

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, November 20, 2023
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, November 20, 2023.

Present: Mayor Ralph Ekstrand
Deputy Mayor William Barrett
Trustee Walter Priestley
Trustee Craig Rosasco
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis

Absent: Trustee Cheryl Parisi

The following topics were discussed:

- Presentation by the County of Nassau pertaining to a new traffic pattern and installation of a “Round About” at the intersection of Round Swamp Road, Bethpage Road, Quaker Meeting House Road and Thomas Powell Boulevard:
 - Members of the public directly impacted by this proposal reacted favorably to the proposal.
 - The proposal will create new traffic patterns and is expected to be significantly safer for motorists and residents.
 - The County indicated that this project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2025 and will take approximately 8-12 months to complete construction.
 - The next steps are to finalize all of the plans and send the proposal out to bid, then award the contract and complete the project by late summer 2025.
- Linwood Avenue update:
 - H2M has been hired to perform a drainage study of the area and to propose options for corrective measures. The Village will continue to monitor weather conditions and anything else that might have an impact in the area while H2M works on solutions. Mayor Ekstrand is arranging for drain cleaning with the Town of Oyster Bay.

NEW HIRE – KETCHUM – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-11-09), to approve the hiring of Doug Ketchum as a Part Time Automotive Mechanic in the Highway Department at a rate of \$25 per hour.

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NEW HIRE – BRETANA – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-11-10), to approve the hiring of Brian Bretana as a Part Time Laborer in the Water Department at a rate of \$20 per hour.

NEW HIRE – PERDUE – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-11-11), to approve the hiring of Robert Perdue as a Full Time Laborer in the Highway Department at a salary of \$40,000 per year.

USE OF FACILITIES – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-11-12), to approve the request by the Farmingdale Chamber of Commerce for the use of the Main Street sidewalks for an Art Crawl on Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are expecting between 100-200 people to attend and are also requesting no parking between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- The Farmingdale School District is withdrawing their request for a one way traffic pattern on Van Cott Avenue, per the attached letter from Superintendent Paul Defendini.
- Fire Department:

NEW HIRE – WEEKS – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

RESOLVED (#2024-11-13), to approve the hiring of Kevin Weeks as a Part Time Firehouse Maintainer at a rate of \$20 per hour.

- Building Department:
 - Blue and Gold Development demo permit and building permit have been issued for development at 1 Conklin Street. Demolition is now complete, discussion with NY State DOT for curb cut is being finalized. State DOT approval anticipated soon.

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- 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.
- Daler Pizza at 331 Main Street – construction is nearing completion, anticipated opening November 27th.
- Eastern Parkway house in court with derelict garage. Permit issued for roof repair. Permit revised to increase the size of the garage, checking on status as construction has not started. Building Inspector Demarrais spoke to the owners to begin construction - however, a summons was issued. They were in court last Wednesday, the property owner was given a short timeline to begin the work. Building Inspector Demarrais has spoken to the property owner and the new plan is to demo half of the garage and rebuild to the original size.
- New parking arrangements on Eastern Parkway under review in front of and behind 4 family houses. Met with Fairfield’s architect and have a tentative agreement for 11 spaces on-site parking in driveways that will be assigned and numbered, and 7 spaces on the street similar to other FF projects (with Board approval). Fairfield has requested contract.
- Paver issue on Cherry Street, resident has submitted plan to come into compliance.
- Stop work order issued on Jefferson Rd. for driveway expansion without permit.
- Both Sterling Green and Robby Lee projects are proceeding. No issues with either project.
- The parking lot at CVS has been repaved.
- Dish Network application has been sent to Dick Comi for review.
- VHB has been contacted about analyzing the Master Plan and the developments that have occurred in the last 12 years – ongoing draft to be completed by year end. A proposal has been provided for review and approved by the Board.
- Waiting for Verizon submission of an application to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer’s Shopping Center.
- “The Coop” is now in compliance.
- Lotus Garden should be ready to open by mid-December.

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- Proposed 2 lot sub-division on Staples Street was given a Planning Board application. The county reviewed the proposed sub-division and has determined it to local jurisdiction.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car may be moving into the corner of Route 109 and Route 24. Waiting for application.
- The new gym at 148 South Front Street is operating and that a sporting goods store is being proposed for a Main Street location.
- Highway Department:
 - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
 - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
 - The new DPW garage is 95% complete: electrical, plumbing and insulation issues are being addressed.
 - Main St. pole removal project Phase 1 complete. NY24 crossing – permit received and work completed. Asplundh/PSEG work completed. All property owners signed Altice access agreement to be able to proceed with Altice/Verizon installation. Altice installation underway with completion on or about October 15. Verizon removal of wires underway.
 - Plans for Main Street widening submitted to Nassau County, awaiting permit. Anticipate all work on Main Street to be completed by November 15.
 - 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 preliminary plan for new DPW park.
 - Village Green Gazebo brick wall needs repointing.
 - Parking meters are installed.
 - 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 near term.
 - Need to speak with homeowner on Park Avenue regarding new guardrail.

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- Deputy Mayor Barrett spoke to Ken Tortoso about new pick-up trucks and asked about the asphalt patch truck.
- New “no parking here to corner” signs need to be added on Richard St. and Rose St.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
 - Leaves are in full swing!
 - Fall cleanups are still in progress.
 - Town of Oyster Bay has been in repairing streetlight outages.
 - DPW shop crews have been assisting Trustee Parisi along with the Beautification Committee on Christmas decorations.
- Water Department:
 - Water tower construction continues with few punch list items remaining.
 - Cell providers organizing contractors to remove old equipment from the old tank and install new on the new tank, including NCPD microwave. Three are completed and Motorola is nearing completion. They will all finish by the time the tank is scheduled to come down, now revised to middle to end of October.
 - AOP installation by Philip Ross is complete and testing to meet health department requirements is complete. SCADA system design for this new system is underway by Philip Ross Industries coordinating with Bob Holzmacher & D&B. Eagle Control will be designing and installing the new system.
 - New steel building to cover the GAC tanks at Well 1-3 is being ordered.
 - \$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 as paperwork is coming from PRI to make application for reimbursement funding. Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel to follow up with PWGC for reimbursement.
 - Plant 2 construction underway with GAC building excavation, foundation and installation of GAC tanks completed. Construction of the GAC building is underway, walls are up and roofing trusses delivered. Pipe installation to connect into the system is near completion with cut ins to main trunk lines

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to be done just after peak pumping season and when Well 1-3 is fully operational.

- A new WIIA grant application has been submitted to the State by PWGC.
- PWGC following up on required testing to secure funding from legal settlements.
- The Village is investigating waivers from the NYSDOH relating to contaminants.
- Bonds have been sold to pay for Water Department upgrades.
- Hydrant flushing is planned for Friday, October 27, 2023.
- From John Falbo – A few follow-ups:
 - The 10 inch check valve at Well 2-3 was replaced and has been operating properly and efficiently after a few adjustments.
 - Quarterly samples came back, we are still passing but the numbers are creeping up.
 - Well 2-3 had an electrical issue for a full working day which was repaired by PCS. It gave us a reminder of how vulnerable we are without that well. All is good now.
 - Valves for 12 inch water main piping and 10 inch drain at the new elevated tank were moved to new location to allow for footing for new AOP building. Merrick Utilities did the work.
 - System was run by using the pressure telemetry rather than using elevated tank telemetry and was a success. Good to know for emergency purposes.
 - Sidewalks on Main St. – Russ & I made repairs to broken curb boxes and shut offs as work was being done.
 - Merrick Utilities is to move 1 hydrant and move 1 hydrant on Main Street, Both to be mostly hand dug because of underground electric and gas.
 - Lead and copper survey is now in our forefront.
 - AOP work at both sites is daily.
 - Meters and Well work are on a daily basis as per usual.
 - Old water tower demolition due to start on the 27th of November.
- Code Department:

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- Working until 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and day shift on Sunday until 7:00 p.m.
- Noise issues regarding outdoor music, types and volume levels to be enforced with Notice of Violation and then summons if needed.
- Trustee Priestley asked if Code could be trained to assist people in using the new parking meters. Code is familiar with the operation of the meters and does assist.
- The Board approved no parking on Main Street on October 27, 2023, October 28, 2023 and November 22, 2023 after 10:00 p.m. and December 16, 2023 from Noon until 4:00 a.m.
- Make Uber parking/pickup on Main St. after 10:00 p.m. for implementation spring/summer 2023, after pole removal project is completed.
- Mayor Ekstrand announced that the Northport VA has proposed an event to be held on the Village Green in May of 2024, where a number of agencies will participate in supplying veterans information about how to apply for and receive various medical and financial services.
- A general discussion took place about improving the metered parking experience for visitors.

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

RESOLVED (#2024-11-14), to move to Executive Session.

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

RESOLVED (#2024-11-15), to reconvene the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer