

**Village of Tupper Lake
Board of Trustees**

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Start: 5:00 PM
Location: Board Room
Meeting: Public Hearing 5:00– 6:15 PM

At the Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees held this date, the following were present: Mayor Paul A. Maroun, Trustees Leon LeBlanc, Ronald LaScala and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain.

Available via ZOOM were committee members Village/Town of Tupper Lake Emergency Services Coordinator Carl Steffen, Police Chief Eric Proulx, Franklin County Mental Hygiene Director Suzanne Lavigne, Franklin County DA Craig Carriero, Reverend Rick Wilburn, Resident Ellen Maroun, Franklin County Social Services Director Michelle Mulverhill, News Reporters Dan McClelland and Aaron Cerbone and other advocates Andrea Audi and Al Evenson.

Call Public Hearing
To Order

Mayor Maroun called the Public Hearing to order for the purpose of hearing comments from the public concerning the proposed Village of Tupper Lake's New York Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan as presented.

Public Comments
Suzanne Lavigne

Franklin County Mental Hygiene Director Suzanne Lavigne gave a brief background and explained the additions of the appendixes.

Ellen Maroun

Resident Ellen Maroun explained that she believes we should have some language stating our pride in our village history and that our community doesn't react to national news and our demographics are stable or static.

Andrea Audi

Local Advocate Andrea Audi compliments Ellen Maroun's comments; she explained that with evolved technological advancements there is no need to use explicit language only; some times there are biases where people look to whites as authority figures instead of those of a minority as explained in a recent 60-Minutes interview of military personnel. Mainly because of in-experiences with colored, LGBTQ etc. individuals in authority positions. She asked Eric where we stand on diversity training.

Eric Proulx

Police Chief Eric Proulx explained that he is receptive to training and often the 1st person to raise his hand for help. He explained that his force attended de-escalating training for 16 hours each last summer including fire arms training, defensive tactics training and explicit bias training etc. He also explained that our insurance company NYMIR offers on-line training that is available during our down time as well.

Paul Maroun

Mayor Paul Maroun stated that our department is good mannered and ambassadors for the community and they are on the streets mingling with the property owners and youth and in our schools with our School Resource Officers duties.

Andrea Audi

Local Advocate Andrea Audi asked how we recruited of committee to review the Police Reform Collaborative?

Paul Maroun
Mayor Maroun explained each committee members ties to the community in their full time employment and how each compliment and work with each other.

Rick Wilburn
Reverend Rick Wilburn explained that the ministry groups are not always noticed and almost invisible but they are often the first group that is reached out too for help and assistance with the displaced in our communities and we need to be sensitive to the needs of the variety of community members.

Close Public Hearing
Mayor Maroun called the Public Hearing to a close at 6:15 pm.

Adjourn
Motion by Trustee LaScala, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to close the Public Hearing at 6:16 pm. (Carried 3-0)

Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer