

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, May 23, 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, May 23, 2022.

Present: Mayor Ralph Ekstrand
Deputy Mayor William Barrett
Trustee Cheryl Parisi
Trustee Walter Priestley
Trustee Craig Rosasco (arrived 9:30)
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis

Mayor Ekstrand opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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

RESOLVED (#2022-05-19), to move to Executive Session to discuss legal & contractual matters.

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

RESOLVED (#2022-05-20), to reconvene the meeting.

The following topics were discussed:

- Whiskey Down – Walkway dining discussion:
 - Peter & John Kanaras presented their proposal for continuing outdoor dining at their restaurant in the Village-owned walkway on both the north and south sides of the walkway.
 - They stated that they are a family oriented restaurant that closes at 10:00 p.m. during the week and at 11:00 p.m. on the weekends. They have not had any disturbances or violations since they opened three years ago.
 - They welcome Village input into the development of the walkway and propose to provide the same furniture on both of the locations. They would maintain the entire walkway.
 - In the off season, the walkway would be decorated to reflect the season and by adding pots with trees and lighting would bring a festive and safe walkway.

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- Proposal is attached

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-05-21), to appoint Bernie Hothersall as a member of the Planning Board to fill a vacancy ending in 2025.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Fire Department:
 - East End Financial has awarded a scholarship to a member of the Farmingdale Fire Department.
 - Fire Commissioner Lopez and Village Administrator Harty are dealing with dispatcher issues.
 - Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel is dealing with multiple grant collections.
- Building Department:
 - 356 Fulton Street/Heisser Lane Repair Shop:
 - Property maintenance summons issued, in court system
 - Submitted an application for a Special Use Permit for parking on the street – issues with neighbors
 - The Carlyle (formerly Robbie Lee) told Mayor Ekstrand that they have finally closed financing.
 - 7-11 and Sunoco – to redesign the site based on feedback from the recent hearing.
 - Peter Florey/D&F Development (Sterling Green):
 - Ready for a building permit
 - Rodent and property maintenance issues are being addressed on Cobb Place, summons has been issued. Awaiting disposition through Village Court.
 - Village Attorney DeBellis to follow up regarding fines daily vs. weekly, fines for illegal apartments and fines for unauthorized signage affixed to poles or lawn signs, hearing set June 6 for change to local law.
 - Working with 317 & The Nutty Irishman to handle waste stream. They are adding an additional dumpster.

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- Rte. 109 & Conklin St. auto body (Schmeltzer) has restarted construction, minimal work has been accomplished.
- Stratford Green rat issues are being addressed solely by Stratford Green, which to date have not been successful. Their vendor has not dealt with the rat issue. Arrow Exterminating visited the site and proposed a comprehensive rat abatement for the entire area at a cost of \$15,000. Additionally, the LIRR has been notified that there is a rat issue.
- Application for one home on the south side of the Black Course development has been submitted and is going to the Planning Board.
- The Postmaster at the Farmingdale Post Office has been given a summons regarding the fence and shed.
- CVS parking lot has many potholes that need repair.
- “Haunted Hamburgers” is coming to the former Friendly’s site on Route 109.
- The Board requested a report on the status of housing cases in the Village Court and a status report on Lotus Garden.
- The Board asked the Building Department to look into a noise complaint coming from a walk in box behind Burgerology and to find out about the status of the Lotus Garden construction.
- A letter was issued to 317 regarding the need for an additional dumpster to handle the waste stream generated by this restaurant.
- 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
 - DPW Garage renovations underway, completion is expected in mid-May, sub-contractor coordination.
 - Flower pots prepped for Main Street.
 - 55 Clinton Ave. has been boarded up and painted.
 - Stumps are located at 90 Conklin St., 250 Conklin St. (Citibank), Clinton St.
 - The PO has been issued to Westar for the new DPW garage. Preliminary site work, including retaining wall, will be done by Roadwork Ahead.

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- Comment from Foreman Ken Tortoso: Greetings all, it's been a busy few weeks for the DPW crews. I just wanted to let everyone know that your employees here at DPW have been putting in a great effort to keeping our Village looking beautiful, whether it's planting flowers or picking up garbage, street sweeping to water main breaks, including a bunch of other tasks we handle on a day to day basis. We would like to thank Mayor Ekstrand and the Village Board, including Village Administrator Brian Harty and Superintendent John Mirando for giving us the backing, support, guidance and the infrastructure we need to help accomplish many of our tasks. All of us up here at DPW have great pride in making Farmingdale Village the best place around and will continue doing so.
- All the flower pots are out, still waiting on the hanging baskets.
- Watering unit has been out and on point.
- Crews picked up all 65 light heads and poles for the upcoming Main St. construction later this year. They were able to fit all of the items in the north bay at DPW.
- Mowing the circuit.
- Spraying Village Hall every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Town of Oyster Bay lighting was in this week to make repairs, meeting with them next week to get the flag pole done at 5 Corners Park.
- Power washed the Gazebo and replaced all 16 florescent bulbs inside, would still like to change them to LED in the future.
- The DPW shop is 90% complete, our crews are slowly moving in. It's a huge morale booster for everyone.
- American flags will be going out next week.
- Ravo sweeper is back and all repaired under warranty.
- Speed sign has been out on Melville Road.
- Water tower is getting taller by the day.
- Water Department:
 - Water tower construction continues. The "Pan" for the water tower has been lifted into place and completed, the tank construction has begun. Interior work is underway for the ceiling that will protect the booster pumps.

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- Discussion about wireless services move from existing tank to temporary pole has been resolved. Discussion about new tank including NCPD microwave continues. Contract has been received from Verizon.
- \$3,000,000 has been awarded to the Village in Gov. Hochul's budget for Improvements WIIA grant. Documents have been signed and submitted to the state to receive funding.
- 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.
- Grant Avenue driveway apron needs to be replaced, Roadwork Ahead has this on their repair list.
- Water bills for February were not received by a number of commercial water customers and subsequently received penalties for non-payment in the May billing. As this was a delivery issue that was widespread, resulting in interest & penalty charges, the Board agreed to waive the interest and penalties accrued.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Code Department:
 - Working until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- Other:
 - Mayor Ekstrand thanked Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips for her efforts in arranging payment to the Village for a generator grant.
 - Administrator Harty and Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel met with Salerno Insurance to review options. Their findings were presented to the Board.
 - Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel is working with the Village Court to implement the new court system with vendor FBS. The former vendor will charge a \$1,500 fee to transfer documentation to the new system.
 - Trustee Priestley will hoist and lower American flags at 5 Corners Park on Memorial Day.
 - Trustee Parisi reported that the newsletter will be available May 31 and will include the AWQR.
 - Gerngras Park – new piers, signage and landscaping is underway.

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- 5 Corners Park will have 2 benches added (need to coordinate so that Roadwork Ahead installs brick footing), lighting for sign and American flags to be done by the Town of Oyster Bay coordinated by Farmingdale Village Historical Society.
- The Special Olympics were a great success at Howitt and other school locations in Farmingdale.
- Homeless issues: Administrator Harty contacted NCDSS and learned that Beacon House is under contract to handle homeless issues in Nassau County.
- A discussion was held regarding a neighbor to neighbor dispute regarding sidewalk removal on Thomas Powell Blvd.

Trustee Rosasco arrived.

PRIDE EVENT – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Mayor Ekstrand, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-05-22), to authorize the Pride Event scheduled for Sunday, June 12, 2022 in the Village of Farmingdale.

This approval is granted by a vote as follows:

Mayor Ralph Ekstrand	aye
Deputy Mayor William Barrett	nay
Trustee Cheryl Parisi	nay
Trustee Walter Priestley	aye
Trustee Craig Rosasco	aye

WATER CONTAMINATION SETTLEMENT – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED (#2022-05-23), to authorize the settlement of the Village’s claims against Aluminum Louvre Corp., et al and Aljo-Gefa Precision Manufacturing LLC, et al in the contamination lawsuits, and the Village Board consents to the settlement of the coverage action, to the extent that this consent is necessary.

Trustee Rosasco left the work session.

KOMATSU PAY LOADER – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

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RESOLVED (#2022-05-24), to purchase a new Komatsu Pay Loader and attachments indicated in the attached proposal through “Sourcewell” buying cooperative, of which we are a member. The net purchase price of \$204,172.41 includes a trade in credit of \$24,800 for 1994 and 2003 pay loaders. This is a capital purchase through a Komatsu 6 year lease purchase agreement.

USE OF FACILITIES – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was unanimously,

RESOLVED (#2022-05-25), to approve a request by the Cultural Arts Committee to use the Court Room for an Open Mic Night on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The event can be held either outside in the Gazebo or in the Court Room.

WATER BILLING PENALTIES – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

RESOLVED (#2022-05-26), to approve the waiver of penalties and interest accrued by a number of commercial water customers, with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees (“Village Board”) of the Village of Farmingdale (“Village”) upon due consideration has determined that the waiver of interest and penalties for the late payment of water charges shall be, in the circumstances herein described, just, equitable reasonable and in the best interests of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has determined to waive the interest and penalties as herein described because the lateness was the result of a condition outside the control of the water customers herein specified; and

WHEREAS, the waiver shall be applicable to the following water customers, and for the specified period, only:

Cycle – Commercial Cycle (51)

Period Affected – Interest and penalties from March, April and May

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

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The interest and penalties for the late payment of water charges shall be, for those water customers specified herein and for the time period specified hereunder, waived.

The following vote was recorded in connection with this matter:

Mayor Ralph Ekstrand	aye
Deputy Mayor William Barrett	aye
Trustee Cheryl Parisi	aye
Trustee Walter Priestley	aye
Trustee Craig Rosasco	absent

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer