

Request for Clarification on Financial Practices at 2025 Riveredge Co-op Annual Meeting

From Peter Merson <petermerson@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 5/28/2025 9:42 AM

To Peter Merson <petermerson@hotmail.com>

2 attachments (317 KB)

Graphs-2024-Portrait.pdf; Charts-2024-Two.html;

To: Laurette Valdez, Senior Property Manager, Westchester Property Management Group, Inc.

CC: Les Lew, Treasurer, Riveredge Co-op

From: Peter Merson, Shareholder, Riveredge Cooperative Apt 8T, Yonkers, NY 10701

Date: May 28, 2025

Subject: Request for Clarification on Financial Practices at 2025 Riveredge Co-op Annual Meeting

Dear Ms. Valdez,

I am writing to request clarification on several financial matters concerning the Riveredge Co-op, to be addressed by you or Treasurer Les Lew at the 2025 Annual Meeting. These concerns stem from my review of the co-op's financial records from 2006 to 2024, during Mr. Lew's tenure as Treasurer. I have also attached my notes for your reference.

Financial Overview (2006–2024)

- Capital expenditures: \$2,572,000
- Reserve fund additions: \$1,706,000 (\$271,000 to \$1,977,000)
- Total: \$4,278,000, representing the third-highest shareholder cost. (1)

Questions for Discussion

- Since 2006, shareholders have been informed that operating expenses were significantly increasing. However, it appears that a substantial portion of funds collected were allocated to capital expenditures and reserve fund additions rather than operating expenses. Can you explain the rationale for this communication and allocation?
- Why have shareholders not been informed that the third-highest co-op cost, after real estate taxes and utilities, stems from maintenance fees primarily used for capital expenditures and reserve funds? Classifying these as special assessments would have provided greater transparency. If so, based on my 544 shares, I would have seen a \$120 monthly assessment charge on my statements for the past 19 years (14%). (2)
- When I moved into the Riveredge Co-op in 1990, my equivalent share of the co-op's Reserve and cash fund was approximately \$2,500. By 2024, this has grown to \$12,650—a 406% nominal increase, or approximately 105% when adjusted for inflation (\$2,500 in 1990 equates to \$6,156 in 2024 dollars).

Can you explain the factors contributing to this significant growth, such as the role of maintenance fee allocations or special assessments, and why shareholders were not informed of

these changes over the years?

- When concerns like these are raised, what steps will Westchester Property Management Group and the co-op board take to address them and ensure greater financial transparency for shareholders?

I respectfully request a written response to these questions for the record, in addition to their discussion at the annual meeting. Please let me know if you need further details from my attached notes to prepare your response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a constructive dialogue at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Peter Merson

Riveredge Cooperative Apt 8T

Yonkers, NY 10701

(1)

<u>Riveredge Co-op Operating Expenses 1 to 11</u>		Total 2006 - 2024	
1) Real estate taxes	\$ 6,720,120	22%	
2) Utilities	4,748,595	15%	
Capital expenditures & Reserve fund additions	4,278,000	14%	 Most shareholders have been unaware their maintenance fees were in fact being used for Capital expenditures and Reserve fund additions and not operating expenses as they were told. Why ?
3) Payroll & related benefits	3,866,117	12%	
4) Repairs & maintenance	3,600,242	12%	
5) Mortgage Interest	3,205,882	10%	
6) Insurance	1,266,524	4%	
7) Security	1,094,746	4%	
8) Management fee	794,936	3%	
9) Water & sewer	606,720	2%	
10) Legal & acct fees+ Refund related 2021 \$59,237	501,905	2%	
11) Corporate taxes & misc	419,184	1%	
Totals	\$ 31,102,971	100%	

(2)

<u>Hypothetical example (2006-2024)</u>		Description
\$4,278,000	÷ 19 years	\$225,158 average annual cost of Capital expenditures & Reserve additions over 19 years
\$225,158	÷ 85,027 co-op shares	\$2.65 average annual cost per share
\$2.65	÷ 12 months	\$0.22 average monthly cost per share
\$0.22	× 544 my shares	\$120.05 the assessment charge appearing on my monthly statement for 19 years !

Note that my October 1, 2005, Riveredge statement showed a \$102.00 assessment charge, based on \$2.25 per share for my 544 shares (2002–2006). Furthermore, the 2006 memo from the Board of Directors, announcing a 17% maintenance increase (Chart 3) stated, “The assessment (**burden**) is scheduled to finish with the August 2006 payment and there is no plan to extend the assessment.” This is obviously incorrect, as I was then charged an additional \$2.65 per share in excess Maintenance fees, equal to an assessment of \$120 a month over the next 19 years (2006-2024) for Capital expenditures &

Reserve fund additions.

Hudson North Management, LLC.
1053 Saw Mill River Road
Ardsley, NY 10502

MAKE CHECK
PAYABLE TO: RIVEREDGE OWNERS INC.

\$40 LATE FEE CHARGED AS OF THE 15TH OF THE MONTH.
914-674-2100

Please Return Payment To:
HUDSON NORTH-RIVEREDGE
PO BOX 7040
YONKERS, NY
10710

DIRECT PAYMENT
DO NOT MAIL PAYMENT

DATE	10/01/05
AMOUNT DUE	746.38
ACCOUNT NO.	830-314

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Keep This Part for Your Records	
Account No.	Includes Payments Received As of
830-314	9/22/05

Item	Amount
MAINT.	718.53
STAR CREDIT	-99.15
PARKING	25.00
ASSESSMENT	102.00

Date Due	Amount Due
10/01/05	746.38

830-314
MERSON PETER L
APT. 008T
1-3 DAVID LANE
YONKERS, NY 10701

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