

**VILLAGE OF TIVOLI BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING DRAFT MINUTES  
September 21, 2022**

A meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held on September 21, 2022 at the Historic Watts DePeyster Hall, Tivoli, NY. Mayor Griffith opened the regular meeting at 7:04 PM.

Present: Mayor Griffith, Deputy Mayor Majer, Trustee Ezrati, Trustee Baldino and Trustee Mangieri

Public Present: Hayden Sartoris, Jillian Reed, Amy Peterson, Stacy Reilly, Stacey Rein, Elizabeth Kiefer, Kristin Coleman, Kathleen and Bruce Franck, Janene Gentile, Demoy Schilling, Marc Hildenbrand, Teresa Stickel, Danielle Cordier, Jim O'Grady, Dana Kinsler, Cameron Brost, and Andrea, Hana Zippel

Others Present: Christine Chale, Village Attorney

Media: PANDA

The Mayor asked all present at the meeting to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The Clerk's report included:**

- 798 Trash tags sold
- Three payrolls were processed by Village Treasurer, Bonnie Day
- Deputy Clerk Tyler continues to assist in the Clerk's Office, and supports the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals at their meetings
- The Village Clerk's Office will be closed on Monday, October 10, 2022 in observance of Tivoli Human Rights Day

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Majer, seconded by Trustee Mangieri, the August 17 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved, all in favor.

On a motion by Trustee Ezrati and seconded by Trustee Baldino, the Treasurer's Report for Abstract #4 totaling \$40,496.97 was approved. Trustee Mangieri moved that the bills be paid for the abstract as presented, Deputy Mayor Majer seconded the motion, all in favor.

**Zoning Report**

Trustee Ezrati read the Zoning Report provided by Gary Beck of Z3 Consultants.

Mayor Griffith welcomed Marc Hildenbrand, Chief of the Tivoli Fire Department, to speak regarding a grant. Chief Marc Hildenbrand thanked all those who have been a part of the Capital Campaign, and to those who have donated. Chief Hildenbrand provided information on the grant received from FEMA recently, and how the grant would be spent. The Chief thanked Robin Bruno, Village Clerk and a member of the Board of Directors for the fire department for her assistance with the grant process. It was 25-28 years ago that a jaws of life was purchased for

the fire department, so this grant will be used to purchase a new jaws system and new extrication equipment, along with air bags which can be used to lift vehicles up and off an individual that is pinned. The grant is just under \$60,000.00, and will be put to good use. The department is very happy to have received this grant.

Mayor Griffith invited public comment, and many spoke in regards to the Resolution Approving Police Services Agreement Between the Village of Red Hook and Village of Tivoli.

Demoy Schilling is in favor of approving this change. There were 150 kids between 3:00-4:00 AM outside of his home one weekend. They were screaming from the street, and with as many as 10-15 cars, outside his house was a complete Mess. The kids are highly disrespectful, and he found out that this particular party was a planned event by these kids in order to be loud and obnoxious to purposefully make a lot of noise and harass the community.

Janene Gentile encourages the action, this has happened a number of times, and not just one evening. She believes it was an organized situation and kids were sitting on neighbor's curbs, liquor bottles were all over, kids were urinating on neighbors lawns. They were frightened in their own home. They had tried to talk to these kids 3 times before. They've gone over to speak to them to ask to keep the noise down, however, nothing was done. She believes the landlords need to be held accountable. It has been going on for years, and has turned into a situation that is not manageable.

Cameron Brost has tried to speak to the kids, and nothing has changed.

Andrea mentioned that for 4 weekends there was much noise; she asked the kids politely to stop. Their sleep has been disrupted, and they hadn't yet called police, but when they did, the deputy sheriff did not do anything. It was 1:00 AM, and kids were in the street intoxicated.

Stacey Rein mentioned there was a "mob," not a party near her home. She thought that when a law was passed years ago that things were going to get much better. She advised the kids at a neighboring home that there was going to be a change of law enforcement potentially occurring following a Wednesday Board meeting. She said the behavior of these kids was wrong and uncivilized. She is happy to have laws enforced, and wants the village to hire an agency that will enforce the laws. There were 200 kids outside her home chanting and screaming. She was frightened, and nearly had a panic attack. She asked the village board to do what you need to do to enforce the laws.

Mayor Griffith added that during these weekends, no tickets were issued.

Stacy Reilly asked about the Renter's Handbooks and how they are distributed. Mayor Griffith added that there is good information in there. Students have to take a class when they intend to live off campus. Trustee Mangieri suggested to remind landlords that they can get a pdf of the handbook for their renters.

Trustee Baldino mentioned he has had issues with kids/students. He had attempted to talk to the students, and talk civilly, however, they were not receptive and "flipped him off."

Danielle Cordier brought up the problem of speeding. She said it is terrible, and the loop bus makes a lot of noise, and her home shakes when the bus goes over bumps. She believes the Red Hook Police Department response time can be better. There was a discussion that the Dutchess County Sheriff had designated patrols, and there have been fewer police than in recent years. The deputies were contracted with the village, but often when calls were made, a deputy did not show and were not patrolling. Some were seen sitting in the firehouse parking lot. Now that Red Hook is being considered, there is the hope for better service.

Stacey Rein spoke again and suggested that when students are in violation of local laws they should be evicted. The question of whether that would be legal came up.

Jim O'Grady said it pains him to see what his neighbors are going through. They should not have to go through that he said. He also on several occasions has seen individuals parading down the street, wasted, and they were bellowing, and he lost count of the number of obscenities that were used. He spoke of culture of order; the behavior is unacceptable, intolerable, and has to be stopped.

Dana Kinsler talked of the Nuisance Gathering law. She said it was scary for her kids years ago with the loud students. She spoke of the exchanged phone numbers with students, but also stated that when it has been encouraged for someone to talk with drunk people, she does not think it is a good idea. She went on to say the BLM movement was a time where she thinks the police response started dissolving. She feels the judge does not enforce tickets, and for a woman, it is not safe to go to a house with drunk people.

Mayor Griffith added that no one should have to go to a house with drunk people that are partying. They should not have to go to that gathering. He did express concern over the rudeness and trespassing, and also that the fire department would not have emergency access when kids/students are filling the streets.

He went on to talk of the number of Bard students who used to live here, and went on to say they can have parties without infringing on their neighbor's lives. Things were quieter through the pandemic, and additionally he believes the deputies lost track of the project of enforcing laws.

Trustee Mangieri has lived here since 1987, she has many friends here, and she apologizes to those who do not have peace and quiet in their own house. She has seen that the police have not done anything. Giant parties through the year, cops would be out, but for the last month, they didn't do anything. She feels it is disrespectful, and the village has been disrespected. She said to fire the present and hire the new agency. She wonders now what will happen at 11:00 PM? She wants to replace the agency, and also investigate the tenant/landlord relationship. She is sorry to everyone for what they have gone through.

Ellie Kiefer said Tivoli is a mix of people, and a beautiful place to live. She feels everyone has a responsibility to another to respect each other. She is in an area that is predominantly student rentals, and there have been parties until 4:00 AM. She went to the students, however, they didn't follow up. Since they won't take responsibility, there is no other recourse, and she

approves this measure. If everyone can come together, maybe it would be possible for the village to spend some of these funds on other things.

Marc Hildenbrand spoke of the idea that it is not just students and kids that are speeding. He has witnessed many, many people speeding past the firehouse, some with speeds of up to 50-60 miles per hour. This is way too fast for someone to be traveling on Broadway. If a child were to run out in front of a speeding car, it will most certainly end very poorly.

Marc added that by changing to Red Hook Police from Dutchess County Sheriff's, the response time will more than likely be faster. There needs to be police presence. Marc has seen students urinating on village hall and the firehouse. There was an instance where 50-60 kids were walking through the village, and they were urinating on the generators by the firehouse and on the firehouse. He went on to mention the lack of respect, and blatant disrespect from these students. With police present, it should slow cars down, and also hopefully form a different level of respect.

Mayor Griffith entered into the conversation about there being speeding day and night throughout the village, and he has seen it on Montgomery Street. This, and the late night "stuff" has to stop.

Jillian Reed acknowledged the suffering of the residents, and talked about different options. She provided that this new student body had different high school experiences.

Deputy Mayor Majer brought up about students interfacing with the community, and spoke of embracing the students, and interacting with each other.

Mayor Griffith added that sometimes reaching out to the students works, however, presently, it is not.

Trustee Ezrati encouraged those with ideas of what could help to let the board know.

Hayden Sartoris thought that in the future, could there be a number to call, before there was going to be a ticket issued.

Janene Gentile asked what is Bard's responsibility? Could there be a Liaison?

Deputy Mayor Majer mentioned there was a Dean of Off-Campus Students, and the Chief of Security.

Hayden believes it is a shared responsibility with the village and with Bard.

Deputy Mayor Majer added that students make for 10% of the population; this is not a campus.

Hana Zippel, the Dean of Students for Bard College thanked everyone for reaching out. They would like to build the community with neighbors, and they are not sure who the student residents were that were creating the late-night issues. She agreed that things may have "Got a

little out of hand.” It was evident that there was an impact that they were having on the community they live in. She wanted to be sure that residents feel comfortable reaching out to Bard. She offered that there may be a Halloween event where the community would be invited to the Bard campus.

Stacey Rein asked if Hana knew of all of the students living in Tivoli.

Prior to the resolution being voted upon, Mayor Griffith made a speech; it is attached to these minutes.

### **Regular Business:**

ACCEPT 2021 – 2022 Court Audit; on a motion made by Trustee Baldino, seconded by Trustee Ezrati; all in favor.

RESOLUTION Approving Police Services Agreement Between the Village of Red Hook and the Village of Tivoli; motion made by Deputy Mayor Majer, seconded by Trustee Mangieri; all in favor.

### **Trustee Reports:**

#### **Trustee Ezrati**

Trustee Ezrati provided a report on the LOSAP program. This is a Length of Service Program with RBC Wealth Management, and there has been a 21% adjustment.

The Solid Waste Committee will be resuming soon to determine the future of trash pick up being done by the Village.

#### **Trustee Baldino**

Court Report: Trustee Baldino read the contents of the report which was provided by Court Clerk McGarry; \$928.00 was remitted to the Office of the State Comptroller.

#### **Trustee Mangieri**

Trustee Mangieri mentioned she is looking forward to Street Painting Day.

#### **Deputy Mayor Majer**

Deputy Mayor Majer provided information on Street Painting Day which is coming up; they will begin painting squares at 8:00 AM Saturday; the event will run from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, with live music, and it should be an awesome day.

Deputy Mayor Majer suggests checking out the Tivoli Free Library; there are always a number

of wonderful activities.

Historic Red Hook's Cemetery Crawl has begun.

In Tivoli Bays, there are ticks and poison ivy, do be careful! Pheasant hunting is beginning, be safe and wear orange. Marc Hildenbrand added to the Deputy Mayor's comments furthering the information provided about youth hunting starting even earlier.

### **Mayor Griffith**

This year's Clean Up Day went very well; there were many guesses about how many tons of trash were picked up; it was 9.71 tons.

October 1 will be Shred Day, also there is an event being hosted by Kaatsbaan that same day, and 50 tickets are being offered to residents; this event will include the showing of West Side Story, an extra dance performance by some of the dancers in the movie, and refreshments being offered.

November 15 begins the time period where on-street parking is not allowed; you can obtain a parking permit for municipal lots.

There will be a group getting together to investigate and then provide information on the results of the stormwater survey.

Mayor Griffith mentioned he is proud to be making some changes. Discussion began about the noise ordinance, clean up day, and that Bard students have been putting their trash in other people's receptacles.

### **Public Comment**

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Majer and seconded by Trustee Baldino, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM, all in favor.

Submitted by,

Robin L. Bruno  
Village Clerk

The Village Tivoli is a wonderful place. It is also a very small place. In the Village of Tivoli houses are side by side and every part of our Village is residential in zoning law and in fact. Some of these residences, these houses are owner occupied, some of them are rentals, but all of them are home to those who live there.

In these homes are just over 1000 residents. They are mothers and fathers, single parents, children, grandparents, students, seniors, and little infant babies. There are people who enjoy this Village for two or three years, before their lives take them onward and elsewhere, and there are people who walk the same streets, and enjoy the same Village they loved, 40, 50, 60 and more years ago.

1,000 diverse people living in a little residential Village side by side. All of these people, like people everywhere deserve civility and respect. Each of them deserves a desirable quality of life. And there is little more fundamental to one's quality of life than peace, tranquility, and security in one's own home. Everyone in this Village is entitled, by common sense, common decency, and the laws of Tivoli, to the conditions for a quiet night's sleep in their own home.

Peace and repose in one's own home, whether you own or rent-is a right. Incontrovertible, sacrosanct, and it is protected by law. The Code of the Village of Tivoli says this peace and quiet starts at 10pm and lasts until 7am. Seven nights a week, 365 days a year.

Tivoli has in the last three weeks, relived a nightmare that this Village has unfortunately known before. Weekend after weekend, Scores and scores of roaming young partiers screaming and hollering in our streets, or worse yet in our yards, blocking our streets with their thoughtless parking such that a firetruck or ambulance could not pass, walking in the middle of the road drunk, endangering themselves and others, bellowing profanity and waking up residents and their children. Blasting music from house parties at midnight, 1am, and later. Three weekends in a row now.

All of this late night bullshit stops now. The perpetrators of this incivility can conform to Tivoli's civic standards and the laws which enshrine them, or they can take their bacchanal somewhere else. Outside of our Village. It is a wide world, there are actually suitable places for such behavior, but the streets and residential neighborhoods of the Village of Tivoli are not and never will be among them.

There have been and there may be tonight those who counter what I'm saying and try to justify this late-night crap. I've been dealing with this late-night crap off and on for the last ten years of my life. I have heard and countered every objection and argument to my assessment of this periodic late-night partying. Some say Griffith-kids will be kids- yup, I agree, and they might need an appropriate place to be kids, because it's not this Village.

Some say Griffith-don't bring in the police to ticket, let's have neighbors talk to neighbors- well asking a single senior to go out in her nightgown at 1am and "talk" to 50 drunk 20 year olds is ridiculous. And even just this month, disturbed neighbors who have tried that tack have been met with taunts, jeers and no compliance with their reasonable request.

Some have said well this is part and parcel of living next to a large economic engine full of young people from which your community benefits. Ya gotta take the bad with the good. No. No thank you. Listen to that claim. If you pay the way to can break laws and do what you want over our objections? Financial might makes right? That a disgusting argument. There are others and I can dismantle them all. The bottom line is this- the late night noise and partying in Tivoli is not justifiable, it's wrong.

Those who do not get what I'm saying, and do not change or relocate their behavior should count on being ticketed, sent to court, and fined. The violations I am referring to include open container, noise, nuisance gatherings, the NYS social host law, trespassing, speeding, public urination and illegal parking among others.

The last three weeks have been unacceptable. Residents in this Village have had more than enough. Anyone who wants to help us with whatever means they have to get this late-night BS to stop-we welcome you help. But our Village has the laws and the tools to address this. And we are taking action.