

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 7:30 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 Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie Hausner, Village Treasurer Michael Delury, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonnie Kreisman.

Also present: Michelle Tanner, Beautification Committee, Susan Quinn, Library Supervisor, Judy Buonocore, Village Historian, John McWhirk, Losap program.

The Board met to discuss preliminary budget requirements for various committees. Historian Judy Buonocore. The Historic Committee will once again procure the services of John Kruk to present a holiday story reading at a cost of \$450.00. There is also a cost for the use of the Community Church. Participants are charged \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children. She also felt that members of the East Williston Historic Committee should join the Nassau Historical Society. After discussion, the Mayor suggested a raise in the budget line to \$1,650.00.

Library Supervisor Susan Quinn felt that the Library budget should remain the same; however she has not yet met with the Library Board. She did note that the line item for Library Communications may be increased at the Nassau Library Association will be increasing the fees for the Verizon T-1 line to be hooked into their system. She added that the Library is ahead on fees collected and State aid.

Mayor Tanner stated that the appropriated fund balance should be stated in the revenue.

Michael Delury stated that last year there was a \$7,000 surplus after appropriations.

Michelle Tanner addressed the Beautification Committee. She stated that holiday decorations had been purchased this year.

In the spring, it is proposed to replace and add additional plantings in various flower beds.

For Memorial Day, it is proposed to obtain larger American flags but to place them at entries to the Village, the Village green and train station, but not along East Williston Avenue, as was done last year.

The Beautification Committee also proposed plantings at the Wheatley Acres sign at Titus Way and the planter at Richard Camp Field.

Estimated costs: flags \$100. Tulip bulbs \$50. Planters and vines (price not yet obtained). The Beautification Committee line will be \$2,500.

The Mayor thanked the Library Supervisor and Committee representatives for attending the meeting.

Mayor Tanner asked what the auditors' opinion was regarding Fire Department fund raising. Mr. Delury stated that the Village auditors stated that the Village should not be involved with fire department fund raising. (As this relates to the 125th Anniversary Celebration).

Mayor Tanner stated that \$5,000 should be added to the budget line item for "celebrations" increasing it to \$12,000.

Trustee Siciliano stated that he needed to speak to Michael Braitto and ask him to email the Department's needs for the anniversary activities.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board should schedule the first budget meeting for February 5th. While the public can attend these meetings, there will be a special meeting for public participation on March 5th.

Items for budgetary consideration discussed were upkeep of the Village Hall, kick plates for doors, etc. Also, the doors to the Village Hall stick and need new panic bars installed. One price quoted was \$3,000.00.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the bay doors to the Public Works garage need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$12,000.

John McWhirk was present at the meeting to discuss the service award program (LOSAP). He stated that in the coming year, five more department members will be receiving payments. The principal of the fund is being drawn down, but the fund is not "fully funded". The current spending level is \$9,000 a year, but is only funding 64% (of the actuarial standard).

Trustee Parente stated that there were color coded levels of funding (green, yellow and red), green being the highest percentage of funding.

Mayor Tanner stated that the fund has been "under funded" since its inception many years ago based on an actuarial standard forcing the Village to make assumptions which increase

costs where they may not occur, such as listing all young members as remaining in the Fire Department for 40 years.

Mr. McWhirk stated that the fund had previously funded at the end of the fiscal year, rather than the beginning. He added that the funds actuary advised that a minimum contribution of \$79,000 and a maximum of \$108,000 be placed in the LOSAP fund. The contribution right now is \$64,000. He stated that interest rates in 1992 when the fund started were 7%.

Mr. McWhirk advised that Hometown Insurance can administer the fund with a 1% take on the fund and \$20 per member (a cost of approximately \$10,000).

Mr. McWhirk added that a change to the program will require a public referendum. The members of the Department are happy with the age of 65 to collect.

Trustee Parente asked for a list (a number) of those who have reached entitlement age to collect from the fund.

Trustee Parente felt very strongly that the Village should follow the precedent set in Mineola and remove the age limits on earning points for LOSAP. She also stated that she is of the opinion that while we may choose to put the issue to public referendum, it was her opinion that it is not required, unless other options are made available to the public, like eliminating the program entirely. She added that she felt the Village is not required to give the public that choice since the public, by referendum, already decided to adopt the LOSAP program. Making a change to the program now, to make it compliant with the EEOC precedent set in other villages, will be costly but will not require a referendum.

Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff stated that it was his opinion that the Village would need to hold a public referendum to eliminate the age limit in the LOSAP program to attain points by members of the East Williston Fire Department.

Mayor Tanner stated that the actuary has included all young members staying in the Fire Department for a full term to be considered eligible for LOSAP. Mr. McWhirk stated that was why the Department purchased life insurance for each of the members, with proceeds going to a trust fund, then a beneficiary (the trust fund is the beneficiary).

Mr. McWhirk stated that the Department used to purchase whole life policies, but the younger members are on term life policies. They must remain members for six years.

Jeffrey Blinkoff stated that the police did not aid the Village in gaining access to 8 Sumter Avenue, even though the Village possessed a court order. He has gone back to court and the judge granted the Village an order to enter the premises by February 3, 2014, but must

bring in an engineer to give a current report on the premises and take photographs. The clerk will call Dean Koutsoubis who performed the earlier report.

Mayor Tanner asked that the clerk call Officer Kevin Sikorski telling him that he must be involved in this process going further.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village purchased a new plow for the public works pickup truck, as the original plow has broken down.

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that she received a complaint from a resident on Bengeyfield Drive about the recent plowing.

Ms. Kreisman stated that a few people were parked in the Village parking lot overnight and public works could not plow the lot effectively.

Mayor Tanner asked if Robert Campagna called Leonard Ritz about the porto-san on the property under construction on Orchard Drive. Ms. Kreisman said he did speak with Leonard Ritz and the porto-san is being moved.

The Board discussed the issue of the water meter at the Perna residence, 210 Howard Street. Mr. Perna called Badger meter about the test of his water meter. It is a "Hersey" meter, and it was bought from the Pollard Company. Pollard does not test meters, they only sell them. That is why the meter was sent to Badger. The Board asked that a letter be written to the Perna's stating the meter was tested properly, it is working properly and that due to the results, money is owed to the Village for usage.

Mr. Duffy who resides at 4 Prospect Street complained about people using the Village Hall who park blocking his driveway. He called the police on Saturday, January 25th to ticket the cars. Mr. Duffy wanted to speak to a member of the Board about restricting parking in front of his home.

William Matt wrote a letter to the Mayor and Board of Trustees forwarding photos from the aftermath of the block party on School Street held last September.

Mayor Tanner felt that someone who works for the Village, perhaps a member of the public works staff be available the day of a block party to monitor the operation and ensure the participants clean up after themselves. The cost of which can be included in the fee for the block party application.

RESOLUTION #2-2014 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL OF SKINNON AND FABER CPAs TO PROVIDE AUDITING SERVICES TO THE VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 5/31/14.

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 proposal of Skinnon and Faber CPA's to provide auditing services to the Village of East Williston for the fiscal year ended 5/31/14 at a cost of \$12,000.00.

Mayor Tanner asked if the fund balance looked to be positive toward the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Delury stated that there is a positive fund balance.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Library received a letter from the East Williston School District about holding seminars about vocational information. They are asking for various insurances and cross indemnification. It did not seem like this was the type of program to be undertaken at the Library since it is not a Village sanctioned activity.

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the Village can apply for a part time civil service position for someone to be on call to clear out snow from around the Village Hall. Mr. Blinkoff had looked into this issue. The clerk has to apply for the position on line, as with any other civil service transaction.

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 moved to adjourn into executive session at 9:14pm to discuss possible litigation.

The Board re-convened at 9:21pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Trustee Parente asked that the clerk place an item under her agenda list regarding the mutual aid to the Albertson Fire Department.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm.