

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Tuesday, September 5, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale was held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

**Present:** Mayor Ralph Ekstrand  
Deputy Mayor William Barrett  
Trustee Cheryl Parisi  
Trustee Walter Priestley  
Trustee Craig Rosasco  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty  
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel  
Attorney Claudio DeBellis  
Superintendent of Buildings Stephen Fellman

Mayor Ekstrand opened the meeting at 8:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**FFD JUNIOR VOLUNTEER COMPANY** - Mayor Ekstrand and the Board of Trustees saluted the Farmingdale Fire Department's Junior Volunteer Company. Commissioner Phil LoNigro presented a plaque commemorating 50 years of service for the Junior Firefighter program to Junior FFD Captain Romano. Commissioner LoNigro indicated that a number of the juniors were working to become EMTs beginning at 16 years old. The Board thanks all of the Juniors for participating and Commissioner LoNigro and other fire department members for their assistance with training the FFD Juniors.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mayor Ekstrand made the following announcements:

- The next Board meeting with public comment period will be held on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Regular Work Sessions will be held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Farmer's Market is being held every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Village Green until November 19, 2023.
- The following resolutions were approved at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Work Session:
  - Approved the Farmingdale Business Improvement District's request to hold a Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. (Rain date: October 29<sup>th</sup>). The parade will assemble at Northside School and continue south on Main Street to the Village Green. Family activities to follow (pony rides, petting zoo, costume contest) on the Village Green until approximately 4:00 p.m.
  - Approved a request from the Junior League to use the courtroom for their monthly meetings on the following dates: 1/4/24, 2/1/24,

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3/7/24, 4/4/24, 5/10/24, 9/5/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24. The meetings will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- Approved a request from the Women’s Club to use the courtroom for their monthly meetings on the following dates: 9/21/23, 10/18/23, 11/16/23, 12/21/23, 1/18/24, 2/15/24, 3/21/24, 4/18/24, 5/16/24, 6/20/24. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Increased the number of sidewalk flags to a maximum of three (from two) to be paid for by the Village under the Sidewalk Tripping Elimination Program.

**REGULAR MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, the following items were, **RESOLVED (#2024-09-01)**,

- Abstract of Audited Vouchers #1177 dated September 5, 2023. Five vouchers were held for clarification.
- Minutes of Board Meetings of 8/7/23, 8/21/23
- Use of Village Property:
  - The Cultural Arts Committee is requesting the use of the Court Room for three Open Mic Nights, on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Thursday, November 30, 2023 and a holiday open mic night on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. They will begin at 7:00 p.m.
  - The Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce is requesting the use of the Main Street sidewalks for an Art Crawl on Sunday, October 1, 2023 (rain date October 15) from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are expecting approximately 500 people and are requesting no parking on Main Street from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Block Party Applications:
  - None
- Tax certiorari’s:
  - None

**BUILDING PERMITS** – The Board of Trustees accepted the listing of the following building permits issued since last month’s meeting:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION/COMMENTS</b>	<b>ARB</b>	<b>C/R</b>
8/14/2023	202-204 Main St. Christopher Werle DB23-00080	Install new elevator as per drawings submitted by Savaria dated 5/2/2023.	N/A	C
8/14/2023	5 Quaker Lane	Oil to gas conversion	N/A	R

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	Robert Davis PP23-00022			
8/14/2023	776-780 Fulton St. Titan Fire Sprinklers PP23-00023	Hydrant flow test	N/A	C
8/15/2023	384 Secatogue Ave Jeffrey Dillon DB23-00081	Construct a deck around above ground pool.	N/A	R
8/15/2023	23 Stern Court Solterix Corp. RO23-00011	Two 1' x 4' x 2' bellholes to replace defective cable feeder underground.	N/A	R
8/15/2023	322 Secatogue Ave. James Harris PP23-00024	Install new bathroom sink,tub and toilet bowl.	N/A	R
8/15/2023	600 Conklin St. Phil Lonigro PP23-00025	Oil to gas conversion	N/A	R
8/16/2023	3 Main St. Robert Sputo DB23-00083	Install 16' x 14' sunroom as per drawings by Alexis Spyrou P.E. dated 7/24/23.	N/A	R
8/16/2023	2 Eastern Pkwy P & N Misra DB23-00084	Maintain old permit #DB03-83 to install central air conditioning.	N/A	R
8/17/2023	29 Nelson St. Gregg Thompson FP23-00007	White PVC fence	N/A	R
8/22/2023	431 Conklin St. Merk431 LLC DB23-00085	Install basement egress window	N/A	R
8/24/2023	300 Van Cott Ave Anthony Mastrelli PP23-00026	Oil to gas conversion	N/A	R
8/29/2023	314 Main St. Wolly Family Holdings LLC DB23-00082	Install new sink and cabinets	N/A	C
8/14/2023	202-204 Main St. Christopher Werle DB23-00080	Install new elevator as per drawings submitted by Savaria dated 5/2/2023.	N/A	C

**PUBLIC HEARING DATES** – No new public hearing dates scheduled for October 2.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW TO MAKE VAN COTT AVENUE ONE WAY** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-02), to open the hearing.**

Paul Defendini, Farmingdale Schools Superintendent, Michael Motisi, Farmingdale Schools Assistant Superintendent for Business and Michael Gavalas, Principal of Howitt Middle School were in attendance. Superintendent Defendini made a presentation requesting that the Board consider making Van Cott Avenue a one way street on school days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. between Secatogue Avenue and Grant Avenue. This

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request is the result of a recommendation from traffic consultants H2M, who the school district hired to evaluate traffic conditions on Van Cott Avenue during school days, with particular attention paid to the early morning and afternoon pick up and drop off periods. Superintendent Defendini presented this proposal as an improvement to safety for children being dropped off and picked up. He went into the history of controlling access points by the use of fencing and crosswalks. He also said that Howitt has a new pick up and drop off location located on Howitt property that is accessible from both Conklin Street and Cherry Street which is underutilized. In addition, since the Covid-19 pandemic more parents are choosing to drop off and pick up their children. Many of those parents use Van Cott Avenue as their drop off and pick up location. Other concerns are that parents double and triple park on Van Cott Avenue and execute K turn where they aren't allowed, creating a hazard. Superintendent Defendini said that much of the problems on Van Cott Avenue could be eliminated or at least lessened if the parents would use the new drop off/pick up location on Howitt property. He said that the district has made a number of appeals to the parents but conditions haven't changed. In the past, the district has enlisted the support of the Nassau County Police Department; while the NCPD are on scene, the traffic flow on Van Cott Avenue is better organized, but traffic conditions revert to prior behavior when they are not there. He also pointed out that there are students who walk to school and those who take district buses. With all of the convergence both in the morning and afternoon hours to and from the school in a very compact period of time, traffic patterns need to be established for the safety of all.

A general discussion took place between the Board and Superintendent Defendini regarding questions of parking regulation enforcement and perhaps adding a "No Standing" component on the west side of Van Cott Avenue between Secatogue Avenue and Grant Avenue which might be helpful if it was enforced. The H2M study indicated that traffic counts in the morning on Van Cott Avenue were 573 vehicles, with the north to south lane able to get to the curb or double park and the south to north lane stopping and dropping students off. All agreed that this condition can be intense at times.

The following public comments were made:

- 19 residents spoke, out of approximately 35 residents in attendance. All opposed making Van Cott Avenue a one way street in this area, with the exception of one resident who stated that it might be okay for a trial period.
- Others contended that the unintended consequences of creating new traffic patterns would not only be inconvenient to neighborhood residents but may create other unintended hazards. It might also push drop offs and pickups into other streets creating hazards where there are no crossing guards.
- A resident pointed out that this location is a cut through area to the LIRR station and reorganizing the traffic flow may create a hazard from rerouted traffic.
- Enforcement of parking and double parking regulations was mentioned by a number of residents. Cars blocking driveways is an issue.

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- Signage is needed for the new drop off location.
- More traffic control officers to manage traffic was suggested. In a school district in Queens, the NYPD ticketed parents for a period of time on random days. Over a two month period the problem stopped.
- The school district reported that no child has ever been hit by a car at Howitt.
- The consensus of all residents present was that the one way proposal was not going to solve the problem.

It was agreed at the end of the hearing that the school district and the Village will work together with the input of the NCPD to find the best solution to this ongoing issue.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-03)**, to hold for 30 days.

Resolution to approve Armor Tuff, as sole source provider, to supply and install interlocking floor tiles for the apparatus bays in the firehouse at a cost of \$47,642.00. This is to be paid for from a grant from Nassau County. **This was put on hold pending clarification.**

**MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-04)**, to approve Main Street improvements between Prospect Street and Conklin Street including: milling/paving including repairs to sub strata, sidewalks, curbs, brick and striping. The work to be performed by Roadwork Ahead under our requirements contract in the amount of \$580,914.00.

**MASTER PLAN UPDATE** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-05)**, to approve update to Farmingdale Master Plan by VHB in the amount of \$57,625.00. This will include an evaluation of the Village’s progress in implementing the goals and recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan and an evaluation of the changes in demographic and market conditions that have occurred since its adoption.

**BEAUTIFICATION** –

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- Trustee Parisi reported that Fall beautification will consist of 5 Corners Park and the Village Green, and that plans are underway for holiday decorations of Main Street and the Village Green.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

- Legal notices and agendas of the Planning and Zoning Boards need to be placed on the Village website.

**CORRESPONDENCE –**

- Donna Bilardelo of Elizabeth Gardens

**FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINTS & COMMENTS - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** A discussion began on the following topics:

- A resident complimented the painting of the LIRR trestles at NY24 and Merritts Road and asked if the LIRR plans to do the Heisser Lane trestle in the near term.
- The resident requested that Village vehicles follow the speed limit.
- The resident requested alternative paint colors for leased parking spaces.

**OTHER –**

- A branch in front of Vespa needs to be removed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**, upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-06)**, to move to Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-09-07)**, to reconvene the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian P. Harty  
Village Clerk/Treasurer