending. I want to be clear, because it is important for the residents of the Town to know that, in my view, we have done an exceptional job at presenting responsible Budgets, and managing the tax rate increases. The residents of this community have benefited. We are in the bottom third of the (tax increases) experience in the County. That has come with an expense, when we have not managed the Budget properly, or the Managers have not done so, or because of extraordinary items that we do not have any control over, and we had to draw on fund balance. Those are the things that we have to be more careful about. On the note of trying to conserve, sometimes it is just simple things. When someone leaves a truck idling – they do not mean to do it, but if we can get people to work collectively, we can save a few thousand dollars here and a few thousand there, and then maybe when we have a little more overtime, we can find some other areas where we have saved money and the collective effect of that is we do not have to draw on our Reserves, or maybe we even produce a surplus. And I am going to go on record here, that what we are going to attempt to do here with this Budget, is to do just that. We are going to attempt to produce a surplus. Just because it is in here does not mean we are going to spend it. The message of this Board is loud and clear.

Mr. Porto then asked if the Town sought reimbursement from the county, state or federal government for some of the expenses associated with snow or rain storms.

Mr. Malfitano and Commissioner of Public Works both assured him that requests were filed, but it depended on the actions of the Governor or the President if there was reimbursement. Some times funds were received but it was always uncertain.

On motion of Councilman Scappaticci, seconded by Councilman Cannella, with all members voting in favor, the Hearing was closed.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 475 -- b

ADOPTION OF THE 2007 FINAL BUDGET

On motion of Councilman Scappaticci, seconded by Councilman Cannella,

it was

RESOLVED to adopt the Preliminary Budget, with the changes and amendments as submitted to the Councilmen at this Board meeting, as the Final Budget of the Town of Harrison for 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and all Department Heads.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci and Cannella
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: Councilmen Paladino and Vetere

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 476 (corrected)

AUTHORIZATION FOR POLICE OFFICER ALEXANDRA GRAMIGNA TO TAKE
TWO COURSES AT MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE, FALL SEMESTER 2006
COST: \$3,760

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Police Chief Dave Hall for authorization for Police Officer Alexandra Gramigna to take the following courses at Manhattanville College, 2006 Fall Semester at a cost of \$3,760: "Rights of Crime Victims" and "Religion and Politics".

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Comptroller be authorized to audit and upon audit pay same.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: Councilman Vetere

ABSENT: None

* the name of the college was incorrect.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 477

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM KLOUS,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the letter of resignation from William Klous, Auto Mechanic in the Equipment Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works, effective November 13, 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Commissioner of Public Works and the Personnel Director.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino Supervisor Malfitano
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 478

APPROVAL OF THE RECREATION PART-TIME AVAILABILITY LIST

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Recreation Supervisor Ron Belmont for approval of the 2007 Recreation Part-time Availability List, as follows:

2007 PART TIME RECREATION ATTENDANTS
AVAILABILITY LIST

<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
ABELE, KERI	\$ 6.25
ABINAKAD, MAYA	9.00
ACOCELLA, JOSEPH	10.50
ACOMPORA, JUSTINE	5.50
ADOLPH, JOCELN	8.50
AHNE, DANIEL	7.00
ALVES, MATIAS	5.75
AMBROSEO, CANDIDA	8.50
AMENDOLA, STEVEN	6.25
AMODEO, ANDREW	5.75
ANGARANO, ELISSA	11.50
ANGARANO, MATT	6.25
ANGARANO, RONALD	10.50
ANGARANO, WILLIAM	7.00
ANUNZIATO, JOSEPH	6.75
ARCARA, MARINA	9.00
ASTARITA, SALVATORE	6.75
ATTILIO, MICHELLE	6.75
BARBAGALLO, GERALDINE	10.00
BARONE, CHRISTOPHER	8.00
BASSO, DAVID	5.50
BASSO, SAMANTHA	7.75
BASSO, SHEREE	10.00
BAYLIS, JAMES	10.00
BECKETT, KRISTINA	8.00
BECKETT, ROBERT	7.00

BELMONT, MATTHEW	11.00
BELMONT, MICHELLE	11.00
BENEDETTO, NICOLE	6.50
BENEDICT, JOSEPH	7.25
BONISTALL, AMY	8.00
BOURDEAU, JOANNA	6.50
BRANC, ALEXIS	5.75
BRANCA, VERONICA	6.50
BRIEM, CHARLES	10.00
BRIGANTI, LISA	6.25
BRUNO, CHRISTINE	8.50
BUFFONE, ANTHONY	5.50
CALLAGY, NICK	6.50
CALLAGY, LEONARD	5.50 / 6.75 LG
CALLAGY, WILLIAM	8.00
CANNELLA, ASHLEY	10.25
CANONICO, ALYSSA	7.00
CARBONE, MICHEL	10.00
CARLUCCI, CHRISTINE	10.00
CARNAVALLA, JOHN JR	5.50
CARNETTO, ROSA	7.50
CARREA, LAURA	6.75
CARSON, BRIAN	9.25
CARSON, DOUGLAS	7.25
CARUSO, DONNA	10.50
CASARELLA, ELISBETTA	6.25
CASARELLA, THERESA	7.00
CASTIGLIA, MICHAEL	6.25
CASTIGLIA, TARA	6.75
CENTUDRI, KELLY	5.50
CIAMEA, MARY	10.00
CIARAMELLA, DIANE	10.00
CIARAMELLA, MICHAEL	6.50
CIRIONI, ANDREW	6.25
COLACO, SHELDON	6.75
COLANGELO, WILLIAM	7.00
CONIGLIARO, ROSA	8.50
CONSIGLIERE, ROCKY	9.00
CONTE, DIANA	7.00
COPPA, ANTHONY	6.25
COPPA, MICHAEL	6.75
COPPOLA, JOE	7.00
CORTESE, ROBIN	10.00
CORVINO, ALBERT	5.50
CORVINO, JONATHAN	5.50
CURCIO, PALO	7.75

D' ALESANDRO, ANTHONY	6.25
DALTO, PAULA	10.00
DEFONCE, JOSEPH	8.00
DELUCCI, DANIELLE	6.75
DEPIPPO, PAUL	7.75
DERAFFELE, TRAVIS	6.25
DEROSA, ALEXANDER	6.25/ 8.25 lifeguard
DEROSA, DANIELLE	8.25
DERUBEIE, NICOLE	5.75
DIAZ, JASON	7.75/9.50 lifeguard
DIAZ, ROBERT	6.75/8.75 lifeguard
DIBUONO, CHRISTINE	10.75
DIBUONO, DOROTHY	15.00
DIBUONO, LOUIS	9.50
DIFATTA, ANTHONY	6.75
DIFATTA, SEBASTIAN	9.00
DILEO, CHRISTINE	10.75
DIRENNO, FRANK	6.75
DONWORTH, STEPHEN	7.25
DOONAN, KENNETH	6.75
DORMAN, AMANDA	7.00
DOWLING, RYAN	6.25
EATON, ROBERT	11.00
EVANGELISTA, ANTHONY	6.75 / 9.00 lifeguard
FABIAN, ALEX	6.75
FANELLI, ASHLEY	7.75
FAZZINO, ANGELA	10.00
FAZZINO, JOSEPH	11.50
FAZZINO, THOMAS	10.50
FEALY, LISA	5.75
FEALY, MARY ELLEN	10.00
FEENEY, AIMEE	6.25
FERRIRA, CARLA	6.25
FERRITO, GIAN LUCA	6.75
FERRITO, SIMONA	6.75
FIN, ROTH	11.50
FIORE, MARISSA	6.25
FIORE, MARK	8.00
FIorentINO, DANA	5.50
FIorentINO, KRISTINA	9.25
FLEISCHNER, ZACH	9.75
FORGIONE, NICK	6.50
FRANK, EVAN	6.25
FRATTAROLA, RUTHANN	10.00
FRATTINI, CHRISTOPHER	6.25
FUGGETTA, ERICA	10.00

FULLER, AMANDA	6.75
GAITA, PHILIP	11.00
GALASSO, NICK	7.75
GALLACE, JOSEPH	9.50
GALLO, JOE	7.00
GAMBACORTA, AMANDA	7.00
GAMBACORTA, KRISTA	8.50
GARCIA, DEKER	6.25
GASPARRE, THERESA	10.00
GENTILE, ANN MARIE	7.50
GENTILE, MICHAEL	6.25
GEORGE, JOAN	10.00
GIORGI, ANN	10.00
GIORGI, SCOTT	10.00
GORLON, MIKE	5.75
GREECHAN, DANA	10.00
GREENBURG, ALEX	6.25
GREENBURG, ANDREW	6.25
GRESCAK, ANDREW	10.00
GROZINGER, DOREEN	10.00
HACHMANN, PATRICK	7.50
HAWKS, DANIEL	6.25
HERRON, ERIC	8.00
HINCHEY, ERIN	10.75
HINCHEY, JULIE	6.25
HOFFMAN, ROBERT	9.25
IAROSSO, RICHARD	6.50
JENTER, DOROTHY	9.50
JEAN-PHILLIPPE, JUNKO	10.00
KATSOGRIDAKIS, NOEL	13.00
KEAVENY, KEITH	8.00
KEHRER, MYRA	11.00
KENNEALLY, LINDSAY	8.25
KIDWAI, IRFAN	5.50
KLEIN, JONATHAN	5.50
KUMTHEKAR, ROHAN	6.75
LABARBERA, RALPH	5.75
LANNI, LISA	11.00
LARUSSO, KIMBERLY	10.00
LARUSSO, VICTORIA	6.75
LAUDER, JEAN	10.00
LAWRENCE, SEAN	10.00
LEAVY, THOMAS	5.50
LEE, ANDREW	5.75
LEGRAZIE, KATHLEEN	10.00
LEHMKUHL, KELLY	7.25

LEPINO, JACLYN	5.50
LIFRIERI, BRIAN	6.25
LIFRIERI, JAMIE	5.50
LIONETTI, AMANDA	5.50
LOMBARDO, NICHOLAS	7.25
LOVALLO, CARMELA	12.50 LG
LUGO, BRIANNA	8.25
LUGOVINA, FRANCISCO	7.50
LUONGO, FRANK	6.75
LUONGO, MELISSA	6.75
MACCHIA, FELICIA	8.00
MAGEE, CAITLYN	6.25
MAIETTA, MARILYN	9.00
MALFITANO, AMANDA	9.00
MALFITANO, CHRIS	6.75
MANCINI, MELISSA	7.25
MANSTREAM, MITCHELL	5.75
MARCHSANI, STEPHEN JR	6.25
MARCONE, ALYSSA	5.50
MARCONE, JEFF	7.00
MARCONE, MICHAEL	7.25 /10.00 LG
MARCONE, MONICA	9.00
MARIANI, CHRISTINA	6.50
MARINACCIO, JESSICA	7.00
MARINO, DENNIS	7.75
MARKOWITZ, KIMBERLY	6.25
MARSICO, KAREN	10.25
MARSICO, LONI	12.50
MASCIOLA,CHRISTINA	6.75
MASCIOLA, GEORGIA	10.00
MASCIOLA, JOHN	7.75
MASSARO, WENDI	11.00
MASTROGIACOMO, MARIA	7.25
MASTROGIACOMO, MICHAEL	6.75
MASTROGIACOMO, ROCCO	6.75
MASTROGIACOMO, ROSA	8.25
MATHIAS, BRANDON	5.75
MAURO, MICHAEL	6.75
MCCABE, CAROLYN	6.25
MCCARTHY, SAMANTHA	6.25
MELLEA, ANTHONY	9.00
MELLEA, JOSEPH	6.25
MEZZANCELLO, JONATHAN	7.25
MEZZANCELLO, MATTHEW	8.25
MIGLIACIO, RENEE	12.00
MILLER, MATT	9.00

MINISHI, JULIANNA	6.75
MIRAKAJ, ADRIANA	5.50
MOELLER, CHERYL	13.00
MOLITERNO, KRISTIN	7.00
MONASTRA, DAVID	10.50
MONTEMARANO, JAMES	6.50
MONTES, MARY ANN	10.00
MORENA, ALEX	6.25
MORENO, MARILYN	10.00
MULROY, MARY	7.00
MURABITO, DANIEL	5.75
MURDOCCA, NICOLE	6.75
NASELLI, ALEJANDRA	8.00
NEGRON, LEANNE	8.50
NEIDER, BRITTANY	6.25
NESHEIWAT, AMAL	10.00
NEWEU, TARA	6.25
NILL, JACLYN	5.50
NORBERTO, LAUREN	12.00
NOVAK, KRISTEN	7.00
NOVIELLO, MICHELE	5.50
NOVIELLO, NICHOLAS	7.00
O'CONNELL, MICHAEL	8.50
O'DONNELL, JOHN	11.00
O'DONNELL, SHANNON	6.75
O'DONOGHUE, EOIN	5.50
OLIVIA, SALVATORE	5.50
OPER, ARI	6.50
O'SHEA, BRIAN	7.75
PARRELLO, MATTHEW	7.25
PASCALE, CHARLES JR.	5.50
PASCALE, NICOLE	7.25
PASSARELLA, ADAM	6.75
PASSARELLA, AMANDA	6.25
PAULO, CHRIS	5.75
PEREZ, ALFREDO	6.25
PERSICO, PAOLO	6.25
PETRERA, JENNA	9.75
PIOMBINO, ANNA	9.00
PIPITONE, TERESA	10.00
PIPITONE, VINCE	6.25
PLANAMENTO, ERICA	6.50
POLIZZOTO, LUCY	9.50
POSTIGLIONE, AMY	5.50
POWERS, BRIAN	10.00
PULIAFICO, JENNIFER	8.25

QUINTERO, JOSEPH	10.50
RAFAIL, SAMANTHA	10.25
RAFAIL, STEPHANIE	10.00
REYNOLDS, RITA	15.00
RICCIARDI, AMANDA	6.25
RICCIARDI, ALI	5.75
RINALDI, MARK	7.00
RINALDI, ROBERT	6.75
RIZZARO, PAM	11.00
ROA, MARIA	7.50
ROCK, JON-PETER	12.00
ROSANIA, ANTHONY	6.75
ROSARIO, DANIEL	6.25
ROSENBERG, STEVEN	6.25
ROSENZWEIG, MATT	6.25 / 8.25 lifeguard
ROSIELLO, ANDREW	9.00
ROVIEZZO, THOMAS	7.00
RUSSO, DAVID	8.25
RUSSO, ELEANOR	17.00
RUSSO, RUDOLPH	12.00
SAGES, JULIA	6.25
SAGES, LISA	7.75
SAGES, VALERIE	10.00
SALERNO, JAMES	9.00
SALERNO, JOSEPH	9.50
SALERNO, RICHARD	12.00
SALONGER, MATTIE	6.75
SANDOR, CLARE	7.00
SANTIAGO, DANIELLE	8.50
SANTIAGO, EDDIE	8.25
SANTIAGO, NANCY	7.00
SANTORSOLA, RACHELLE	12.00
SANTULLO, CHRISTINA	9.00
SCAPPATICCI, MICHAEL	6.75
SCAPPATICCI, STEVEN	9.00
SCAPPATICCI, TOM	12.00
SCAVONE, FELICIA	6.25
SCILIANO, KATELYN	6.50
SCIORTINO, JOE	5.75
SEMANDE, MONICA	7.50
SERVINO, JOSEPH	8.00
SGOBBO, DANIELLA	6.25
SMALLEY, RICHARD	6.25
SPROVIER, I JAMES	5.75
SOKOLSKI, SEMYON	9.50
STISO, DANIELA	6.25

STONE, NATASHA	6.25
STRICKLAND, ERIC	6.50
STRONE, NOAH	7.00
STROZZA, BRYAN	6.75
STURINO, GREG	7.25
SUN, KEVIN	7.00
SURACE, FRANK	5.50
SZABO, DANIELLE	6.25
TALIBON, NICOLE	6.25
TALT, NICOLE	7.25
TARASCIO, CAROL	10.00
TENNER, CHRISTINE	9.50
TINERVIA, JOSEPH	9.00
TISO, LISA	10.00
TORRES, GINA	7.50
TROIA, ANTHON	7.25
TROIANO, NICHOLAS	7.50
TROIANO, THOMAS	11.00
VALENTI, JOHN	7.50
VALENTINO, GEORGE	5.75
VECCHIOLLA, LENNY	10.00
VECCHIOLLA, MARK	6.25
VERENINI, ALLISON	10.00
VICARS, JULIA	6.50
VITI, ANTHONY	11.00
WEINTRAUB, DANIELLE	5.50
ZATARI, NADIA	5.50

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino Supervisor Malfitano
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 479

ACCEPTANCE, WITH REGRET, OF THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM
DOMINICK VERSACE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Supervisor Malfitano noted that Mr. Versace, nicknamed "DD," had served Harrison for 35 years and 8 months. Commissioner of Public Works Bob Wasp stated that he has known "DD" for just the seven years that he (Mr. Wasp) has been the Commissioner, but in that time he has known Mr. Versace to be an outstanding employee, one who will be greatly missed.

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Dominick Versace, General Repairman in the General Town Buildings Division of the Department of Public Works, effective January 12, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 480

RE-APPOINTMENT OF DIANE EMANUEL SAMMONS TO A NEW FIVE-YEAR
TERM AS A TRUSTEE OF THE HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of June Ann Swartz, President of the Harrison Library Board of Trustees and re-appoint Diane Emanuel Sammons to a new five-year term as a Trustee of the Library, with her new term of office to begin January 1, 2007 and to expire December 31, 2011.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Library Director and the Board of Library Trustees.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 481

AUTHORIZATION FOR A TAX REFUND
UNDER THE BASIC "STAR" EXEMPTION PROGRAM:
Block 814, Lot 30.

The tax bill for this co-op property was in error, due to a clerical error in the Assessor's office in not applying the basic STAR Exemption. The refund has been approved by the Executive Director of the Westchester County Tax Commission.

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Deputy Assessor Mark Heinbockel that the Town Board authorize a refund under the Basic STAR Exemption to Mr. Vaccaro of 97 Columbus Avenue, West Harrison, Block 814, Lot 30.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Assessor.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 – 482

AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER WATER RENT ARREARS TO THE 2007 TAX BILLS
OF THE AFFECTED PROPERTIES AMOUNT: \$315.44

On motion of Councilman Canella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Receiver of Taxes Nancy Masi for authorization to transfer the water rent arrears due to the Westchester Joint Water Works, in the amount of \$315.44, to the 2006 Tax Roll and the 2007 Town/Village Tax bills of the corresponding properties.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Receiver of Taxes and the Assessor.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 483

AUTHORIZATION TO RE-ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE SEALED BIDS
FOR THE OPERATION OF A FOOD AND REFRESHMENT CONCESSION
AT BERNIE GUAGNINI PARK

Councilman Paladino questioned if the bid documents would be changed from the 2006 bid documents which had caused confusion and problems. He asked specifically if they would reflect enough time for the winning bidder to amortize the cost of his investment in the equipment.

Superintendent of Recreation Ron Belmont and Director of Purchasing Judy D'Agostinis replied that the documents were being changed, and would allow for this provision.

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Director of Purchasing Judy D'Agostinis for authorization to re-advertise and receive sealed bids for the Operation of a Food and Refreshment Concession at Bernie Guagnini Park.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Director of Purchasing and the Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 484

NOTIFICATION BY DEPUTY VILLAGE ATTORNEY JONATHAN KRAUT THAT
NEW YORK STATE HAS ADOPTED A MANDATORY TRAINING LAW FOR
MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS.

Deputy Village Attorney Jonathan Kraut informed the Board that New York has adopted a mandatory training law for members of the Planning and Zoning Boards, and gave the Board a copy of the new law as well as an article regarding the law.

Deputy Village Attorney Joseph Latwin stated that the State will put the new law on-line. and added that, if the Board desires it, the Law Department will prepare a draft of a local law with these provisions.

Councilman Cannella stated that he thought that the Town had previously adopted a requirement for mandatory training for Board members. He asked the Town Clerk to research the matter.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 485

TABLED: REQUEST FOR A REDUCTION IN THE BOND FOR THE PARK LANE
SUBDIVISION, PHASES 10A AND 10B, TO \$325,000

Councilman Cannella requested this matter be tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 486 -- a

APPROVAL FOR BUDGET MODIFICATIONS IN THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie for the following Budget Modifications:

INCREASE:

001-0000-059-5999
Appropriated Fund Balance \$412,000

INCREASE:

001-3120-1000-0120
Police- Overtime \$412,000

INCREASE:

001-0000-059-5999
Appropriated Fund Balance \$ 38,000

INCREASE

Police-Telephone \$ 38,000

INCREASE:

001-0000-059-5999
Appropriated Fund Balance \$ 26,000

INCREASE:

001-3120-100-0470
Police-Gasoline \$ 26,000

To appropriate Town Fund Balance to cover unbudgeted Police overtime, Police telephone and Police gasoline charges.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Director of Purchasing and the Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None
ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 486 -- b

APPROVAL FOR BUDGET MODIFICATIONS IN THE
FIRE DISTRICT #2 BUDGET

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie for the following Budget Modifications:

INCREASE:

11-0000-027-2701

Fire District #2- Refund of prior year expense \$151,503

INCREASE:

11-9000-100-0840

Fire District #2- Workman's Compensation \$151,503

To reflect reimbursements from Gallagher Bassett Services for monies that were expended for Workman's Compensation claims.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Director of Purchasing and the Chief of Fire District #2.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 486 -- c

APPROVAL FOR BUDGET MODIFICATIONS IN THE
ARCHIVE GRANT BUDGET

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie for the following Budget Modifications:

INCREASE:

001-0000-030-3089

State Aid: Archive Grant \$14,965

INCREASE:

001-1411-100-0130

Archive: Part-time Salaries \$14,965

This is to reflect monies received from New York State for the '06-'07 Archive Grant

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Town Clerk.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
 Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 487

AUTHORIZATION FOR AN INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR ATTENDANCE AT A
CONFERENCE BY THE PLANNING BOARD CHAIR: \$153.87.

Secretary to the Planning Board Rosemarie Cusumano stated that, on August 17, 2006, the Board approved the amount of \$700 for Planning Board Chair Thomas Heaslip to attend a conference in Saratoga, NY on Planning Board matters. (TBR 2006-349). She added that Mr. Heaslip's expenses exceeded that amount by \$153.87, and requested the Town Board to authorize the additional sum.

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of the Secretary to the Planning Board, Rosemarie Cusumano, for authorization for the additional amount of \$153.87 to cover additional expenses incurred by Planning Board Chairman Thomas Heaslip at the NYPF Conference in Saratoga.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Planning Board.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 488

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT MONIES FROM WESTCHESTER COUNTY
RE: FUNDS FROM ASSETS SEIZED AND FORFEITED
FROM VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Chief of Police David Hall stated that these funds, two checks in the amounts of \$1,394.00 and \$424.76, were from assets seized and forfeited relating to cases investigated by the Harrison Police Department.

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Chief of Police David Hall and authorize acceptance of two checks from Westchester County, in the amounts of \$1,394 and \$424.76, funds which came from assets seized and forfeited relating to cases investigated by the Harrison Police Department.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 489

APPROVAL OF THE MERGER OF ASSESSED VALUATION
OF LOTS 13(Po12&13) AND LOT 26(Po12&13) IN BLOCK 512
ON THE 2006 ASSESSMENT ROLL – TAX OF 2007

Assessor James Calandruccio explained that Martine T. and Stanley Fleishman would like to have these two (2) parcels merged into one (1) parcel in accordance with the attached survey. The parcel will hereafter be known as Block 512, Lot 13 (Po12&13&26) and will contain 2.12 acres. This merger is necessary so the owner can construct a Tennis Court.

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the request of Assessor James Calandruccio for approval for the merger of assessed valuation of Lot 13 (Po12&13) and Lot 26 (Po 12&13) in Block 512, on the 2006 Assessment Roll (Taxes of 2007) to be known hereafter as Block 512, Lot 13 (Po12&13&26), containing 2.12 acres.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Assessor.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino Supervisor Malfitano
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 490

DISCUSSIONS

(1) POLICY ON USE OF TOWN CARS; (2) SAVINGS FOR TAXPAYERS;
(3) COST FOR CELL PHONES; (4) OVERTIME COSTS

TOWN CAR POLICY:

Resident Roy Porto questioned Supervisor Steve Malfitano as to whether or not an updated policy on the use of Town cars had been written.

Mr. Malfitano replied that the new policy was sitting on his desk.

Mr. Porto stated that he was looking forward to seeing the policy.

TAXPAYER SAVINGS

Mr. Porto also asked where the savings are (in this budget for 2007) for taxpayers.

Mr. Malfitano replied that one area where savings will be achieved is that new employees will bear a greater share of the costs for health care.

COSTS FOR CELL PHONE CHARGES

Mr. Porto pointed out that in the first six months of this year (2006) telephone charges for cell phones use was \$55,000! He added that the Town has distributed 238 cell phones to employees. He also added that one cell phone had an \$800 charge. Supervisor Malfitano asked if Mr. Porto was referring to minutes of use, not dollars. He added that if the Town reduced the number of phones, it would not reduce the charge as the Town buys "packages," and is not charged per phone. He added that, on some occasions, individuals had overused the phone, and they had been talked to.

Mr. Porto asked for further monitoring of these costs.

OVERTIME COSTS:

Mr. Porto also asked the overtime costs in 2006, asking if it was \$1 million, \$2 million, or \$3 million, and how much over-budget is that cost.

Councilman Paladino pointed out that in the current year, the overtime costs were \$2 million.

Mr. Malfitano replied that in the '07 budget, there was little difference from the amount that had been budgeted in 2006. He added that in 2006, the overbudget cost was perhaps \$500,000 to \$800,000.

Councilman Paladino asked the Comptroller what each \$1% of increase or decrease in the Budget was in dollars.

Comptroller MacKenzie replied that each 1% increase or decrease was a reflection of \$290,000.

December 14, 2006

2006-- 491

MATTERS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel	2
Acquisition of Real Property	1
Settlement of Claims	4
Certiorari	1
Sale of property	1
Advice of counsel	1

On motion duly made and seconded,
with all members voting in favor,
the Meeting was recessed for Executive Session
at 9:20 PM.

On motion duly made and seconded,
with all members voting in favor,
the Meeting was reconvened
at 10:37 PM.

Councilman Vetere left the meeting at 10:35 PM.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 492

APPROVAL TO HIRE SEASONAL PART-TIME WORKERS
FOR THE LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

On motion of Councilman Scappaticci, seconded by Councilman Vetere,

it was

RESOLVED to approve hiring seven additional part-time workers for the seasonal leaf collection program, effective November 1st, as budgeted.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 493 -- a (corrected)

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE TEMPORARY INSTALLATION OF A BOILER
AT THE POLICE STATION

The boiler failed suddenly and had to be replaced.

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Cannella,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the installation of a temporary boiler at the Police Station, by the firm of Easco Boiler Corp, at a cost not to exceed \$9,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Director of Purchasing and the Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

* the name of the firm installing the temporary boiler was incorrect.

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 493 -- b

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION OF A BOILER
AT THE POLICE STATION

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Cannella,

it was

RESOLVED to authorize the removal and installation of a boiler at the Police Station by the firm of Superior Heating and Cooling, at a cost not to exceed \$35,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Commissioner of Public Works, the Director of Purchasing and the Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 494

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERVISOR TO DISCUSS
A POSSIBLE SALE OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED, based on terms discussed in Executive Session, to authorize Supervisor Malfitano to discuss with Glen DeFaber a possible sale of town-owned property.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Assessor.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 495

SETTLEMENT OF A CERTIORARI: BLOCK 631 LOT 17(Po5)

On motion of Councilman Cannella, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the certiorari for Block 631, Lot 17(Po5) as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Current Assessment</u>	<u>Proposed Assessment</u>
2004	\$1,139,600	\$948,500
2005	1,139,600	941,800
2006	1,139,600	919,600

As part of the Settlement, the Assessor has agreed to reduce the 2007 assessment to \$900,000.

FURTHER RESOLVED that funds for this Settlement will come from the Settlements and Claims Account, or the Contingency Account or Fund Balance.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Assessor.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 496

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM: GAUDET vs TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the claim of Gaudet vs Town of Harrison, for damage to a fence, in the amount of \$850.00.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this settlement is dependant on the claimant signing a General Release.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Vetere

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 497

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM: ROSA, JR. vs TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the claim of Rosa, Jr. vs Town of Harrison, for damage to a vehicle, in the amount of \$305.16

FURTHER RESOLVED that this settlement is dependant on the claimant signing a General Release.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Vetere

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 498

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM: PEARSON vs TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the claim of Pearson vs Town of Harrison, for damage to a recycling bin, in the amount of \$51.05.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this settlement is dependant on the claimant signing a General Release.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Vetere

December 14, 2006

2006 -- 499

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM: CEFALONI vs TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Scappaticci,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the claim of Cefaloni vs Town of Harrison, for damage to a car, in the amount of \$691.92.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this settlement is dependant on the claimant signing a General Release.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Scappaticci, Cannella and Paladino
Supervisor Malfitano

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Vetere

On motion duly made and seconded,
with all members voting in favor,
the Meeting was closed at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan B. Walsh
Town Clerk

