

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor David E. Tanner, Deputy Mayor Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente, Trustees Caroline DeBenedittis, Christopher A. Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: John Ferro, Susan Quinn, Paul Walters, James Sandquist, Carla Strauss, Mildred Clinton, Michael Kelapire, David Linden, Marcia Weiser, Michael Guglielmo, Al Testani, Alan Reff.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", and the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2012.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for December 2012 as follows: 2012023 – 20120408.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente presented the Fire Department report in Chief Patrick Theodore's absence. The East Williston Fire Department responded to a total of 223 calls in 2012. The high number of calls can be attributed to Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. When the spring arrives, the Fire Department will continue sporting events with the Williston Park Fire Department.

Trustee Parente reported that the Teen Safety Committee will reconvene meeting soon to get ready for programs in the spring and summer. Events such as the Runners Club and Boot Camp will continue.

Trustee Parente also reported that resident Ashley Copperstone, a student at Skidmore College was given a grant to hold a six week summer youth program for high school students. This program will be tied into the workings of the Teen Safety Committee.

TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS

Trustee DeBenedittis presented the Recreation Committee Report. The Come Play With Me program continues (Baby & Me and Mommy & Me). Anyone interested in participating should contact Stephanie Keys. Yoga classes also continue and a free trial class is available to anyone who is interested.

Trustee DeBenedittis reminded residents 60 years of age and older that the Town of North Hempstead gives support through a program called "Project Independence" to aid senior citizens with evening taxi transportation at half price. Those interested can call the Town at 311.

The Town will also be holding a Valentine's Day celebration at Clinton G. Martin Park in New Hyde Park on February 7, 2013.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella presented the Justice Court report for the month of December 2012. The court collected a total of \$1,485.00 in fines for parking and moving violations.

Trustee Vella gave the Library report. Pre-school story time continues to take place on Thursdays at 11:30 am, and Toddler story time continues on Fridays at 11:30 am. The Shoes for All project continues its collection in the Library.

Trustee Vella stated that he is working to create an emergency action plan for the Village of East Williston. He is reviewing plans from other municipalities to extract the most crucial elements to make the Village's plan as comprehensive as possible.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano stated that the auxiliary generator outside of the Firehouse is now connected to the Village Hall. This enables services to continue in the event of a power outage.

Trustee Siciliano met with representative from Anker's Electric, the Village's street lighting contractor. The companies that supply the fixtures have not yet been able to keep up with the demand for the supply of fixtures for repair. Anker's Electric hopes to get the replacement parts within the next few weeks.

Trustee Siciliano reported that all of the stumps from fallen Village trees from Hurricane Sandy have been removed. The Village is now taking an inventory of damaged sidewalk slabs in order to obtain bids for repair of the sidewalks.

Trustee Siciliano stated that although the winter has been mild so far, he urged residents to clear snow from fire hydrants and to check on elderly neighbors.

Lastly, he thanked those residents who contributed food and cleaning supplies to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner informed those present that the Village will be re-bidding the sanitation contract. It will be the option of the Village to either stay with DeJana Industries under their previous bid, or select a new contractor from the bids to be received. He stated that he wanted the contractor to emphasize the Village's recycling program more aggressively. Residents take the time to adhere to the recycling regulations, but the contractors do not to the same.

With regard to the property at 8 Sumter Avenue, the engineering plans have been received to either demolish or refurbish the buildings on the property. This can now be put out for bid and once the prices are received, the Village will know how best to proceed in this matter.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in December 2012: 10 Ridge Road, installation of a natural gas generator. 209 Howard Street, installation of a natural gas generator. 11 Hewlett Drive, interior renovations. 179 Concord Street, finishing of the basement.

Nassau County Police Department (Third Precinct) report for December 2012: No reports of burglaries or robberies. One parking violation and no moving violations issued. Three auto accidents reported with no auto injuries.

No report of grants for December 2012.

Mayor Tanner opened the meeting to the residents.

Carla Strauss expressed dismay that it took so long to receive the plans from the engineer to demolish or renovate the house at 8 Sumter Avenue. Mayor Tanner reiterated that now that the plans have been received, the Village can evaluate the options. The Village needs to see how the bid prices compare. The Village also needs to proceed with the proper legal procedure in this regard.

John Ferro asked if criteria have been set to knock down or renovate the house at 8 Sumter Avenue. He also wanted to know if the Village had determined future maintenance costs, should renovation be a viable option. Mayor Tanner stated that the Village cannot make a proper determination at this time without first having reviewed bids (which have not yet been received).

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village utilized the services of a structural engineer who entered the property to determine the stability of the structure. This is the basis for which the bid specifications are created.

Trustee Vella stated that the Village needs to properly evaluate the options of both demolition and renovation.

Mayor Tanner asked the Clerk when she thought the bid notice will be placed in the Mineola American. Mrs. Hausner replied that the notice will be placed in the newspaper on Wednesday, January 30th.

Alan Reff asked the Board if it would consider waiving permit fees for residents to install generators. He noted that other Villages have waived the building permit and plumbing fees for such installations.

Mr. Reff also questioned the resident contact information card he received from the Village. He stated that there was a line in the mailing about releasing information to a contractor or third party. He was not comfortable sending the card back to the Village, as he did not want this information made available to contractors. Trustee Parente stated that the intent of the wording was to enable the Village to contact a resident in the event of an emergency and they are not at home. Trustee Parente cited an example such as a tree on one property, falls onto another property. The Village or its contractor handling tree removal needs to gain access to the property.

Trustee Vella stated that the Village wants to be able to communicate with residents in emergencies. Contact information is vital to this process. The events that occurred during Hurricane Sandy (fallen trees, long term power outages) could not have been anticipated beforehand.

Trustee Siciliano added that officials from several Villages expressed dismay with LIPA about its own communication problems.

Trustee Parente stated (going back to the question of waiving of building permit fees for the installation of a generator) that the Board needs to review the Village Code to see if it can waive the fees. Currently, this is not permissible.

Al Testani asked if the Board had any more information relative to modifying the tree removal permitting process. Mayor Tanner stated that the Village is looking into programs at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Suburban Forestry Division to help in evaluations of trees. Information

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on this program have not yet been received, but will be reviewed as soon as it becomes available.

Susan Quinn asked about the status of the proposed Village-wide yard sale. Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Local Law is being finalized.

Michael Kelapire asked about the status of the lawsuit against Williston Park, and if the Village was exploring other alternative water sources.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village is considering every option concerning the issue of water. He noted that Williston Park imposed a second increase for the price of water to East Williston from \$3.83 to \$4.33. East Williston has not passed this increase on to residents.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.