

From: rocco170@verizon.net <rocco170@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 10:05 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: Second Property Revaluation, J.F. Ryan Associates

Dear Mayor Mark and the Board of Trustees,

I attended the August 9th Board of Trustees meeting in Rutherford Hall last week and I was interested to hear at that meeting that the Board as a whole recognized the 2016 reassessment project was not without its mistakes. I also agree, as one Board member stated on August 9th, that there is no "hidden agenda" at play in the second reval.

However, while it was encouraging to hear that the Board intends to "learn from its mistakes", I hope that going forward the Board (and the Village Manager's office) will very carefully monitor all actions and decisions taken by the Assessor's office that have a direct impact on residents. I had assumed that this was always the case in Village government affairs but after listening to the findings from the FOIL request read aloud by Ms. Kirkendall-Rodriguez - apparently the public was misinformed on this issue.

I was also interested to learn a few days after the meeting that Village residents will be permitted to ask Mr. Ryan and Village Assessor Albanese questions concerning the 2016 revaluation. I applaud this decision as the citizenry of Scarsdale should have the right to ask Mr. Ryan questions without any unreasonable restrictions such as writing questions in advance on note cards.

The Village government and the full-time salaried Village staff members at the Village Hall will likely survive this episode in the Village. But at what cost? Will the Board of Trustees take action to prevent this controversy from ever happening again? Or will the Village government take the path of least resistance? Hopefully, the legacy of this Board will be as community leaders and not mere bystanders.

Sincerely,

Rocco Alfano