

From: mbemore@aol.com <mbemore@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:59 AM

To: Mayor

Subject: Reval process and moving forward

Dear Mayor and Trustees:

We now understand that the Mayor has indicated to some residents that the Assessor's employment with the Village may be terminated and that the Village is considering a lawsuit against J.F. Ryan Associates. However, there has been remarkably little disclosure about what was known throughout this troubled tax revaluation process by those legally charged with directly overseeing the Village Assessor's office.

We hope our Village leadership is committed to full transparency not only for the sake of accountability but also for the sake of progress. A complete accounting of the governing process that led to the Ryan revaluation results is required in order for the Village to identify what went wrong and then to develop a more effective process with appropriate safeguards to prevent reoccurrence. Such transparency will help to restore the community's trust and to ensure implementation of a regular schedule of valid, reliable and fair Scarsdale property assessments.

While we appreciate your willingness to convene a public meeting in August at which both Mr. Ryan and Ms. Albanese were present to address public questions about the recent revaluation, questions about the entire governing process were not answered, most notably: How did the Trustees come to decide that a second valuation was immediately necessary; what was understood to be the goal of the second revaluation; and what oversight was employed by the Village Manager and Trustees to ensure that the revaluation was properly conducted?

In addition to full transparency about the process that led to the Ryan result and the development of a clear process to move the community forward, we hope that you will also make it a priority to establish clear protocols for ensuring a climate of civility at Village Hall. We were very disturbed at how the August meeting turned into a sort of "show trial" and found it incomprehensible that residents at the microphone were allowed to level repeated personal attacks on Mr. Ryan and particularly Ms. Albanese, a long-standing Village employee, with such little protest and infrequent interruption. While we maintain serious reservations about the quality of work performed by both Mr. Ryan and Ms. Albanese, and further recognize the Board's sincere and well intentioned desire to let residents have their say, particularly on matters of such controversy, clear rules for civic engagement and their consistent enforcement by Village leaders are in no way at odds with free speech. Moreover, no matter what might have been their particular role in the failures of the revaluation, each of these individuals certainly deserves no less than due process.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Evans
Dan Moretti
16 Edgewood Road