

**Property Owners' Association of Garden City Estates  
Meeting – March 10, 2010  
Minutes**

The meeting of the Property Owners' Association of Garden City Estates was held on March 10, 2010. The meeting was opened at 8:10 p.m. by President Brian Daughney who led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**New Business**

**Citizens Budget Review Committee**

Courtney Rosenblatt and Kristina Russo, our two representatives on the Citizens Budget Review Committee, discussed their work with the Trustees and Town Departments in preparing the 2010-2011 budget. Both Ms. Rosenblatt and Ms. Russo have extensive financial experience; one was the Director of Finance for Time Warner and the other was with a big six accounting firm for many years. They looked at the budget in excruciating detail and received full cooperation and disclosure from the Village personnel. They also met with the Town Auditor, Jim Olivo and well as Bob Schoelle, the Village Administrator. The issues reviewed on the budget were staffing, salary and contracts. Virtually 70% of the Town's expenses are for labor and are the result of labor contracts negotiated between unions for employees and the Village. Ms. Russo and Ms. Rosenblatt also looked at the budgetary process. The current budget for the year 2009-2010 is running at a surplus and the 2010-2011 budget is still a work in progress. There was an issue raised as to whether the Village should consider a bond issue to catch up with many of the delayed projects such as road repair and sidewalks which have been deferred for some years. Some authorities have considered that the Village should have a bond issued now because of historically low interest rates. The total debt level for the Village is approximately 2% and our auditors have said that this is very low. The Village has the capacity to borrow up to approximately 7%. Most of the "low hanging fruit" for budgetary expenses have already been taken and the Trustees will now have to deal with the hard issues of whether to reduce staffing and amenities for the Village residents, such as curbside pick up of garbage. Also discussed was the possibility of charging residents for the use of Village recreational facilities. Ms. Rosenblatt and Ms. Russo pointed out that a large part of the problem was the decline in revenue from sales tax and mortgage tax revenue due to the real estate slowdown. There are also a number of certiorari applications which have been granted which result in homeowners getting their taxes reduced, resulting in less revenue for the Village.

## Other Business

The Pineapple Ball will be held by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce on April 23, 2010. Two of our Estates residents, Joanne Adams and Alan Mathers, will be honored.

John DeMaro talked about the School Bond Project which is now going forward. Bill Slattery discussed the Long Island Railroad Third Rail Project which is apparently a no-go item for at least the next five years. Cathy Wood discussed the Next G Program and their plans to install fifteen poles. The poles will apparently be put in people's backyards pursuant to easements for utilities and will not be placed on street corners or in front of people's houses. Trustee Mauk explained that under the Federal Communications Law, Next G has the right to put these poles around the Village.

There was also a discussion with the Village residents about overstaffing at Village facilities and the possibility of outsourcing such services such as trash collection. Trustee Mauk pointed out that this topic has been discussed in the past and the decision was taken by the Trustees that it was not economically feasible to outsource trash collection at the present time.

The meeting was concluded at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Property Owners will be held in April 14, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Holland  
Secretary