

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, February 26, 2024
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, February 26, 2024.

Present: Mayor Ralph Ekstrand
Deputy Mayor William Barrett
Trustee Cheryl Parisi
Trustee Walter Priestley
Trustee Craig Rosasco (arrived 7:15)
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis

Absent: Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty

The following topics were discussed:

- Linwood Avenue update:
 - H2M has been hired to perform a drainage study of the area and to propose options for corrective measures. A preliminary report was presented to the Board and the public at the January 22nd Work Session. Please see the minutes of that meeting.
 - The Village will continue to monitor weather conditions and anything else that might have an impact in the area while H2M works on solutions.
 - Residents were informed about how to access FEMA/State programs along with contact numbers for Governor Hochul, Senator Rhoads and Assemblyman Blumencranz.
 - Mayor Ekstrand has coordinated with the Town of Oyster Bay for drain maintenance in the area, which is completed as of mid-December.
 - A resident requested tree trimming on Linwood Ave. to assist in limiting debris during storm events. Stapleton Tree surveyed the area and said that no trimming was needed at this time.
 - NC DPW has been working on the Tulane sump as of about February 1st, maintenance is still underway.
 - Governor Hochul has announced that the September 29th storm event has been approved as a FEMA emergency and all information has been provided to the Linwood Avenue residents.
 - Soil testing completed at Tulane St., results showed sand and good drainage. Can go further down.
 - Requesting to dig out Jefferson Road sump, go down 3-4 feet. Tulane St. sump is a go, will ask about Jefferson Rd. sump.

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

RESOLVED (#2024-02-25), to appoint Robert Carle as an Alternate Election Inspector (Democrat) to replace Arlene Taiclet, who had to withdraw due to another commitment.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

Trustee Rosasco arrived.

- Tower Point Leasing – need to research more and compare present value and lease terms.
- Fire Department:
 - Milburn Flooring
 - Cost of new refrigerators
 - New door approved
 - Fair discussion – not changing dates at this time
 - Dispatching for South Farmingdale, additional cost, salary increases
- Building Department:
 - Blue and Gold Development at 1 Conklin Street is now under construction, moving along, Building Inspector Demarrais has been visiting.
 - 7-11 and Sunoco – the ZBA has approved the plans and the Board approved the Special Use Permit, awaiting construction drawings in order to issue building permit. Final State DOT comments received by developer.
 - Eastern Parkway derelict garage, nearing completion.
 - Both Sterling Green and Robby Lee projects are proceeding. No issues with either project.
 - Dish Network application has been sent to Dick Comi for review. D&B is coordinating all related issues with Mr. Comi on revised plans.
 - VHB final report received.
 - Waiting for Verizon submission of an application to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer’s Shopping Center.
 - Lotus Garden should be ready to open as soon as the natural gas is installed.

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- Proposed 2 lot sub-division on Staples Street - application is in process coming to the Board for final approval.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car may be moving into the corner of Route 109 and Route 24. Waiting for application, Superintendent Fellman was asked to contact them.
- Valance across from law office: in discussion with property owner for proposed changes, discussing with contractor, awaiting response from property owner.
- CVS lot letter to manage/ticket lot – need local law. Announce in February for adoption in March.
- Fading signage on parking lots, Scott has been contacted and will review.
- Zuzu gas line installed.
- Need to discuss waste stream with the ownership of the Nutty Irishman and 317 – estimate for new dumpster in process.
- Highway Department:
 - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
 - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
 - Main St. pole for FD traffic light due in March.
 - Magniflood quote for electric GFI type fixture \$325/\$350 per fixture for holiday decorations in parking lots.
 - A tree on Prospect St. across from Doud St. needs to be evaluated for possible removal – removal on hold.
 - Received plan for new DPW pocket park, approved by the Board. The gazebo is in and stored at the vendor’s facility.
 - Village Green Gazebo brick wall needs repointing (Spring 2024).
 - The Board requested that the new landscaper weed and mulch certain locations, and that deep root fertilizing for all parking lot trees and trimming of dead branches in all parking lots be accomplished in the spring of 2024.
 - Need to evaluate lighting at the Melville Road/Secatogue Avenue intersection.
 - Mayor Ekstrand contacted National Grid regarding tree grant for Main Street. A meeting is scheduled for the week of December 18 – met with

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National Grid rep and they need tree plan. Anticipated grant will be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

- Traffic light at intersection of Main St. & Rte. 109, southbound left turn signal – street lights on but the arrow is off at night.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
 - Repairing snow equipment from past storms
 - DPW crews are continuing to remove snow piles & washing snow equipment.
 - Town of Oyster Bay Lighting was in repairing lights
- Water Department:
 - Training on pumping system in water tower base.
 - Dish Network is in engineering design review process.
 - Well 1-3 is out of service as well, pulled to add a stage to the pump.
 - AOP installation by Philip Ross is complete to the testing stage to meet health department requirements is complete along with the SCADA system.
 - New steel building to cover the GAC tanks at Well 1-3 is on site, awaiting final foundation plans.
 - \$3,000,000 has been awarded to the Village in Gov. Hochul's budget for Improvements WIIA grant. This funding will be applied for in the near term, Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel to follow up. \$4,624,000 in funding has been committed for Phase 2 project at Ridge Road from the New York State WIIA grant for the new GAC installation. PWGC handled the application and narrative for this grant.
 - Plant 2 construction underway with GAC building nearing completion. Pipe installation to connect into the system with cut ins to main trunk lines to be done as arranged by PRI when Well 1-3 is fully operational.
 - PWGC following up on required testing to secure funding from legal settlements and potential federal and county funding.
 - Bans have been sold to pay for Water Department upgrades.
 - Discussed status of various projects with updates coming from PRI on all aspects.

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- Discussions underway with South Farmingdale Water District Inter-Municipal agreement for certain management services.
- Contact PWGC regarding state grants.
- Discussed well-head and timing.
- Nassau County ARPA Grant – follow up questions were addressed by Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel with PW Grosser’s assistance.
- Need contact for South Farmingdale Water, Administrator Harty to call Frank Koch.
- SCADA done at Well 1-3. Need to do this at next location, timing of well-head and when wells will be ready.
- From John Falbo:
 - Hydrant repairs were done by Russ, Geary and myself
 - Chemical pump work was done
 - Assisted with snow removal during the recent storms.
- Code Department:
 - Working on signage for lots with court and admin office
 - Upgraded/reconfigured meters were sent back from Canada. New credit card processing complete, installation date TBD.
- Make Uber parking/pickup on Main St. after 10:00 p.m. for implementation spring/summer 2024, after pole removal project is completed. All signage and brackets are being ordered for Main Street.

TAX OVERPAYMENT/WATER BILL – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-02-26), to apply overpayment of taxes related to 23 Columbia Street to the outstanding water bill for the same property.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Other:
 - Trustee Priestley asked that Code Enforcement and security POP officers make rounds at the Jackson Ave. parking lot (Lot #9) due to local kids in the area.

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- Trustee Priestley also mentioned that the one-way sign posting on Franklin Place should be looked at, possibly repaint arrows.
- Trustee Parisi discussed the planters for South Main St.: reduce planter boxes, the trees look fine. Two planter boxes – one moveable, one stationery.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-02-27), to move to Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-02-28), to reconvene the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer