

In the Matter Of:

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021-2022 BUDGET

April 12, 2021



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INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

11

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2021-2022 BUDGET

12

WORK SESSION

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14

APRIL 12, 2021

15

7:00 P.M.

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17 Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and

18 recent Executive Orders issued by the Governor, the

19 Village of Farmingdale, Board of Trustees Meeting

20 was held electronically via Zoom Webinar.

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ACCURATE COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
866-388-2277 info@accuratecorp.com 631-331-3753

- 2 A P P E A R A N C E E S :
- 3 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND
- 4 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT
- 5 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI
- 6 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY
- 7 CLAUDIO DE BELLIS, ESQ., Village Attorney
- 8 BRIAN HARTY, Village Administrator
- 9 BARBARA KELLY, Village Deputy Clerk
- 10 KEVIN WOOD, Zoom Administrator
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1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Welcome
3 everyone to the Public Hearing on the
4 Farmingdale Budget of 2021-2022.

5 As you know, we start off every
6 meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance
7 followed by a moment of silence for our
8 Armed Forces and first responders. So if
9 everybody could put their hand over their
10 heart and recite with me the Pledge of
11 Allegiance.

12 (WHEREUPON, the assemblage present
13 recited the Pledge of Allegiance, after
14 which the following transpired:)

15 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: And if we
16 could have a moment of silence for our
17 military forces defending democracy and
18 American freedom throughout the globe and
19 our first responders who are always putting
20 themselves in harm's way.

21 (WHEREUPON, a moment of silence was
22 observed the assemblage present, after
23 which the following transpired:)

24 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Thank you
25 very much.

1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 Board, I would like a motion to
3 open up the public hearing on the Village
4 of Farmingdale budget for the year
5 2021/2022.

6 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: So moved.

7 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY: I'll
8 second it.

9 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: All in favor?

10 (WHEREUPON, there was a unanimous,
11 affirmative vote of the Board members
12 present. Motion passed 4-0.)

13 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Great. Any
14 comment -- Bill, I usually call on you to
15 make a comment before we open it up to the
16 public.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT:
18 Yeah, no, before we get going, I just want
19 to thank Brian, Barbara and the Village
20 staff for putting together a responsible
21 budget. We all know it's a tough time for
22 everybody, our residents, the Village
23 itself -- and for putting together a budget
24 that does not pierce the cap -- and for the
25 average home it's -- the taxes will be

1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 going up three dollars a month. Thirty-six
3 dollars for the year.

4 So that's all I have to say right
5 now, Mayor.

6 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Thank you.

7 Okay, Kevin, you can look out for
8 anybody who wants to either a) raise their
9 zoom hand or hit star 9 if they're on a
10 telephone, and our Zoom master will let
11 you in to make your comment or questions
12 on the Village budget.

13 KEVIN WOOD: Absolutely, Mayor.

14 No one on a cell phone or regular
15 phone at this point.

16 We have a few attendees and if you
17 do want to comment on the budget, please
18 raise your Zoom hand, and I'll bring you
19 in as a panelist. Otherwise, you might be
20 just seeking to look at the meeting at
21 this point. I get that.

22 No hands raised, Mayor.

23 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay. Do I
24 have a motion?

25 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: I will make

1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 a motion to close the public hearing on the
3 2021-2022 budget.

4 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY: I'll
5 second that motion.

6 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: All in favor?

7 (WHEREUPON, there was a unanimous,
8 affirmative vote of the Board members
9 present. Motion passed 4-0.)

10 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay, do I
11 have a motion to accept the 2021 Village of
12 Farmingdale budget as proposed?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT: I'll
14 make that motion.

15 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: I'll second
16 it.

17 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: All in favor?

18 (WHEREUPON, there was a unanimous,
19 affirmative vote of the Board members
20 present. Motion passed 4-0.)

21 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay. There
22 nothing being on the agenda, as all of you
23 know, the Village Board does not meet the
24 second Monday of any month. However, we
25 have to do it in April for the sole purpose

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2 of getting the budget approved prior to the
3 deadline, required by New York State.

4 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Can I just
5 say one thing about Friday night before we
6 go --

7 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Sure.

8 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: I just
9 wanted to say that the Fire Department
10 Installation was very nice. It was nice to
11 see so many of them there. And also,
12 congratulations to Ken Tortoso and Jack
13 Cherra (sic) because they each have reached
14 50 plus years in the Fire Department, so
15 that was really very nice.

16 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Yes, and
17 congratulations again to Walter Busa
18 (phonetic) who is our chief engineer which
19 is the Chief of the Fire Department and
20 Michael Tortorso which is the first
21 assistant chief engineer of the Fire
22 Department and Matt Hammond (phonetic) --
23 am I pronouncing that --

24 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Yes, Hammond
25 (phonetic). Yup.

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2 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Matt is the
3 second assistant, or as is by tradition
4 called the baby chief.

5 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Right.

6 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: We appreciate
7 all the volunteers in the Fire Department;
8 the lieutenants, the captains, the
9 chauffers, our fire police and, of course,
10 our rescue squad who operates two advanced
11 life support system ambulances from the
12 fire rescue headquarters next to --

13 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Yeah, it's
14 amazing the amount of calls that they do.
15 I think we're extremely fortunate because
16 they have families that, you know, that
17 miss them more than half of the time. It's
18 just -- it's just a great thing to see.

19 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: And for those
20 -- for the public comment and for the
21 public record, the Fire Department and Fire
22 Rescue answered 1800 calls last year.
23 Eighteen hundred calls. So these people
24 are volunteers, they are flying out of
25 their house at 2:00 in the morning at 1

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2 o'clock in the afternoon. Obviously, the
3 2:00 in the morning puts a tremendous
4 strain on their families and we greatly
5 appreciate what they do for us.

6 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY: Ralph, so
7 many of them went into homes that were
8 COVID -- potentially COVID infected -- and
9 did it without any reservation. They just
10 did what they had to do, and, you know,
11 there was a lot of unknowns in the past
12 year and they just drove forward and
13 continued. And a special thank you to
14 Michael DiBartolo who was an excellent --
15 not that they all weren't excellent chiefs,
16 but he was really hands on. I mean I don't
17 think a week went by when we didn't hear
18 from Michael and I think he just did an
19 awesome job as chief in the last period.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT:

21 Yeah, I'll second that.

22 BARBARA KELLY: I'm going to leave.
23 Go back to my vacation. Enjoy.

24 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY: Bye,
25 Barbara.

1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Bye,
3 Barbara.

4 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Good night,
5 Barbara.

6 Okay, there being no further
7 business, Brian, help me out, there is no
8 further business?

9 BRIAN HARTY: No further business
10 tonight.

11 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay. Motion
12 to adjourn?

13 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: So moved.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT: I'll
15 second it.

16 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay, all in
17 favor?

18 (WHEREUPON, there was a unanimous,
19 affirmative vote of the Board members
20 present. Motion passed 4-0.)

21 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Okay, we'll
22 see you all next Monday night for our
23 regularly scheduled work session. And if
24 you're not doing anything, we have an NCVOA
25 meeting tomorrow night.

1 BOT - 4/12/21

2 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Right.

3 6:30?

4 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: I don't have
5 the number --

6 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Yes, I think
7 it's -- it's either 6:00 or 6:30. Okay.

8 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Yeah, I sent
9 it out to everybody. I'll send it out
10 again.

11 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: No, I got
12 it. Thank you.

13 TRUSTEE WALTER PRIESTLEY: In person
14 or in Zoom?

15 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: No, Zoom.

16 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: It's all
17 Zoom. Okay.

18 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Okay.

19 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Lorraine,
20 thank you very much.

21 TRUSTEE CHERYL PARISI: Thank you.

22 DEPUTY MAYOR WILLIAM BARRETT: Good
23 night all.

24 MAYOR RALPH EKSTRAND: Thank you
25 everybody. Thank you very much.

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BOT - 4/12/21

(WHEREUPON, this meeting was
concluded at 7:10 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

SS:

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, LORRAINE D. BERARDI, a certified
Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in the State of
New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcript of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not related to
any of the parties to this matter by blood or by
marriage and that I am in now way interested in the
outcome of any of these matters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand On
this 12th day of April, 2021.

Lorraine D. Berardi

LORRAINE D. BERARDI

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1 8:25
1800 8:22

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2021-2022 6:3
2:00 8:25 9:3

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