

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, January 31, 2022
INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE

The Work Session of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 31, 2022.

Present: Mayor Ralph Ekstrand
Deputy Mayor William Barrett
Trustee Cheryl Parisi
Trustee Walter Priestley
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty
Attorney Claudio DeBellis
Public Works Superintendent Andrew Fisch

Absent: Trustee Anthony Addeo

PROPERTY REGISTRATION CHAMPIONS – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-01-25), to approve an agreement with Property Registration Champions, LLC regarding vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties.

NEW HIRE (CODE ENFORCEMENT) – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-01-26), to hire Kenneth Amato as a Parking Meter Attendant at an hourly rate of \$18.00.

The following topics were discussed:

- Fire Department:
 - Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel is doing a final review on the Stryker Stretcher order.
- Building Department:
 - 20 Merritts Road report received from Savik and Murray regarding the Toretta Road dedication:
 - 4 issues need to be remedied before acceptance
 - Mr. Vilardi has been notified
 - Road acceptance should be delayed until all homes are built
 - Needs estate fencing

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- 60 SE Maple St. – shed needs to be moved to three feet from the property line. Homeowner will have shed removed.
- 356 Fulton Street/Heisser Lane has submitted building permit:
 - A denial letter was issued, enabling application for a Special Use Permit to be filed to operate food concession and expecting application for a repair shop.
 - Property maintenance summons issued/ongoing
- The Carlyle (formerly Robbie Lee) will restart construction in the near term.
- Assisted living on Route 109 is negotiating for final tenant
- 7-11 and Sunoco are waiting for Southland approval – application was filed and a denial letter was issued.
- Burgerology:
 - Special Use Permit was approved, parking agreement for 3 spots to be paid over 2 years also approved.
- Peter Florey/D&F Development has received approval from New York State and have submitted plans and an application for a building permit. Review has commenced at H2M.
- 505 Conklin Street, formerly a taco store, will be coming in for a Special Use Permit as they need a permit for more than 12 seats.
- A ladies boutique is a possibility for 223 Main Street.
- Need to change the fine schedule, Superintendent Fellman to review at a work session.
- 52 Maple Street has heating and occupancy issues. A summons has been issued, no response from the property owner.
- Rodent and property maintenance issues are being addressed on Cobb Place.
- Grocer on Route 109 and Kick'n Chicken have been advised that window lighting surrounds are not allowed.
- Sign for proposed zone change to be posted at 1 Conklin Street.
- A permit was issued for a temporary monopole at Eastern Parkway in support of new tank construction and eventual new permanent location of wireless providers on the new tank.

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- 94 Grant Street has been cited as an illegal 2 family residence.
- The trustees requested an update on the status of the H2M review of the Workforce Housing project and an update on the status of the Cobb Place rodent issues.
- Highway Department:
 - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
 - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
 - Ongoing storm prep/planning and debris removal
 - Savik & Murray working on 5 Corners Park:
 - Construction underway.
 - The gazebo was delivered and installed and walkways were completed.
 - Lighting has been installed.
 - The project is on hold until the weather breaks.
 - Street light needs to be replaced at Whiskey Down Diner and Conklin Street. (Magniflood poles delivered, to be installed by the Town of Oyster Bay.)
 - Capitol truck repair of item discovered during inspection prep for snow season has been sent to Syosset Truck. Repairs are completed and the truck is back in service.
 - Received \$230,000 from National Grid for street repaving where National Grid installed new gas mains.
 - Richard St. & Rose St. – street lighting and landscaping being installed, to be paid for using CDBG funds. (Poles from Magniflood delivered, to be installed by the Town of Oyster Bay.)
 - Tree in front of Jaylors is not lighting, need electrician. Gina Electric has been notified.
 - The final estimate for the DPW Garage is due, based on mechanical drawings being provided to Racanelli by Carlos Calla.
 - Parking Lot 3 – damaged tree and stump were removed, will be replaced in the spring. An orange barrel has been placed there for safety.

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- Removed Christmas/Holiday decorations, but decorations in Village Green fountain remain.
- “Park Closed” signs have been placed at 5 Corners Park along with caution tape and roping
- Prepping for major snow event for the weekend.
- Water Department
 - Water tower construction continues.
 - Discussion about wireless services move from existing tank to temporary pole has been resolved. Discussion about new tank including NCPD microwave continues.
 - Water testing with PWGC continues and WIIA Grant submitted with follow up.
 - D&B forwarded a rendering of the new water tank for publication in the newsletter.
 - Location for new generator for emergency support of new tank has been determined
 - New gas line arranged with National Grid
 - Mayor Ekstrand requested a review of the number of cell providers that can be placed on the new water tank.
- Code Department:
 - Nick Frigerio started on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.
- Other:
 - Downtown parking
- Awards for paramedics that saved Phil LoNigro
- Snow storm review:
 - Superintendent Fisch recapped the storm clean-up operations.
 - Mayor Ekstrand noted that this was the worst snow storm since 2016. He also stated that a snow emergency was officially declared and that two robo calls were done, prior to the storm, to request that cars be removed from the street.

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- Mayor Ekstrand rode with Superintendent Fisch during the storm and said that icing up of windshields and wiper blades is a serious issue. Deicer has been ordered and wiper blades used by DPW crews in heavy snow environments are being investigated.
- Superintendent Fisch said that he does not clear residential streets curb to curb during heavy storms because the additional snow would make it difficult for residents to clean sidewalks and driveway aprons. He also said that residents frequently shovel snow back into the street when cleaning out driveways, aprons and sidewalks, making snow cleanup more difficult.
- A passenger minivan got stuck on the railroad tracks at Melville Road and was hit by a train. The passengers got out before the collision due to a Good Samaritan's assistance. There was extensive damage to the minivan, wheel damage to the train as well as damage to the crossing gate and pole at the crossing. It took about 4 hours for the LIRR to clear the train. Repairs to the gate and pole were also completed.
- Snow operations – Crew was called in at 9:00 p.m. Friday, they worked for 25 hours straight and a small crew returned on Sunday. Laurel Group was called in at the end of the storm on Saturday, they cleared access ways and sidewalks in the business district.
- General snow operation cleanup was done on Monday. Removal of snow on Main Street was originally scheduled to take place on Monday night, but was delayed until Tuesday night for personnel safety. The snow will be taken to Jackson Ave.
- Issues needing further attention are the cleaning of parking lots, particularly Lots 1 & 2.

SALARY INCREASE – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-01-27), to approve an increase in salary for Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Dan Ruckdeschel in the amount of \$5,000 as agreed after 6 months of service. This will bring his salary to \$100,000.

NEW HIRE (CLERK'S OFFICE) – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

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RESOLVED (#2022-01-28), to approve the hiring of Bharti Sabhaya as an Account Clerk at a salary of \$47,500 per year and an additional \$2,500 after her 6 month probationary period is completed.

The discussion continued on the following topic:

- Public Hearings: Zone change for 1 Conklin Street – a general discussion was held about the effect of the potential zone change

LOSAP – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-01-29), to transfer \$15,000 per month retroactive to January 1, 2022 until December of 2022 totaling \$180,000 of unallocated fund balance to contribute to the LOSAP retirement plan.

The discussion continued on the following topic:

- A resident reported that a significant attempt by New York State to override local zoning is in the Governor’s proposed budget, drawing serious concerns about “Home Rule” and the quality of life in villages and municipalities statewide.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer