

## Donna Conkling

---

**From:** Mayor  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2020 7:08 PM  
**To:** Alex Wolf, Esq. (212)717-2510  
**Cc:** Donna Conkling  
**Subject:** Re: Scarsdale Budget

I hope you and your family are and remain well.

Thank you for your email.

The Village Board is very cognizant of not only the current state of our economy but also the very serious impact that COVID-19 may have on Scarsdale residents.

Our first step was to ensure that we had funds in place to cover our emergency response and expected changes to revenue and expense items in the short to medium term. The Village Manager immediately shifted Village operations into austerity mode. Specifically, non-essential expenses were restricted and \$1.78 million was re-allocated from: (i) the current year's operating budget, and (ii) the coming year's budgeted capital plan into a newly formed COVID-19 contingency account. The Village has identified an additional \$1.7 million of available funding sources that are available, if needed, as we continue to get more clarity about the fiscal impacts of this pandemic.

Of course, these are only initial steps. We agree that additional changes to the 20-21 budget may be necessary and intend to conduct several public budget work sessions as we get more specific information. Our intent, as always, is to seek to garner as much public input as possible to help determine the appropriate fiscal priorities and responses. For now, we will continue working under the principle that discretionary spending is suspended.

Our focus has been and will continue to be on our COVID-19 response and the health and safety of the community. But, please know that our austerity mindset will not be lifted until we have more clarity on the immediate and intermediate COVID-related impacts on our community and the Village 20-21 fiscal budget.

Please join us at our budget public hearing on [Tuesday, April 14th at 7pm](#) on Zoom or at any of the additional budget meetings we will hold in the coming weeks and months. As always, our meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input.

Be well.

Thank you,

Marc

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 2, 2020, at 4:32 PM, Alex Wolf, Esq. (212)717-2510 <awolf@wolflawyer.com> wrote:

Dear Trustees and Mayor Samwick,

I reside at 56 Harvest Drive. I strongly urge you to cut the budget. My business relies on the sale of residential real estate. Presently there is a virtual standstill as properties cannot be shown by brokers due to work cessation resulting from Covid-19. This means a dramatic reduction in my income even as my expenses remain the same and I do not qualify for unemployment insurance. Surely the town can budget for essential services and negotiate with non-essential workers for reduced wages during this time of crisis. I urge you to negotiate with non-essential village employees so that taxpayers have some immediate tax relief. While millions are losing their jobs, this is a time for village employees to temporarily accept a reduction in wages and suspension of salary increases. Presently, your pre-crisis assumptions regarding revenues are unrealistic and will leave us with a budget deficit. Your first responsibility is to Scarsdale residents who call on you to implement fiscally prudent measures to blunt the immediate financial hardship to residents.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Alexander Wolf