

Minutes of the **VILLAGE BOARD REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Trustees of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco held on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Frank J. DiMicco Board Room, Village Hall, 104 Main Street, Mount Kisco, New York and via video conference.

Present: Mayor J. Michael Cindrich
Deputy Mayor Karen B. Schleimer
Trustee Tammy L. Brown
Trustee Heather Bryant
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio

Also Present: Edward Brancati, Village Manager
Kenneth Famulare, Assistant Village Manager
Jonathan B. Nelson, Village Attorney

Absent:

6:40 p.m. Interview – Planning – Alonge
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Call in#646-558-8656 or 888-788-0099
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87043761605>
Zoom ID: 870 4376 1605

FiOS Channel 40/ Altice Channel 20

Para ver esta reunión en español:
<https://www.youtube.com/@mountkiscoenespanol/streams>

You can watch this meeting in its entirety here:
<https://vimeo.com/1174836487?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Mayor Cindrich opened the meeting and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked that everyone remain standing so that we may reflect on why we are here and ask for guidance so that the decisions that we make here this evening benefit all the people of Mount Kisco.

PUBLIC HEARING – Tentative Budget FY 2026-2027- Continued

Mayor Cindrich opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. He stated that the hearing was properly noticed and that this was a continuation from the April 6, 2026 meeting.

Theresa Flora of Spring Street, at the last board meeting, I asked the question why the water rate was going up dramatically. I didn't get an answer that night because we're not allowed to ask questions anymore. I was told, by the Mayor, I will ask Mr. Brancati to speak to you directly on the water rate increase. To date, I have not gotten any communication from Mr. Brancati, so can we get an answer as to why the water rate is going up so high, or do we just shut up and pay the bills?

Mayor Cindrich stated, we have a work session later on this week. I'm not sure the board is going to approve an increase in the water rates, so I'd rather wait until after the meeting later on next week to comment on that. What I said at the last meeting is that, and it's just my personal experience. Early on when we found out that we were going to build a filtration plant required by the federal government with another unfunded mandate, and at that time, in the 90s, the water filtration plant was estimated to cost \$20 million. It was the first time we raised the water rates in years. Now we're under the guise of having to do something with another unfunded mandate that may come into effect in 2029. So, in my opinion, maybe not as draconian as the rates being proposed by the Village Manager, but it may be appropriate at this point in time to look at our capital plan and the reserves in place if we are required to build a filtration plant for ground water and the ground water would entail the Leonard Park Wells. What I've been working on, and I started this many, many years ago is building, first exploring and then possibly building wells on the line side of the existing filtration plant on property that is part of the property we own in and around Byram Lake and in and around the filtration plant, because this is something I advocated years ago. It makes some sense to me. And, we've had as you know, we've had complaints about the quality of the water coming from the Leonard Park wells. If they have to be filtered as a result of an unfunded mandate, it's going to be expensive. So expensive, we may have to just consider abandoning the wells for potable water. That's the best answer I can give you.

Ms. Flora, okay, I think those wells are at the end of their useful life at this point. That's the information that I was given. So, as a taxpayer, I prefer a more infinite water source then drilling additional wells. Also, the quality of the water, you know, it gets tested, and I'm assuming that, you know, it all comes back within the normal limits, but the water is over chlorinated, doesn't smell good, doesn't taste good. This is kind of a new phenomenon because, you know, I'm pre-filtration plant, and post-filtration plant. There was a big difference, but now that we're using the wells, I'm sorry, am I over my time? The Mayor spoke so, you know, now that we're using the wells. Okay, I think you all got the point. If we're going to have to suffer almost...

Mayor Cindrich stated there is no time limit on public hearings right now. The time limits that I read, the rules and regulations, only apply to public comment. This is an important part of the process, the budget hearings. Obviously we're all concerned about, property taxes, utility taxes, enterprise funds, whether it be water, sewer and, the other things that we've been talking about for at least a month. The fees we charge for certain services.

Ms. Flora continued, well, you kind of answered the question. I didn't get, I mean, the Village Manager proposed 13.75% increase for this year. We just got a 7%. There's also a 5% sewer increase, and that's all on one bill. So nobody really did answer the question. If I were a Trustee, I would say how come it's going up so high? This is kind of onerous for the taxpayers, especially since people are trying to pay their Con Ed bills and suffering. So it just seems like a lot of the water is mixed with unfiltered, and it just doesn't seem fair to the residents. Thank you.

Lou Terlizzi of Drake Street, Mount Kisco. Good evening, Mayor, Board of Trustees. Last meeting, I asked about the status of the filtration plant, total cost, when it will be paid off by the taxpayers. I was told that the Village Manager would let us know by this meeting, I believe. Will my question be answered now or during the manager's report? Do you know? Okay. As an aside about the filtration plant, I know way back when they were talking about tapping into the aqueduct and, my father, who was a Trustee, I remember him talking about it in the mid-70s. Is that a viable option being explored?

Mayor Cindrich stated, yes, we're still exploring it, but we're not considering tapping into the Croton. We were considering tapping into the Delaware Aqueduct, which is some of the finest water in New York State, if not the country. If it's possible, obviously the cost would be significant. If it's possible, we will entertain that, but again, it'll be subject to or could be subject to a referendum, because of the, the challenges.

Mr. Terlizzi continued, I know the Village Manager stated that we're not going to run out of water, but if we had to buy it from Bedford or New Castle, I understand it would be exorbitant. So that is an issue as well. The water fees, 21% in six months for a mix of filtered and unfiltered water. All the while, the Village allowed the Chase water tank to leak for four years and lied about it, and sold our limited water supply to Bedford. And now we can't use outside water whatsoever or face hefty fines, mismanagement. As far as the water restrictions, I think it should be on the short cut on the, village website, because you can find it, but you have to search. It's not readily available. So I told two (2) people in my neighborhood. You can't use outside water or risk getting fined. So unless they're not going to fine people, but if they are going to, they should give people a heads up. Prior to the question I do have, I don't know if it'll be answered tonight, but prior to the parking meter rate increase, which went into effect in January. How many years had the parking meter rates been \$0.25 for 30 minutes? I was trying to look back. I don't know what it was. It was a long time, decades, but if that question could be answered at some point, maybe next meeting.

Anyway, the rates are effectively being doubled since January. I know candidates during the campaign, spoke at board meetings criticizing the last village board for raising the meter rate \$0.25 per hour after decades with no increase that went into effect in January. Now we're looking at adding another \$0.25, which effectively doubles it. Why discourage shoppers even more, as if the merchants have suffered enough and continue to suffer for the mismanaged closure of the Preston Way Bridge? Just get out and look at the empty shops. It's the law of diminishing returns. If it becomes too burdensome to shop here, people will go elsewhere, like a town where there's free on street parking and little or no traffic, or they'll do more shopping from home, again, mismanagement. So I'm hoping you'll reconsider. Thank you

Hi, Angie Garcia Guerra, Spencer Street. I'm just going to read part of an email that I sent to this board in December, because, honestly, I wasn't necessarily planning to come speak today. I didn't realize today was the last meeting before I, if I'm correct, before the budget is voted upon. So this is probably the end of public comment on budget. Correct?

Mayor Cindrich stated, yes, we have to adopt the budget by the end of the month.

Ms. Garcia Guerra continued, right, so this would be the last opportunity to say something, right? Unfortunately, I didn't necessarily plan something, so I'm just going to read parts of my email that I sent to this board in December of last year. Village board, I'm reaching out to ask for a plan to address, not just this Board actually, but the Library Board as well, about my concern over books being disposed of at our library. I'm reaching out to ask for a plan to address an important issue. During my tenure as a Village Board Trustee, I learned that the library is doing a routine weeding of books in our library. The result is hundreds of books being disposed of at the library over the course of a month. I understand that certain books are being put out of circulation by the larger library system, and at times some of the books can be much older. However, I have personally seen many of the books being disposed of and they are in great condition. I can attest to that because I've gone to pick up the books myself. I'm troubled by the fact that we are disposing of

these books when the books can be utilized elsewhere. I think we have a moral obligation to find a home for these books and make better use of taxpayer money. I'm happy to offer some solutions for this issue. We could potentially build more little libraries throughout the village so that the books can be distributed, redistributed, to our community that is paying for them. We can donate them to local non-profits such as our churches, the Boys and Girls Club, the hospital, Neighbors Link, wherever the books can be utilized. I won't read the rest of the email because I want to be brief, because I know this meeting is going to be long. But there were some responses, one from the library director that basically said, yes, some of the books are donated. Trustee Bryant also responded, basically telling me the same thing, but my concern comes with the fact that our order was here and basically was saying that the library is spending too much money. So I have a concern about the way the funds are being allocated with the library. I very well wouldn't be in favor of raising the library's budget, if we are literally throwing out hundreds of books that could easily amount to thousands of dollars per month. So I just want to put that on the record. I think we need to do a better job of figuring out what we're doing with these books. I think it's great that the community gets to get some of them. I saw that now there is a shelf at the entrance to the library that says free books, that's a wonderful start, but we should do a better job of figuring out how we're allocating this budget. Maybe we're just spending too much money on newer books that we don't need, especially in this digital era where everyone's doing things digitally, streaming, audio books, and there's many other media options. So that's what I wanted to share. Thank you.

John Rhodes from Stewart Place, via zoom. I'd like to talk about the budget, specifically, since I think that's what we're here to talk about, but before I do that, I'd just like to thank everybody who participated in yesterday's celebration, despite the bad weather. We had over 100 people. We had to cram everybody into the library, but it was a lot of fun, and I specifically would like to thank that Lizette Davis and Ken Famulare, the town staff who were really a tremendous help in making everything run smoothly, as well as the library staff who were also very accommodating, even though the library was invaded by over 100 people. I'd also like to thank all the volunteers from, I think it's 10 or 11 local organizations, who helped put the event together, and the members of the Village Board and the Planning Board who attended, it was really a lot of fun. Hopefully, we'll still be around next year to do the same thing again. Specifically, I have to talk about the budget, as Chair of the CAC (Conservation Advisory Council), we had presented a specific request to the Village Board to increase our budget slightly for next year. Those increases actually were not so much increases as they were basically taking money that wasn't spent in previous years due to some interruptions of both the trail team and CAC activities, and moving them into this year's budget. Specifically for the trail team to repair some of the parts of the trails that have become less safe than we'd like them to be. The Bog Bridge and the peninsula, which everybody loves, has basically decayed over the past few years. Some other items like that, and for the main body of the CAC, we were asking for \$1,900, basically to do the next stage in what is mandated to us by the state, as a CAC. That's to prepare an open space inventory. That's an extension of our NRI, our natural resources inventory, which I think most of you have seen or read. That would help the completion of that, would help the town, would make us eligible to apply for some fairly large grants that the state has available to preserve some of the open space in our town. What we needed was basically some software, and use of a laptop to do that. During the work session, previous work sessions, the Village Manager had said that we have enough money to cover these projects with funds left in our current budget for this year. I think that's a bit of a mistake because, typically, since the CAC sponsors Earth Day and Arbor Day and a couple of other large projects during the spring, the majority of our budget is spent actually in the last quarter. So the results of what's been spent already, doesn't show all the expenses for Earth Day, all the expenses for Arbor Day, and some of the other projects that we're doing.

So really, we expect to spend, if not 100%, at least 90% of our budget this year on approved activities. These other ones, the money for the trail team, for materials to repair the trails, and also money to complete our open space inventory. You know, it would not be available from next year's budget. So I just wanted to say those two things, and again, to thank you all for the hard work you've done on the budget. I know it's taken hundreds of hours, and I think you did a really good job, but I just hope you will reconsider this based on the actual cash flow that happens with the CAC during the year and approve this small budget increase. Thank you.

At this time the Mayor asked the Board if they wanted to close the public hearing noting that there is a work session scheduled to discuss the budget further. Trustee Luzio encouraged residents to go back and watch the work sessions where the Board the budget in detail. Deputy Mayor Schleimer stated that anyone who is going back to watch the last work session and this meeting would not have enough time to make comments and allow the Board to consider them prior to the work session or the special meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Luzio and was seconded by Trustee Bryant to close the public hearing on the budget with written comments open until Wednesday the 22nd ; all in favor:

Motion Adopted

Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Mayor Karen B. Schleimer	Nay
Trustee Tammy L. Brown	Aye
Trustee Heather Bryant	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye

1) Communications:

a. Request - Chalk the Walk April 25, 2026

A motion was made by Trustee Luzio and was seconded by Trustee Brown to approve the request to hold a chalk the walk even in front of the Mount Kisco Library on April 25, 2026; all in favor:

Motion Adopted

Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Mayor Karen B. Schleimer	Aye
Trustee Tammy L. Brown	Aye
Trustee Heather Bryant	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye

2) Petitions:

3) Board Committee and Commission Reports:

4) Village Manager's Reports:

Mr. Brancati began by responding to some of the questions raised to him previously during public comments regarding the wells getting tired or filled with sediment. He noted that Mount Kisco is not running out of ground water, but we are always looking for

other alternatives to the Leonard Park Wells. There was also a question regarding the water being used out of the reservoir and some concerns brought up in 2016 from Trustee Grunthal regarding sampling of the water. Sampling is done annually and shared with the residents in the annual water quality report. In terms of the increase, costs have gone up and usage has gone down. The only way to cover those costs is to increase the rates. He went on to discuss the various improvement projects that have been completed or that are in the works to upgrade the water and sewer systems within the Village.

Mr. Brancati then announced the following change in the water restriction:

MAYOR
J. Michael Cindrich

DEPUTY MAYOR
Karen B. Schleimer

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Tammy L. Brown
Heather Bryant
Thomas G. Luzio



VILLAGE/TOWN OF MOUNT KISCO

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
104 Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0150
Tel (914) 241-0500 • Fax (914) 241-9018
www.mountkisco.ny.gov

VILLAGE MANAGER
Edward W. Brancati

ASSISTANT
VILLAGE MANAGER
Kenneth L. Famularo

Village/Town of Mount Kisco WATER EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

April 20, 2026

WHEREAS, a water emergency was declared on January 20, 2026 and continues to exist in the Village/Town of Mount Kisco;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward W. Brancati, Village Manager of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, acting pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 105-4(a) of the Code of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco do hereby promulgate the following regulations for the use of water in the Village/Town of Mount Kisco.

LEVEL III WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

- a) No person shall serve water to a customer in a restaurant except upon the specific request of such customer. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the restaurant to ensure compliance with this restriction.
- b) No person shall use water at the exterior of premises, except that:
 - (1) the lawn or garden of an odd-numbered property, or a property having no number, may be watered on odd-numbered days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; and
 - (2) the lawn or garden of an even-numbered property may be watered on even-numbered days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; and
 - (3) Cars and other vehicles may be washed using water from a bucket or other container.

The foregoing regulations will remain in effect until the water emergency is declared to be no longer in existence or until modified by me.

Pursuant to section 105-4 and section 105-5 of the Code of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco the violation of any of these regulations is punishable by a fine of not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, or fifteen (15) days imprisonment, or both, or, for corporate offenders, a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 nor more than \$2,500.00.

Edward W. Brancati
Village Manager

Dated: April 20, 2026

a. Hydrant Flushing

NOTICE

Annual Hydrant Flushing Program - 2026

The Village/Town of Mount Kisco Water Department will begin its annual hydrant flushing program on the night of Sunday, April 26th, 2026, and it will continue through Friday, May 22nd, 2026.

Flushing will be performed weekly, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

As the hydrant-flushing program nears your neighborhood, you may notice a slight discoloration of your water. This is temporary and poses no health risk. Simply run your water for a short period of time until it clears up. Do not do any laundry until you are sure your water is clear.

If the discoloration persists, contact the Mount Kisco Water Department at (914) 864-0029.

We apologize for any inconvenience this hydrant flushing program may cause. This procedure is necessary to ensure the continued cleanliness of the water system and is mandated by the New York State Department of Health.

b. Mobile Shredder – Summer 2026



VILLAGE / TOWN OF

MOUNT KISCO

The Mobile Shredder is coming to
Mount Kisco:

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Mount Kisco Senior Center
198 Carpenter Avenue
from 10am-1pm.

Residents are required to stay in their vehicles.
Staff will attend to you. This is for your safety.
No walk ups, please.

c. Preston Way Bridge update

Mr. Brancati advised that the Village continues to work with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and our engineers on design approval to get the project out to bid.

- 5) **Board Reports:** (Board reports can be heard in their entirety beginning at the 48:28 mark here: <https://vimeo.com/1185264324?fl=pl&fe=sh>)

Trustee Luzio began by speaking on the parking rates going back to 2011 compared to today's rates. He continued to inform residents that the Board has interviewed candidates for the Building Inspector position to get that filled as well as recapping the quarterly meeting with the WCPD. Trustee Luzio also spoke about the events the Rotary had in town with Little League and a clean up as well as Arbor Day, the Kirbyville Schoolhouse dedication, and others.

Trustee Bryant began by extending a thank you to all the Volunteers during National Volunteers week and Month. She continued on to report on an incident that occurred at MKES (Mount Kisco Elementary School) noting that children are the red line and during this budget season, if another officer or resource officer is needed the Village should be willing to fund it.

Trustee Brown began by saying that the Board was able to relay the concerns of the residents to the WCPD during their quarterly meeting and thanked those residents that brought their concerns to the Board during their meetings. She continued on to recap meetings with the Historical Society as well as an event with the League of Women Voters where she had the opportunity to speak to high school students.

Deputy Mayor Schleimer began by announcing the mobile shredder is also scheduled for the Senior Center this week in addition to the other dates mentioned earlier. Deputy Mayor Schleimer also spoke on the water restriction and the level of the lake as well as the process with DOT on the Preston Way Bridge. She also spoke about a Holocaust Remembrance ceremony that was touching for her as well as the Little League Parade and opening ceremony. Deputy Mayor Schleimer spoke about programs at the Library including Museum passes for card holders.

Mayor Cindrich began by speaking about the Finance Committee and the various meetings he and the Village Manager had with them as well as recapping a meeting with the WCPD to discuss the Village's concerns. He advised residents that there is an increase in patrol as requested by the Village Board of Trustees. Mayor Cindrich continued on to speak on the incident that occurred at the MKES and asked the Village Manager to get involved with speaking with the property owner of the adjacent lot to the school. He also made mention of other issues that are with the Village Attorney and will be discussed in the upcoming weeks as well as recapping events he attended throughout the last couple of weeks.

6) **Old Business:**

7) **New Business:**

a. Board Resolution Declaring Certain Village Property to be Surplus

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Schleimer and was seconded by Trustee Brown to adopt the following:

A Resolution of the Village Board of Trustees Declaring Certain Village Property to be Surplus Property

Whereas, it has been determined that the Village has no further use of certain items(s):
and

Whereas, the Village Board may determine that these items are surplus property; and

Whereas, the fair market value, if any, is determined for the surplus property and its disposal will be for the common benefit; and

Whereas, at time of sale of surplus item(s), money, if any, will be allocated back to the appropriate department; and

Whereas, the Village Manager or their designee will oversee the sale of these items(s) or other method of disposal.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Village Board of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, New York surpluses the following items(s):

2012	Chevrolet 3500 – Small Dump	VIN #: 1GB3KZCG1CF162939
2014	Jacobson Mower	Serial #: 601804211-01682

All in favor:

<u>Motion Adopted</u>	
Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Mayor Karen B. Schleimer	Aye
Trustee Tammy L. Brown	Aye
Trustee Heather Bryant	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye

b. Board of Fire Commissioners Convention – Fire Chiefs

The Board accepted the following:

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
VILLAGE/TOWN OF MOUNT KISCO
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
104 Main Street
Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Francis W. Mannion
Thomas Comito, Jr.

Gina DiLeo
Mario Muccioli

April 9, 2026

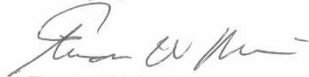
Mayor Michael Cindrich
Village/ Town of Mount Kisco
104 Main Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Dear Mayor Cindrich,

The Mount Kisco Fire Department member companies met in Convention on Thursday, April 9, 2026 according to Village Law. The convention elected a board of fire chiefs. The secretary of the convention, Jon Pucila, submitted the recommendations to the Board of Fire Commissioners for approval and appointment. Attached please find the resolution of the Fire Commissioners relative to the appointment of the fire chiefs. On Thursday, April 16, 2026 the Mount Kisco Volunteer Fire Department will install the Board of Fire Chiefs at the Department meeting.

The Board of Fire Commissioners wishes to extend congratulations to the Chiefs. In addition, we thank them for their continued volunteer efforts to the community.

Thank you,



Francis W. Mannion
Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners

Cc: MKVFD Secretary
Cc: Convention Secretary

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
VILLAGE/TOWN OF MOUNT KISCO
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
104 Main Street
Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Francis W. Mannion
Thomas Comito, Jr.

Gina DiLeo
Mario Muccioli

April 9, 2026

Mount Kisco Fire Department
104 Main Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Re: Appointment of fire chief

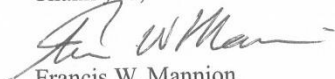
Members of the Mount Kisco Volunteer Fire Department,

The Board of Fire Commissioners, in a telephone meeting held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 do hereby approve by resolution the following positions:

Matthew R. Hollis - Chief of Department
Raymond J. Zaccari - 1st Assistant Chief
Aaron Sevillano – 2nd Assistant Chief

Furthermore, in the meeting held on Monday, April 20, 2026 the Board of the Village/Town of Mount Kisco, NY will accept the resolution of approval from the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Thank you,


Francis W. Mannion
Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners

c. MKVAC LOSAP Point Structure amendment

Jason Goldberg, 1st Lieutenant of the Ambulance Corps made a small presentation to the Board with all the changes they are suggesting. The Board requested that these suggestions be reviewed by the Village Attorney and Penflex (actuarial firm for the MKVAC LOSAP).

8) **Bills:** General, Senior Nutrition, Water, Sewer, Library, & Capital Project Funds

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Schleimer and was seconded by Trustee Luzio to pay the bills as submitted on April 20, 2026 for the month of March and April 2026 as follows:

General Fund	\$	210,809.21
Water Fund	\$	117,269.33
Sewer Fund	\$	13,232.92
Capital Fund	\$	64,256.68
Library Fund	\$	27,770.63
Trust Fund	\$	7,209.12
Special Purpose Trust	\$	00.00
LOSAP	\$	00.00
TOTAL	\$	440,547.89

All in favor:

Motion Adopted

Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Mayor Karen B. Schleimer	Aye
Trustee Tammy L. Brown	Aye
Trustee Heather Bryant	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye

9) **Minutes:**

a. VB Meeting Minutes 3.16.2026

A motion was made by Trustee Luzio and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Schleimer to table this item at this time; all in favor:

Motion Adopted

Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Karen B. Schleimer	Aye
Trustee Tammy L. Brown	Aye
Trustee Heather Bryant	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye

10) **Non-Local Business:** None.

11) **Public Comment:** (Public comments can be heard in their entirety beginning at the 2:06 mark here: <https://vimeo.com/1185264324?fl=pl&fe=sh>)

Bob Scopoletti began by commenting on Trustee Bryant's concern on what's happening at the school and noted that this issue should be addressed quickly. He also advised that he was going to be passing a petition around the Village to adopt legislation to remove the protestors in the Village who have become an issue for residents, business owners, and visitors.

Palmina Dileo Sandoval began by saying that the recent incident at the school and volunteered to help with these issues by standing guard or speaking to problematic people within the Village. She feels that as a recovering alcoholic and a recovery coach that it would be beneficial for all parties.

Bob Liebman began by saying that he attended the protests on a weekly basis, but took a break during the cold months noting that they are peaceful as all the others nationwide. He agrees that

the music may seem loud and believes they are contained except for the National days of protest. He noted that America was built by opposing autocracy, and that is what they are currently doing now.

Maryellen Warden began by saying that she has also been part of the protests many times and that it has always been peaceful so much so that she has brought her six-year-old grandson, and is taken back that a petition would be circulated to defy the Constitution and their First Amendment rights. Thank you.

Valerie Stout began by saying that she spoke at the last meeting and noticed that the police presence began, but quickly ended after everyone spoke up. She continued on to say that consistency is important and hopes to see results from the discussions the Village Board had with the Police. She noted that there was a lot of presence the Tuesday after the last meeting, but it dwindled, and if it is the same repeat offenders, that the issue needs to be addressed differently. Ms. Stout stated that the incidents are now approaching attacks and unpredictable in nature, and her son who used to walk home from school refuses because he does not want to witness what is happening around town and near the school. She asked that the Village Board work through these issues and have consistent police presence at dismissal every day. Thank you.

Theresa Flora began by saying she had to wait until tonight to hear that children are the red line and that she had to wait until there was a possible drunk trying to give alcohol to a child at recess; both the Village and the school district had been notified about issues back in February. These moms have been to these meetings consistently since March trying to protect the children. She went on to say that everyone knows these individuals, the police know them by name and that needs to be addressed. These incidents at the school are becoming core memories for these children and it's something that can be avoided. Thank you.

Jennifer Vallejos began by saying that many that are here this evening are beyond frustrated and genuinely alarmed. For months residents have been coming to these meetings raising the same concerns regarding public intoxication, disorderly conduct, panhandling and drug activity and despite that, nothing has changed. It feels like it has gotten worse. The same individuals being reported are still out and about every day creating these ongoing issues. This is not about convenience; it is about safety and quality of life. Now, these individuals are approaching children in broad daylight at school. No parent should have to worry about their child in school. This is a line that should not have been crossed, but we cannot continue to ignore this or make excuses. This requires immediate, decisive action. The safety of our children and community should come first. She asked what the Board is doing to address these issues and continued on to read the letter that was sent to parents from the school. She urged the Board to insist on police presence during dismissal and student walking times. Thank you.

A woman who wanted to remain anonymous began by saying that she is a part of the community and is scared and nervous because people use their tracking to minimize concerns. Her son is part of the school and what she saw today is unacceptable. She had brought up these concerns before trying to protect her kids and is unsure that they are actually concerned with these kids because they are mostly Hispanic. When you go to Bedford schools, they have Bedford Police in the buildings. Adults should not have access to children while they are in the school. She was

pleading for help; who is listening to the parents who have been screaming this to the schools and the district to address these concerns. Thank you.

Jen Brunelli began by saying that they bought a house about 12 years ago. They were attracted to Mount Kisco for the neighborhood, seeing kids playing in the streets, proximity to the town, work, the stores; everything in walking distance or a short drive with no safety concerns. That has changed. Trying to keep things light and cheery for the children when we walk by someone slumped over. She stated that over the weekend while picking up dinner, she witnessed police doing a wellness check on a man on Lexington. This is not ok. She wants to be able to let her kids walk downtown to hang out or go to a movie, but will not allow them to because of how bad it's gotten. She doesn't think it's safe and something has to change. Thank you.

Tony Giardina began by saying that he happened to catch the end of the last meeting and found a lot of public comments on the weekend protests. He's not debating whether it's right or wrong, but what bothered him was that people took issue with out-of-towners being a part of the protests. He noted that nowhere in the Constitution did it say that you have First Amendment rights only in the town where you live. It's wrong. Thank you.

Maryann Delaney began by saying that she understands that people sometimes find it offensive for people who are not residents to speak up here, but feels compelled to respond to some of the inaccuracies. The protests have never been to advocate for assassination, blocking cars or traffic, spitting at people; never harass or heckle. We pay for parking, frequent businesses, and leave the area better than we found it. She named other municipalities that also hold protests who have no issues with them being there. She looks forward to continue working with the Town and the Police serving the people.

Louis Terlizzi began saying that he was glad to hear that the song "8647" was removed from the protests as it did condone the death of the president. He continued on saying that when it was reported that a 10-year-old was accosted on the way home from school, this Board was quiet. The police should have nipped this in the bud. The woman who spoke about her difficulties with her son for years, and it is unacceptable that it wasn't properly addressed. He has also been accosted by one of the subjects who frequent Lexington and Sarles, including today. He is believed to be one of the subjects to have harassed school children and seems to be acting more and more unhinged. This behavior is increasingly erratic and continues to harass his wife, former Deputy Mayor Flora, and other residents. He explained that Kisco PD used to meet the requirements with less manpower than the current WCPD that has double the manpower assigned. He stated that they need to police this Village as if they lived here with proper supervision, and for the cost to the Village, these requests should be met.

Pamela Ciprian via zoom, began by saying that she was speaking up as a parent who is alarmed by what we are seeing in our community. Over the last several months there has been a noticeable and troubling shift in the quality of life on top of everything else. Increased police presence on occasions and current steps are clearly not enough. The incident at the school should be a turning point and had really raised a red flag. This is not minor, nor an isolated concern; it is a safety breach in a place where children should feel fully protected. It demands immediate, visible, and decisive actions and everyone here tonight is asking what are we doing about it? Will there be increased patrol, better safety protocols at the school for the entire day; in addition to the growing concerns

at the library and other community spaces. We are pleading for more action and for answers, and to be clear, this is not about diversity; this is about safety, accountability, and preserving the quality of life for all of our residents, especially our children. Thank you.

Robin Bucu began by saying that the weekly protests are a welcoming sight. They're a vibrant display of residents exercising their First Amendment right. As a business owner right in town, I can say firsthand that these gatherings actually draw people to town, which generates foot traffic and benefits our local commerce. The challenges facing our Village are long-standing ones; they are not born from the weekly peaceful protests. These issues have persisted through previous administrations and demand real solutions. We need to restore the Community Resource Officer position and we need police officers who are genuinely committed to this Village and invested in building relationships with the people who live and work here. Like the Mayor previously said, there needs to be consequences and solutions in place to address the long-standing quality of life issues the Village is facing. Thank you.

A motion was made by Trustee Luzio and was seconded by Trustee Brown to close the meeting; all in favor:

<u>Motion Adopted</u>	
Mayor J. Michael Cindrich	Aye
Deputy Mayor Theresa Flora	Aye
Trustee Angie Guerra	Aye
Trustee Thomas G. Luzio	Aye
Trustee Karen B. Schleimer	Aye

There being no further business, the regular meeting closed at 11:31 p.m.

/ld

Edward W. Brancati
Village Manager