

Christopher O'Brien

From: Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 12:49 PM
To: Christopher O'Brien
Cc: Donna Conkling; Steve Pappalardo; Robert Cole; David Lee (dlee.trustee@gmail.com); Bill Stern; dpekarek@verizon.net; Marc Samwick (marc.samwick@verizon.net); Carl Finger; Matt Callaghan
Subject: Fw: Village issues

FYI. JM

From: Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 12:48 PM
To: Lika L. Levi
Subject: Re: Village issues

Dear Ms. Levi -- Thank you for your further email. As far as what the Village spends on the Library each year, that information can be found in the Village budgets posted on the Village web site under the Treasurer sub-page. See link below:

<http://www.scarsdale.com/Home/Departments/VillageTreasurer.aspx>

Adopted budgets going back to fiscal 2007-2008 are posted there. See for example page 119 and following (pdf page 142) of the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget fro this fiscal year's Library budget.

As for funding sources for the Library proposal, at the public meeting last night which you attended (and which was video taped for posting on Scarsdale Public TV), representatives of the Library Board indicated that they were looking into possible State funding although based on my research to date, state grants for other libraries have not been of the magnitude being requested for the present Library Board proposal.

The Library Board as been engaged in the process of formulating its proposal for five years or so. The Library has posted some information about its proposal on its web site, link below:

<http://scarsdalelibrary.org/>

Your other questions and concerns are points that have been raised in the past and remain issues for some today. They do not lend themselves to a succinct response in this email. Perhaps we can focus on them in the coming year.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

From: Lika L. Levi <likallevi@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Village issues

Mayor Mark and the Village Board,

Thank you for acknowledging my email which prompted me to go on the Village website in search of answers (may be ?...) to some of my questions.

I was happy to see there are now tabs for Mayor's comments as well as Manager's comments easily accessible. I read about the Homestead tax and the issues thereof.

Similarly, the issues currently being discussed could be accessible on line as well. We cannot rely on Scarsdale 10583's coverage or the Inquirer's coverage when we can have direct access to the issues without editorial bias. The internet makes this possible and now it really is essential.

These issues, to my knowledge, as I have indicated below are:

1. Library proposal: Documents from the library board, the Village Board, the scope , the tax burden...the initial proposal. I know this has been going on for a while, but for how long ? How much is the Village spending each year on the library ? What about state or federal resources ?

2. The issue of too big homes being built on small lots...Our current building codes and where this is leading if all lots were to be built to existing code for example...The gravel proposal and how that went nowhere, as far as I know.

3. The issue of neighborhood character, old homes being renovated to the enjoyment of all, homes being left with big yards again to the benefit of all. Are these homes worthy of tax credits ? Are we all enjoying the benefit of such disciplined behavior ? Is there benefit to reward such discipline ? The victorian home currently on the market (1084 Post Road) ? Do we all benefit having that there ? Or do we want to see the BAR vote it to be demolished ? Gone forever ? What are we going to preserve and why ?

4. Open space fund: What are we doing to create such a fund ? How can we increase the current inventory ? What about the board of appeals ? Can we continue on approving all applications ? I was disappointed to hear our Planner say the library could build on wetlands... The environmental reviews are red-tape jokes all favoring more building. Is this a responsible way to continue ?

I would be in favor of more taxes to create such a fund and to acquire more property for green space. To my knowledge, we have no such fund and we are abusing our environment to an unprecedented extent. But there is a library, there has been a library for decades. With minimal funds it can be renovated. In fact it was renovated not too long ago. In view of all else, that is needed in the Village, the expense for the library seems frivolous and capricious.

These are the issues that come to my mind now. There could be more or less, depending on what has been discussed and settled. In view of a new board coming on and better transparency and ease in communication, to have these issues accessible on line would be desirable.

Thank you to all of you for working so hard and trying to come to good solutions for all.

With best wishes,

Lika L. Levi

> On Mar 7, 2016, at 10:47 PM, Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com> wrote:

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> ?Dear Ms. Levi -- Thank you for your email.

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> Very truly yours, Jon Mark

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> From: Lika L. Levi <likallevi@aol.com>

> Sent: Monday, March 7, 2016 8:01 PM

> To: Mayor

> Subject: Library proposal

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> Dear Mayor Mark and the Village Board,

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> I attended the meeting tonight hoping our Mayor would open up the meeting for comments, but that was not the case. So, I am writing.

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> I was away overseas for a while and hence could not attend past meetings or voice my opinion since other matters prevailed. Frankly, I thought I would not have to oppose the library's plans for renovation. In an ideal world, who would not want a better library ?

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> But, our roads are full of potholes, our water is not potable and elas at the meeting almost all of the chairs' upholstery was frayed and in threads...Maybe an indication of the state of our budget/our priorities... Why do we want a better library when we seem so strapped ?

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> Have we solved the problem of the McMansions being built on small lots ? Have we tackled the neighborhood character issue ? Do we have an open space fund ? Are we leaving a better Scarsdale for future generations ? Less build up or more built up ? Is more built up better ? For who ? What happened to the Village-in-a-park ? Soon, we will say, where is the park ?...

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> How much debt do we have ? Why not this year instead of increasing taxes, decrease taxes ? Give something to the community, instead of burdening the community, continually taxing us in more ways than one...

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> I have been away for a while and not up to the latest on the news, maybe all these things are in place.

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> Then, it makes sense to have a better library, but even then only with zero burden to the tax payer. The library board should solicit private donors...

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> With best wishes,

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> Lika

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> Lika L. Levi

> 21 Lockwood Road

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> Home: (914) 725-9119

> Cell: (914) 589-1794

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