

May 2, 2019

A regular meeting of the Town Board of Harrison, Westchester County New York was held at the Municipal Building, 1 Heineman Place, Harrison, NY, Westchester County, on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. All members having received due notice of said meeting:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ronald Belmont Supervisor

Richard Dionisio)

Frank Gordon) Councilpersons

Fred Sciliano)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephen Malfitano) Councilman

ALSO ATTENDING:

Frank Allegretti Town Attorney

Jonathan Kraut Village Attorney

Maureen MacKenzie Comptroller

Andrea Rendo Deputy Village Attorney

Mike Amodeo Town Engineer

May 2, 2019

2019- - 184

CERTIFICATE OF ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT TO THIS YEAR'S
MAYOR'S CHOICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Supervisor Belmont announced that March was Youth Art Month. The Supervisor explained that it's always an honor, challenge and privilege to announce this year's Mayor's Choice Award recipients. The Supervisor introduced Adam Murray who has displayed his art for the past ten years. The Supervisor asked Adam to announce the following winners: Jacob Burack, Grade 5, Madalyn Amaral, Grade 9, Filippa Rasmussen, Grade 7, and Gabriella Gonzalez, Grade 4. Supervisor Belmont congratulated all who participated in Youth Art Month.

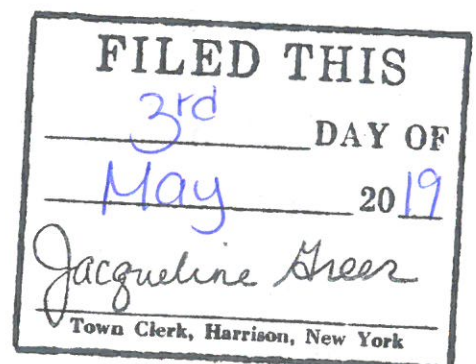
FILED THIS	
3 rd	DAY OF
May	2019
Jacqueline Greer	
Town Clerk, Harrison, New York	

May 2, 2019

2019- - 185

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTED TO HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETES WHO ACHIEVED NY STATE FINALIST STATUS

Supervisor Belmont presented Certificate of Achievement awards to Harrison High School athletes who advanced to New York State Finalist Status. Certificates were presented to Zach Finn, Alex Miller and Dylan Fitzgerald and Coach Vincent Nicita.



May 2, 2019

2019- - 186

ACCEPTANCE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

On motion of Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the following correspondence and reports:

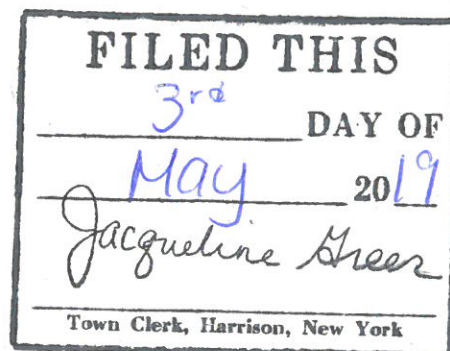
1. Monthly report by the Superintendent of Recreation for March 2019

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 187

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF LIFE GUARDS AS
SEASONAL CAMP EMPLOYEES FOR THE 2019 CAMP SEASON

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Personnel Manager, Debra Scocchera, to approve the following list of Life Guards as seasonal Camp employees for the 2019 Camp Season:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate of Pay</u>
Dana Hall	\$13.65
Jasmine Tucker	\$11.22

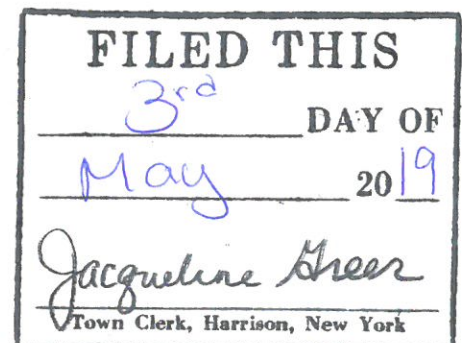
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Personnel Manager, and Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 188

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF RECREATION ATTENDANTS AS
SEASONAL CAMP EMPLOYEES FOR THE 2019 CAMP SEASON

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Personnel Manager, Debra Scocchera, to approve the following list of Recreation Attendants as seasonal Camp employees for the 2019 Camp Season:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate of Pay</u>
Lucas Couto	\$8.16
Joseph Engongoro	\$8.16
Francesca Forgione	\$9.36
Alessia Franciosa	\$8.16
Joshua Nittman	\$8.32
Marcello Rebolla	\$8.16
Alexandra Zumbo	\$8.16

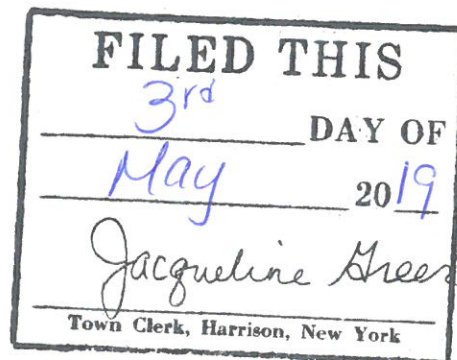
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Personnel Manager, and Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



2019- - 189

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE LAUREN RICCOBONO AS A
PART-TIME INTERMEDIATE CLERK

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Personnel Manager, Debra Scocchera, for authorization to hire Lauren Riccobono as a part-time Intermediate Clerk at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective May 6, 2019.

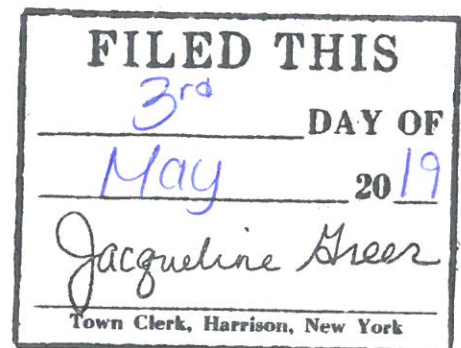
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, and Personnel Manager.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 190

RESIGNATION OF FRANK PUGLIATTI
FROM HIS POSITION AS CROSSING GUARD

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Frank Pugliatti from his position as Crossing Guard, effective April 17, 2019.

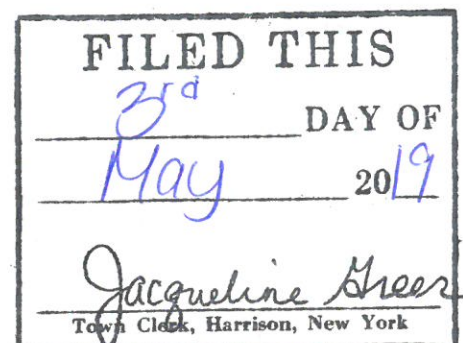
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Personnel Manager, and Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 191

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE KRISTY MCKIERNAN AS
A PART-TIME INTERMEDIATE CLERK

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Personnel Manager, Debra Scocchera, to hire Kristy McKiernan as a part-time Intermediate Clerk at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective June 26, 2019.

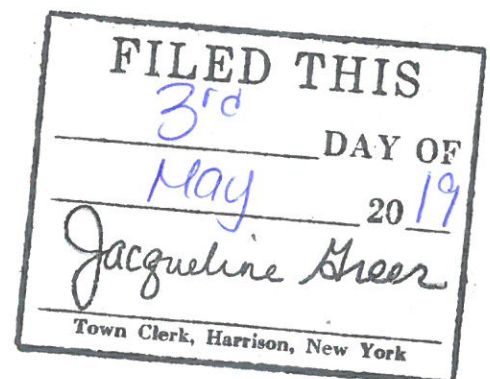
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, and Personnel Manager.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 192
APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF
SEASONAL RECREATION ATTENDANTS

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Personnel Manager, Debra Scocchera to approve the following list of seasonal Recreation Attendants, effective May 1, 2019:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate of Pay</u>
Deanna Macchia	\$10.00
Kelsey Ciafone	\$9.55
Olivia Marcuccilli	\$9.75
Jacklyn Debald	\$9.55
Christopher Tigani	\$11.00

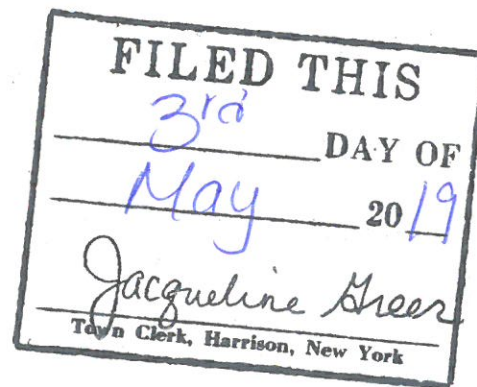
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Personnel Manager, and Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 193

APPROVAL OF OLD OAKS COUNTRY CLUB'S
ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by General Manager, Iwona Sterk, of Old Oaks Country Club for approval to hold their Annual Fireworks Display on Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 9:00 PM on club grounds, with a rain date of Friday, July 5, 2019. This is subject to approval by the Acting Fire Marshal and the Chief of Police.

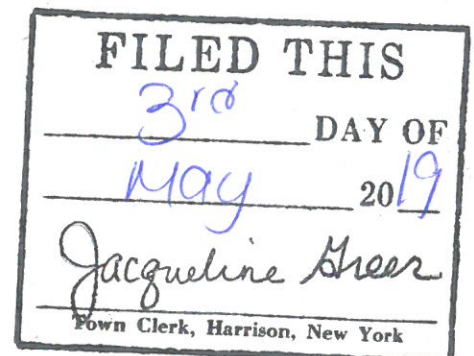
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Acting Fire Marshall, Chief of Police, and the General Manager of Old Oaks Country Club.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 194

APPROVAL OF CENTURY COUNTRY CLUB'S
ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by General Manager, Burton Ward, of Century Country Club for approval to hold their Annual Fireworks Display on Thursday, July 4, 2019 at 9:15 PM on club grounds, with a rain date of Sunday, July 7, 2019. This is subject to approval by the Acting Fire Marshal and the Chief of Police.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Purchase fire Department and the Harrison EMS to be on standby during the show.

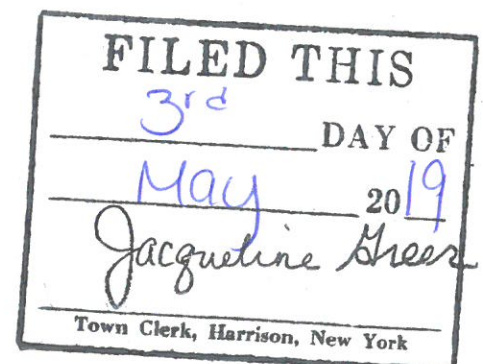
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Acting Fire Marshall, Chief of Police, and the General Manager of Century Country Club.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 195-- A

APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE SPECIAL PERMIT FEE FOR THE FESTA ITALIANA
EVENT AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Building Inspector, Rocco Germani, on behalf of Church of St. Anthony of Padua for approval to waive the Special Permit Fee of \$500.00 for their Festa Italiana event being held June 7-9, 2019.

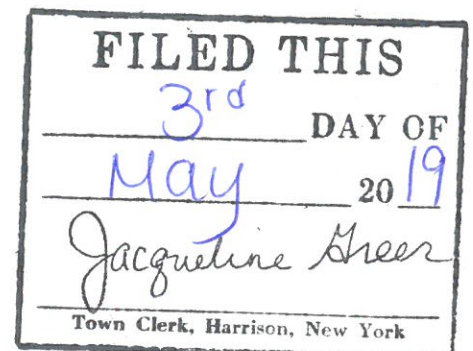
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and the Building Inspector.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 195-- B

NOTIFICATION OF THE FESTA ITALIANA EVENT AT THE CHURCH OF ST.
ANTHONY OF PADUA AND APPROVAL TO USE THE SERVICES OF THE HARRISON
POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE TOWN
GOLF CART

Notification by Rev. Christopher Monturo of Church of St. Anthony Padua that they will be holding their 49th Annual Festa Italiana on June 7-9, 2019 and procession after the 12 noon Mass on Sunday, June 9, 2019 starting at the Church.

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request to use the services of the Harrison Police Department and Department of Public Works.

FURTHER RESOLVED to authorize the use of the Town golf cart during the procession on Sunday, June 9, 2019.

FURTHER RESOLVED to authorize the use of the Town's Large Cherry Picker and Auxiliary Light Tree with Generator.

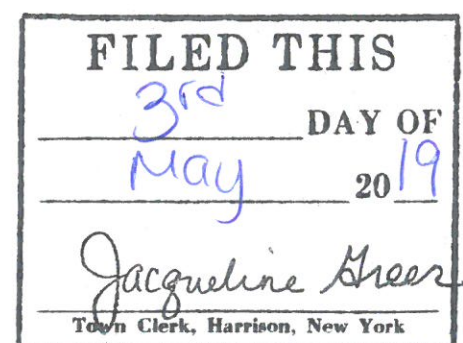
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Chief of Police, Commissioner of Public Works and Reverend Christopher Monturo.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 196
APPROVAL OF A BUDGET TRANSFER

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Comptroller, Maureen MacKenzie, to approve the following Budget Transfer:

To transfer monies from Fire Inspector Full Time Salaries Budget Line to Fire Inspector Software Mtce. Budget Line, to cover the cost of the additional data conversion for the Central Square Trakit system. This conversion of data will allow Fire Prevention to utilize the Trakit System already in place for Building, Planning, Zoning, Engineering and Department of Public Works.

Decrease:

001-3420-100-0102

Fire Inspector Full Time Salaries \$12,480

Increase:

001-3420-100-0476

Fire Inspector Software Mtce. \$12,480

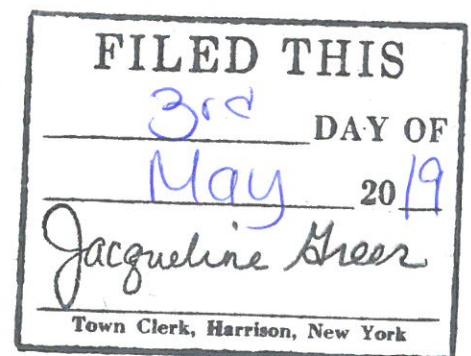
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 197

APPROVAL OF THE END OF THE YEAR 2018 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Comptroller, Maureen MacKenzie, to approve the End of the Year 2018 Budget Modifications:

Increase:

001-3120-100-0860	1,275,600
Police-Major Medical	

Increase:

001-0000-059-5999	1,275,600
Town- Fund Balance	

Increase:

002-9000-100-0860	10,555
Library-Major Medical	

Increase:

002-0000-059-5999	10,555
Library-Fund Balance	

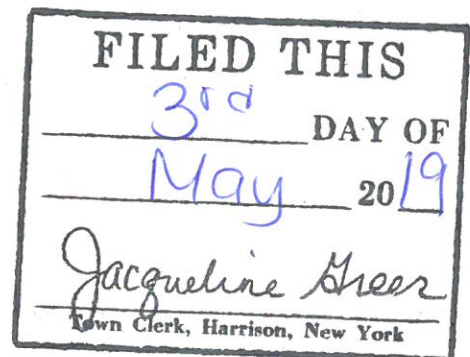
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 198

APPROVAL OF THE END OF THE YEAR 2018 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

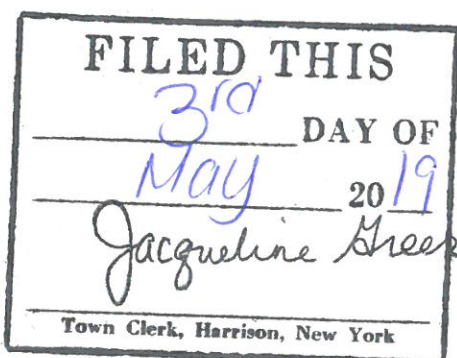
On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the by Comptroller, Maureen MacKenzie, to approve the End of the Year 2018 Budget Transfers:

Increase:	
001-9000-100-0860	443,170
Town-Major Medical	
Decrease:	
001-1330-100-0102	34,635
Receiver of Taxes-Salaries	
001-1420-100-4430	58,493
Law-General Liability-Self Insurance	
001-1420-100-4442	67,248
Law-Prof Fees-Legal Other	
001-1440-100-0102	56,587
Engineer-Salaries	
001-1440-100-0407	155,453
Engineer-Special Services	
001-1610-100-0407	33,006
Central Services-Special Services	
001-1610-100-0417	37,335
Central Services-Postage	
001-1610-100-0418	413
Central Services-Telephone	
Total:	443,170

Increase:	
001-9501-100-0907	30,331
Town-Transfer to Debt Service	



Decrease:

001-5182-100-0420	30,331
Street Lighting-PASNY	

Increase:

002-9000-100-0860	21,327
Library-Major Medical	

Decrease:

002-7410-100-0210	12,035
Library-Furniture & Furnishings	

002-7410-100-0490	9,292
Library-Contingency	

Total: 21,327

Increase:

003-9000-100-0860	15,869
Highway-Major Medical	

Decrease:

003-5110-100-0102	15,869
Highway-Salaries	

Increase:

011-9000-100-0860	34,746
Fire#2-Major Medical	

Decrease:

011-3411-100-0407	9,416
Fire#2-Special Services	

011-3411-100-0409	3,872
Fire#2-Computer Exp/Ser/Training	

011-3411-100-0410 Fire#2-Materials and Supplies	1,662
011-3411-100-0416 Fire#2=Rentals	1,176
011-3411-100-0420 Fire#2-PASNY	1,382
011-3411-100-0421 Fire#2-Water/Utility	1,998
011-3411-100-0423 Fire#2-Uniforms/Shoe/Tool Allow	13,665
011-3411-100-0428 Fire#2-Legal Notices	1,575
Total:	34,746

Increase:

014-1900-100-4461 Fire District#3-Judgement and Claims	184
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Decrease:

014-3412-100-0416 Fire District#3-Rentals	184
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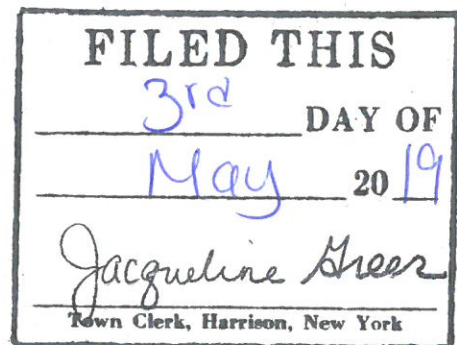
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 199

AUTHORIZATION FOR EX-CHIEF FRANK FORGIONE TO ATTEND THE
2019 HARRISBURG FIRE CHIEF'S EXPO

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Chief of Fire District #1, Pat Galluzzo, for ex-Chief, Frank Forgione, to attend the 2019 Harrisburg Fire Chief's Expo in Pennsylvania May 17th-19th for the sum of \$1,000.00. This is a budgeted item in the 2019 Budget Account #10-3410-100-04-06.

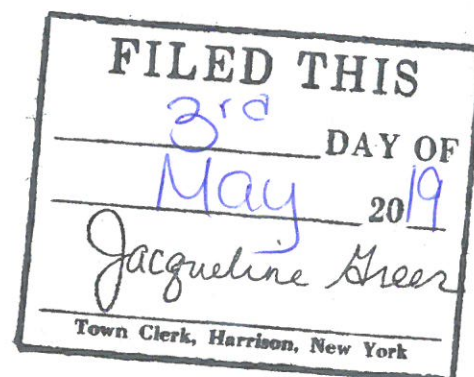
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Chief of Fire District #1.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 200

AUTHORIZATION FOR MONIKA SHKRELI TO ATTEND
THE PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER: COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Director of Community Services, Nina Marraccini, for Monika Shkreli to attend the Pace Women's Justice Center: Cocktails for a Cause (featuring Eve Ensler) at the Eileen Fisher Learning Lab in Irvington, New York. The cost is not to exceed \$130.00. Funds are available in budget line 001-6989-100-0406.

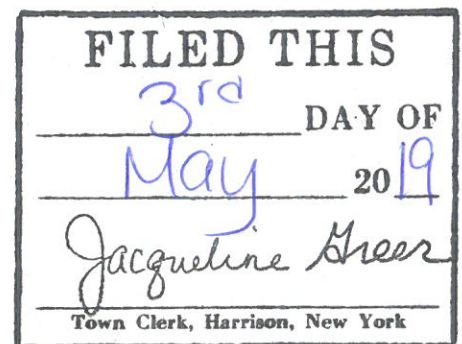
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Director of Community Services.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 201

AUTHORIZATION FOR NINA MARRACCINI AND MONIKA SHKRELI TO ATTEND
THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT XVII

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Director of Community Services, Nina Marraccini, for herself and Monika Shkreli to attend the Not-For-Profit Leadership Summit XVII at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown on May 6th, 2019. The cost is not to exceed \$210.00. Funds are available in budget line 001-6989-100-0406.

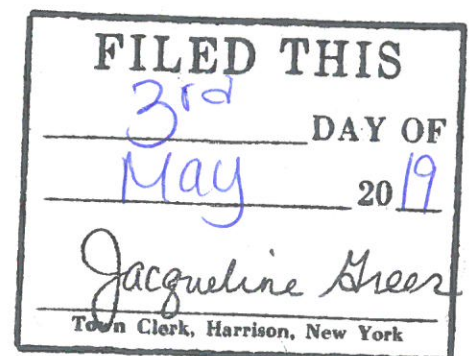
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Director of Community Services.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 202

AUTHORIZATION TO SET THE DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Seth Mandelbaum of McCullough, Goldberger & Staudt, LLP to set the date for a Public Hearing on June 6th, 2019 for a Special Exception Use Permit for a private parking garage at 104 Corporate Drive.

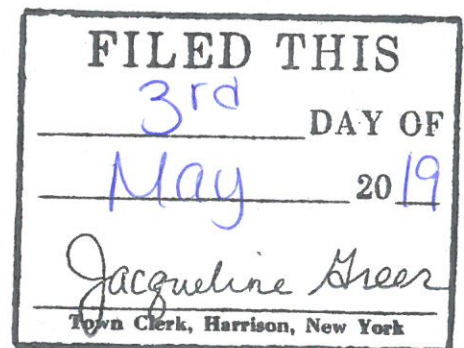
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Law Department, and Seth Mandelbaum.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 203
APPROVAL OF A BUDGET TRANSFER

On motion of Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,
it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Comptroller, Maureen MacKenzie, to approve the following Budget Transfer:

**To transfer monies from Law Dept legal notices budget line to
Law Dept Overtime Salary budget line to cover overage through the
end of year.**

Increase:

001-1420-100-0120	5,000
Law-Overtime Salaries	

Decrease:

001-1420-100-0428	5,000
Law-Legal Notices	

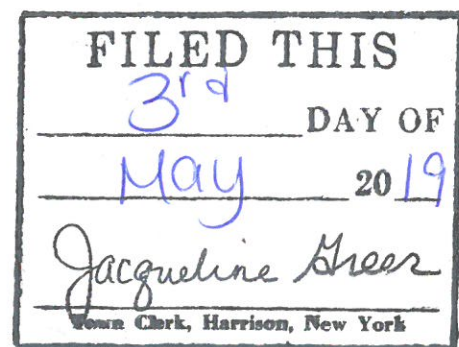
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 204

APPROVAL OF A BUDGET MODIFICATION

On motion of Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by Comptroller, Maureen MacKenzie, to approve the following Budget Modification:

Budget Modification to reflect monies received from Geico Insurance Company and Country Wide Insurance Company for the Damages of Police Vehicle Plate #104

Increase:

001-0000-020-2680

13,486

Town-Insurance of Recoveries

Increase:

001-3310-100-0479

13,486

Traffic-Auto Body

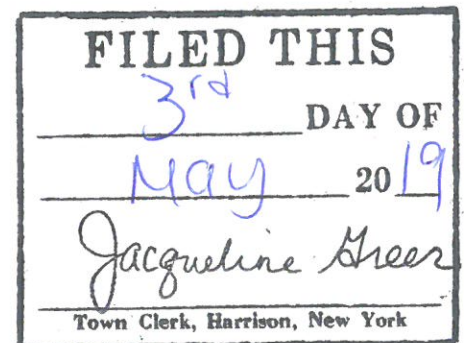
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 205

AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE ONE ADDITIONAL SEASONAL EMPLOYEE
IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by the Commissioner of Public Works, Anthony Robinson, to hire one (1) additional seasonal employee in the Highway Department at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective May 6, 2019.

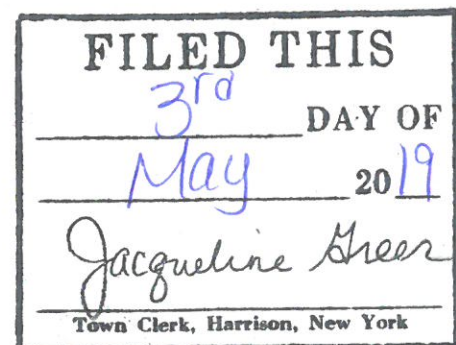
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Personnel Manager, and Commissioner of Public Works.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 206

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS
FOR THE BRENTWOOD FUNDRAISER PROJECT

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by the Superintendent of Recreation, Gerry Salvo for authorization to accept the following donations for the Brentwood Fundraiser Project:

Banners

The Bruschi Family	\$400.00
The Belmont Family	\$400.00
The Schiro Family	\$400.00

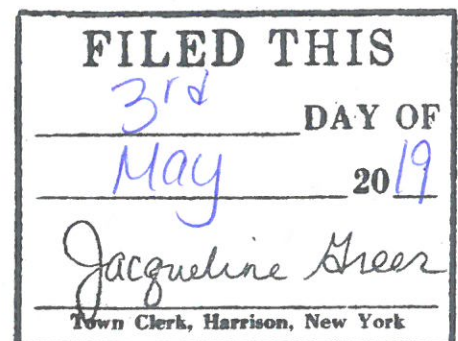
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Superintendent of Recreation.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 207

AUTHORIZATION FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO HOLD
THEIR ANNUAL MAY PROCESSION

On motion of Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to accept the request by John Balsamo of the Knights of Columbus, for authorization to hold their Annual May Procession on Tuesday, May 21st, 2019 starting at 7:00 pm on the corner of West Street and Halstead Avenue to St. Gregory the Great Church.

FURTHER RESOLVED to approve a police escort for the procession.

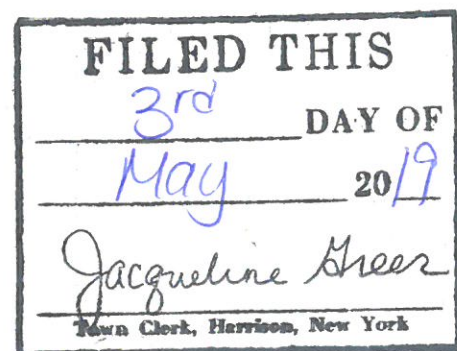
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Chief of Police and John Balsamo.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 208
OLD BUSINESS

Harrison resident Michael Romita made the following written statement:

Michael N. Romita, I am a town Resident, I have run a Corporation in Harrison for 20 Years, and I am the father of a teenage daughter. At the town's most recent Board meeting, Mayor Belmont and his majority Board members once again had the opportunity to address the systemic issues of sexual harassment and pattern of retaliatory conduct taken against certain female town employees. Instead, the Mayor and his majority used their pulpit in an attempt to intimidate and muzzle Frank Gordon, a fellow board member, who had chosen to speak out about these important issues. At one point, the Mayor expressed the desire that a statement previously circulated by Frank Gordon and other concerned citizens that addresses the town's Harassment Issues be read into the record. However, the Mayor became distracted by his Board's continued efforts to silence dissent, and the statement was never read. Here in full is the statement the Mayor and his majority find so offensive . . .

March 27, 2019 ADDRESSING RECENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS IN HARRISON

This week the Journal News/Lohud and Fios 1 reported that a traffic laborer in the Harrison Police Department has been accused of sexually harassing a female officer in the department. This is the latest in a series of sexual harassment claims lodged against Harrison town personnel. Since 2016, two former Police Chiefs resigned after other harassment claims were lodged. While the full facts of this latest case have yet to come to light, the response of our Mayor and the Town Board majority has been totally insufficient. The recurring claims of harassment among town employees illustrate the need for a serious, proactive effort designed to prevent harassment in the future and a more serious effort to ensure a safe workplace for all. Bad actors in our public services cast a negative shadow on the town and on the many wonderful, hardworking dedicated officers and public servants who do their jobs with integrity and high ethical standards every day. They, and all the residents of Harrison, deserve better. We call upon our elected leaders to forcefully and proactively condemn sexual harassment in the workplace and commit to addressing this recurring issue. We believe the town should undertake a review of its harassment policies and launch serious training initiatives, both to be performed by an outside independent firm. The town's Law Department should be required to cooperate and assist with this outside review but should not be given responsibility for completing the task. It is unacceptable for town government to use town financial resources to cover for or defend illegal conduct. If our elected officials want to support the dedicated work of our uniformed officers, and if they want to protect the town from serious future legal and financial jeopardy, they will need to show the courage to take decisive action. Perhaps the Mayor (Supervisor) and his majority are frightened or scared. Perhaps they are getting very bad advice. Perhaps they simply don't know what to do. But any industrial psychologist, or anyone who has run a large organization, can tell you that these issues do not happen in isolation, they are symptomatic of a much deeper problem, and that they reflect a lack of leadership. So try as they may to explain away, excuse, or whitewash each occurrence (of which there are many), try as they may to shout down dissent, the town Board majority is seriously mishandling this systemic issue and continues to place the town, its employees, and its citizens, in harm's way.

Harrison Resident Rena Heck remarked that she respectfully suggests that we call the Public Comment section of the meeting "Public Comments." She found it very confusing that it is called "Old Business." Ms. Heck stated that sexual harassment has been a problem in the town for a very long time. Ms. Heck further stated that two police chiefs and who knows how many others in the administration have acted inappropriately. Members of the Board excoriated Frank Gordon at the last meeting for bringing to light an issue that has been written about in local news sources of which she has been following for a long time. Ms. Heck suggested that she spoke for many in the community when saying that she is appalled that this problem has been allowed to go on for so long. Ms. Heck wanted to know what the administration is doing to address this systemic problem and what the plans are for the future.

Harrison Resident Lauren Leader remarked that she too was deeply disturbed and distressed at what has come to be a pattern of abusive behavior in our public services. Ms. Leader was particularly concerned that in one case, in the case of a woman, one of the few women who stepped forward to be a volunteer firefighter, that she was harassed and pushed out of her job. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission spent a year investigating her case and found she had creditable claims against the town. The town rather than following the guidance of the EEOC and settling with her for the lost wages and emotional distress instead has chosen to use our taxpayer dollars and the resources of the town legal department to fight it. I find that completely unacceptable as do most of the women and men that I speak to in this town about an appropriate response. Some people in the town know that I have dedicated a huge part of my career to supporting and changing the culture of sexual harassment in work places around America. I speak on those issues on television; I work on those issues in major corporations. All over the World the "Me Too" moment has come to mean that institutions need to be accountable and that accountability is complex; of course we need due process, of course all Americans deserve that. When there is a situation where harassing discriminatory illegal behavior proliferates it requires in municipal government just as it does in corporations, a strong, swift and clear response. Many companies around the United States and beyond, and I've worked with many of them, have chosen instead of having their own Human Resources and Legal Department's investigate claims of harassment, have chosen instead to send those claims to outside independent agencies. The reason they do that is because they recognize in many instances the people who have hired and appointed employees in a variety of positions are not capable of having a thoroughly independent voice in accessing the claims before them. It is also a message to those who work for those institutions that there will be a fair and unbiased process in adjudicating their claims. In fact, across America, what we have seen, is where leaders in the chain of leadership command are responsible for adjudicating claims of harassment it discourages people from coming forward for fear of retribution, for fear of their jobs being on the line. I have spoken with several of the women who are implicated and brought the claims against the town. The response from the town for them has been unacceptable. You really have to ask yourself, how it's possible, that in a police department of 67 people, where there are only four women employees, that three of them have raised claims. That to me speaks to me as a climate and a culture that allows it to proliferate. I hold the leadership of this town responsible

May 2, 2019

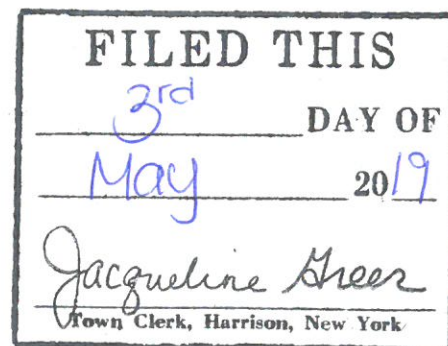
2019- - 208 (continued)

for being unwilling to call this out unequivocally, for coming forward to say this is unacceptable, that this will be rooted out, and for demonstrating a willingness and commitment to serve all residents and employees of this town. At the end of the day it's not a political issue. It's a safety issue, justice issue, it's a taxpayer issue and I sincerely hope that the leaders of the town make a serious effort to root out this persistent problem.

Harrison Resident Brett Harsh remarked that he moved to Harrison two years ago with his wife and young son. Having received and read Councilman Gordon's letter several weeks ago he was appalled to see the video of him being attacked by the Mayor (Supervisor) at the last Board meeting. The deliberate misrepresentation of the contents of that letter was frankly shocking. At no point does the letter discuss confidential town information that was alleged nor does it discuss any specific employee. What the letter does do is make a common sense plea for this town to do the necessary training to prevent any further instances of sexual harassment by its employees.

Harrison Resident Patricia Coviello remarked that she spoke to the Mayor (Supervisor) about all the wonderful things that are going on in the town and congratulate you on that. You have brought a lot of new business here but the one thing that really bothers her is that there is no senior housing in Harrison. She doesn't understand why we can't find a space in town to just build one building. I don't want to move but can't afford these rents. She opined there is a lot of land in this town and we should make space for a senior building.

Harrison Resident Hannah Kenny remarked that she was kind of a new resident because she moved here three years ago. She came to the meeting for two reasons. She watched the video of the last Board meeting. She was not comfortable at the behavior she saw at the last meeting. Ms. Kenny said it seemed like political grandstanding because she understood how things were lined up; the flow of the timeline and she didn't think anything was done inappropriately. The fact that this time is being used to try and attack another Board member is not what we are looking for. This town is a great town but Board members should not be attacking each other. Ms. Kenny's second issue regarded the woman who spoke at the end of the last meeting. She discussed her apartment and questioned who is on the Boards. Ms. Kenny said she had empathy for her because I also have that same question. Ms. Kenny explained she didn't know who the member of the Planning Board was. Ms. Kenny did say she found it highly questionable that someone would have an apartment building that obviously doesn't have hot water and it's clear that there wasn't heat. With a building in such a state of disrepair, Ms. Kenny questioned how we could allow someone like that to sit on our Planning Board or whichever Board they are on. Ms. Kenny suggested that the town could do better.



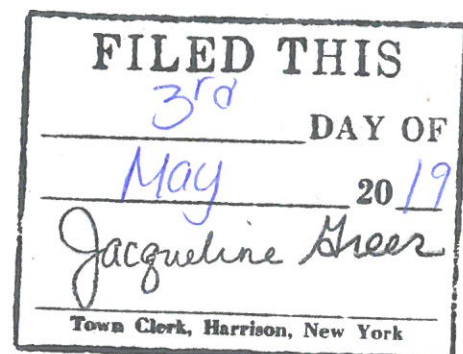
May 2, 2019

2019- - 209

MATTERS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Contract Negotiations: 1
Real Property: 2
Claim: 1
Personnel: 1

On motion duly made and seconded,
with all members voting in favor,
the Meeting was recessed to Executive Session at 7:32 PM.



May 2, 2019

2019- - 210

AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT ETHAN LEVINSON
TO THE PLANNING BOARD

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Dionisio,
it was

RESOLVED to appoint Ethan Levinson to the Planning Board.

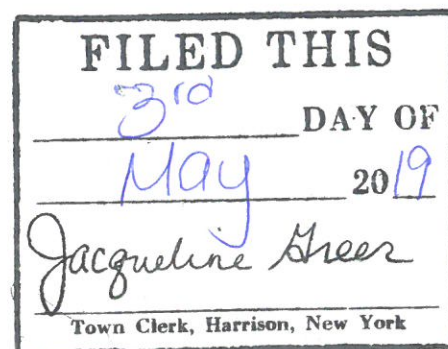
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Planning Board Secretary.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 211

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE PRISONER TRANSPORTATION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
AND THE TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Sciliano, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to approve the Prisoner Transportation Agreement between Westchester County Department of Correction and the Town of Harrison for the term: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022.

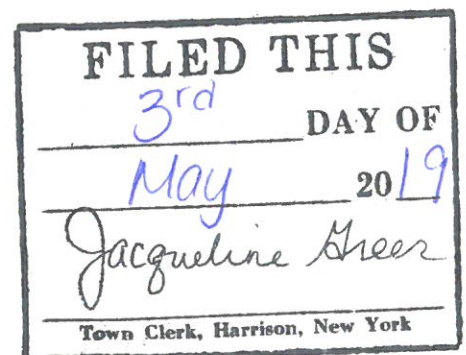
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller, Law Department, and Chief of Police.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 212

AUTHORIZATION TO SETTLE THE CLAIM IN THE MATTER OF
CONSOLIDATED EDISON V. TOWN OF HARRISON

On motion of Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Sciliano,

it was

RESOLVED to settle the claim in the matter of Consolidated Edison v. Town of Harrison in the amount of \$7,902.86, subject to a signed general release by an authorized representative of con Edison Company.

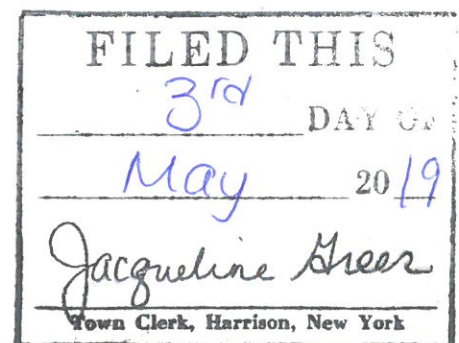
FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Law Department.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio, Gordon, and Sciliano
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano



May 2, 2019

2019- - 213

AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEE
PETER SCILIANO TO PART-TIME CARETAKER

On motion of Councilman Dionisio, seconded by Councilman Gordon,

it was

RESOLVED to change the title of part-time employee, Peter Sciliano, to part-time Caretaker, effective April 9, 2019. This change in title has been approved by the Westchester County Department of Civil Service.

FURTHER RESOLVED to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Comptroller and Personnel Manager.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilpersons Dionisio and Gordon
Supervisor Belmont

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Malfitano

ABSTAINED: Councilman Sciliano

There being no further matters to come before the Board, the Meeting was, on motion duly made and seconded, declared closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Greer
Town Clerk

