



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 8, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Virtual Webex Meeting

To access information on how to use WebEx to join the meeting, please click on the following link: <https://www.southorange.org/800/WebEx-FAQs>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call Meeting to Order

Acting President Jones opened the meeting at approximately 6:15pm:

2. Roll Call

Village President Collum
Trustee Brown
Trustee Greenberg
Trustee Haskins - Absent
Trustee Hartshorn Hilton
Trustee Jones
Trustee Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator – Absent
Mr. Travers, Village Deputy Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

3. Meeting Notice Statement

Clerk Davis read the following statement:

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the official newspapers of the Village, posted on the Village's website and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk indicating that this meeting is being held virtually via Cisco WebEx video conferencing. During a remote meeting, participants, including members of the public may be muted by the host. However, there will be an opportunity for them to participate and speak during the public portion of the meeting where participants will be unmuted at their request. Official action may be taken.

4. Resolution to go into Executive Session

2024-104 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the April 8, 2024,



Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception) Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Contract Negotiation (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Trustee Greenberg moved to approve Resolution 2024-104, seconded by Trustee Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. Reconvene into Open Session

President Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7pm:

ROLL CALL

Village President Collum
Trustee Brown
Trustee Greenberg
Trustee Haskins - Absent
Trustee Hartshorn Hilton
Trustee Jones
Trustee Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator – Absent
Mr. Travers, Village Deputy Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel - Absent
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

6. Announcements

President Collum read the following announcements:

A. **Water Department - Low Income Home Water Assistance Program**

The Department of Community Affairs has a Low Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This is a federally funded program designed to help low-income households reduce the balances they have on their residential water and wastewater bills. Eligibility and application details can be found on the news feed of our website, southorange.org, or by calling 1 800- 510-3102, Mon.- Sat. 8:00 am – 8:00 pm for further information.

B. **Tax Assistance for South Orange Residents**

AARP is back for another year to help South Orange residents with



their taxes. They will be located at the Skate House at the Duck Pond on Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 11th. Appointments are required by calling 973-762-0230.

C. **HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

If you live in South Orange Village, own your home, and your total gross annual household income falls below a specified income limit for your household size, you may qualify to participate in a program which covers up to \$10,000 in home repairs. This program is funded through fees collected on development in South Orange. Visit the news flash section of southorange.org to learn more.

D. **South Orange Rescue Squad**

The South Orange Rescue Squad's "Sound The Siren" 5K event on May 19th will feature a 5K Run (with optional 1.3 mile walking route), a free Kids "Fun Run", & a free EMS Community Open House where kids and adults alike can tour the ambulances, equipment and headquarters of the Rescue Squad and learn about EMS in South Orange and Maplewood. Free food trucks and beverages will be provided, as well as activities and games for kids. Register now for discounted pricing: tinyurl.com/SORS5K

E. **South Orange Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs**

Reading and Book Signing Event with Autistic Author & Advocate
Tiffany Hammond
Monday, April 15th, 7pm

Tiffany is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling picture book and Dolly Gray Award winner, "A Day With No Words." "A Day With No Words" invites readers into the life of an Autism Family who communicates just as the child does, without spoken language.

Pierro Gallery Grand Opening

Wednesday, April 17th, 6:30-8:30pm

Celebrating 30 years of artistic excellence at the Pierro Gallery. With immense pride and appreciation, we mark 30 years of creativity, inspiration and community at the Pierro Gallery. The inaugural exhibition proudly showcases the talents of the South Orange artist community.

Baseball/Softball Parade & Baird Community Center Grand Opening

Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-1:00pm

Join us for the Baseball/Softball Parade from 9-10am, followed by a ribbon cutting and Grand Opening of the Baird Recreation Center



from 10am-1pm. Explore the building and sign up for classes & activities! There will be music, food & inflatables too!

F. **Town Hall: Library's Building Connections Project**

Thursday, April 18 @ 7pm - 65 Scotland Rd, South Orange, NJ 07079 (the previous library). The library and SOV will unveil the new design plans. Andrew Berman Architect will present to the community with a variety of visuals, there will be a Q&A. All SOV committees, commissions, businesses, and residents are encouraged to attend.

7. **Proclamations**

- A. Proclamation Celebrating Arbor Day 2024:
President Collum read the Proclamation that proclaims Friday, April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day in the Village of South Orange, and urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and support the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands. Also, the proclamation urges all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Walk-on Proclamation honoring Martin Greenberg:
President Collum read the Proclamation that celebrates the life and mourn the passing of Martin L. Greenberg and offers heartfelt condolences to his daughter Trustee Jen Greenberg, and the entire Greenberg family.

8. **Public Comment**

Village President opened the meeting for public comment:
There were no questions or comments from the public.

9. **Approval of Minutes**

- A. The Village Clerk is requesting the Board's approval of the minutes for the following meeting:

- Regular meeting held on March 25, 2024 (Trustee Greenberg is ineligible to vote)

Trustee Hilton moved to adopt the minutes of March 25th, seconded by Trustee Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Abstain



Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

10. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2024-10 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING SALARY RANGES FOR CERTAIN NON-UNION AND SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Trustee Brown moved adopt Ordinance #2024-10 for first reading/Introduction, seconded by Trustee Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

Trustee Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2024-10, shall be at the Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM. On that date, the Board may take further action. The Village Clerk is directed to see that this Ordinance is published in the Official Newspaper and posted in an open place in the Municipal Offices. The motion was seconded by Trustee Greenberg. All members were in favor and none opposed.

11. Ordinance for Second Reading

- A. 2024-06 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE VILLAGE CODE, CHAPTER 143, "FEES," BY AMENDING SERVICE CHARGE ADDED FOR RETURNED CHECKS

PUBLIC HEARING: There were no questions or comments from the public.



Trustee Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-06 for second reading and final adoption, seconded by Trustee Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

- B. 2024-07 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

PUBLIC HEARING: There were no questions or comments from the public.

Trustee Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-07 for second reading and final adoption, seconded by Trustee Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

- C. 2024-08 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$8,132,327 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,770,250 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE VILLAGE TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

PUBLIC HEARING: There were no questions or comments from the public.

Trustee Greenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-08 for second



reading and final adoption, seconded by Trustee Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes
Motion carried.	

12. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2024-105 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY GRANT AWARD THROUGH THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS (NJACCHO)
- B. 2024-106 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- C. 2024-107 RESOLUTION STATING THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL BUDGET LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1, ET SEQ.) HAVE BEEN SATISFIED AND AUTHORIZING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY
- D. 2024-108 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL OF AND AWARDED CONTRACT TO OMEGA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC. FOR PREPARATION OF ASBESTOS/LEAD ABATEMENT SPECIFICATIONS FOR LIBRARY BUILDING LOCATED AT 65 SCOTLAND ROAD
- E. 2024-109 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SETON VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
- F. 2024-110 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING THE HIRING OF A PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR (DISPATCHER) TRAINEE, FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Greenberg moved to adopt Resolutions #2024-105 through 2024-110, seconded by Trustee Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes



Trustee Lewis-Chang Yes
Motion carried.

13. Resolution for Separate Action

- A. 2024-111 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

President Collum mentioned the 2024 Municipal Budget and financial documents can be found on the following page of the Village website: <https://southorange.org/156/Budget-Financial-Documents>

Chris Battaglia Village Chief Financial Officer, briefly discussed tax rate reduction and gave an overview of the State review process.

PUBLIC HEARING: There were no questions or comments from the public.

Trustee Hilton moved to adopt 2024 Municipal Budget Resolution #2024-111, seconded by Trustee Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

14. Approval of Bills

- A. Trustee Hartshorn Hilton, Chair of the Finance and Capital Projects Committee presents the Bills List audited by the Village Treasurer dated April 8, 2024. The Board of Trustees has been provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2024-112 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH APRIL 8, 2024, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$14,937,022.04

Trustee Hilton moved to adopt the Bills List Resolution #2024-112,



seconded by Trustee Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Brown	Yes
Trustee Greenberg	Yes
Trustee Haskins	Absent
Trustee Hilton	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

15. Village President Report

President Collum discussed the proposed mixed use development for the All Star Motor site. The developer has been through several reviews and the next step is for them to meet with some of the Village committees. There are continued discussions with NJ Transit and the developer which would include negotiation for Municipal office space, affordable housing obligation and replacement parking for the commuters. President Collum discussed a meeting with Ms. Engel Maplewood Councilwoman, regarding the River Greenway Project with the school district and hoping to add a bike path. She will be meeting with the County on April 9th to discussed some of the raised issues and open space.

16. Village Administrator Report

Mr. Travers, Deputy Village Administrator discussed Irvington Avenue paving project by the County at the end of April and PSEG will complete the paving on South Orange Avenue from Valley Street up to Seton Hall after the students are out of class. Updates for both projects will be posted on the Village website.

17. Village Counsel Report

Mr. Otis mention the RFP for the Water Utility Bid will be available on April 15th, a pre-bid meeting is scheduled for June 4th and Bids are due June 25th. All information pertaining to this can be found on the Village website.

18. Trustee Reports

- A. Trustee Brown – There was no report.
- B. Trustee Greenberg – There was no report.
- C. Trustee Haskins – There was no report.
- D. Trustee Hartshorn Hilton – There was no report.



- E. **Trustee Jones discussed the following:**
- Walk Bike Ride Committee Update – 2024 Priorities that included contribute to South Orange SS4A Grant funded safety action plan, update bike network plan, create traffic calming policy, community engagement through events and communication, encouraging walk & bike safety assemblies, safe routes to school initiatives and collaborate with Maplewood. Sunday, May 19th at 3pm will be the South Orange Greenway Bike Walk Parade in Meadowland Park to raise awareness of Greenway.
 - SOPAC Committee Update – They are in the final process of interviewing for the Executive Director position and are looking for new board members. To receive the SOPAC Newsletter, please sign up at sopac.org.
 - Trustee Jones gave a shout to South Orange Downtown for the new 55 inch digital Kiosk that will soon be installed in the downtown area.
- F. Trustee Lewis-Chang thanked Mr. Travers and the Staff at the Recreation Department for their help in getting the South Orange Community Garden started.

19. Public Comment

Village President opened the meeting for public comment: There were a couple of members of the public that expressed their concerns for Palestine and request that this board pass the resolution previously requested. President Collum thanked the members of the public for their comments and stated her comments still stand from the last meeting.

20. New Business

There was no new business but President Collum mention the following upcoming events and encouraged the public to attend: Library Town Hall on April 18th, Baird Grand Opening on April 20th, Walk Bike Ride Parade on May 19th and the Jewish Holocaust event scheduled for the coming Sunday.

21. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, President Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 pm.

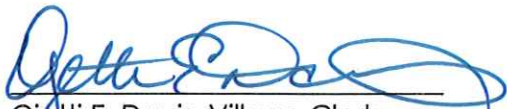
***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**

<https://southorangenj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2544/media>



ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village President