

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, October 16, 2017 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 James L. Iannone, Anthony Casella, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: Emily Willis, James Clark, James J. Daw, Jr., Walter Rivera, Rita Botensten, Philip and Maureen Chappo, Carla Strauss, Stephan Leccese, Michael Guglielmo, Joseph Scavera, Melissa DeGregoris.

Also present: Police Officer Baorano and Police Officer Grassick.

RESOLUTION #2017-33 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE 2017 NASSAU COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE PAYROLL CERTIFICATION.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, Seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board authorized the Mayor to sign the 2017 Nassau County Civil Service payroll certification..

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Casella , and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 11, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano , and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of September 25, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the abstract of claims September 2017 as follows: 20170205 - 20170256.

First Assistant Chief James Clark presented the report for the East Williston Fire Department for September 2017. The department responded to a total of 64 calls during the month: six general alarms, 14 EMS calls, and 49 mutual aid calls to neighboring departments.

He noted that one call was to the North Side School.

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Chief Clark reminded everyone to change the batteries in their smoke and CO2 detectors.

The East Williston Fire Department will be holding a “no burn” drill at 33 High Street on Thursday, October 19th.

Philip Chappo questions the numerous times the fire siren has gone off in the past few weeks.

Chief Clark stated that the siren is the first means of notification that there is a fire call. Many times firefighters may be outside their home, not carrying their pagers (perhaps doing yard work). The siren alerts them to go immediately to the firehouse to respond to a call.

Chief Clark further noted that the department responded to an unusually large number of calls during September, as noted in his monthly report.

James Daw stated that about 12 year ago, East Williston aided the Mineola Fire Department about 40-50 times in one month when they were experiencing high call volume.

Mrs. Botensten asked if the sound of the siren had changed. Chief Clark stated that the tone of the siren has remained the same.

Mrs. Botensten was pleased with the impassioned plea given by Fire Commissioner Paul Walters about youths playing “chicken” with the fire trucks. The children and their parents need to know how dangerous their behavior is to everyone involved.

P.O. Baorano and Police Officer Grasick were in attendance to address a recent event in the Village.

One issue was a burglary on Concord Street where the back door of the home was drilled and entry gained. The second incident took place just outside the Village near Roselle Street where an older couple approached a youth getting off of a school bus.

Detective Winch is handling the Concord Street break-in.

P.O. Grassick stated that crime is low in the area, but noted that crimes take place everywhere. Post cars patrol the area on a regular basis.

The Board questioned the issuance of appearance tickets to Village court for youths who congregate at the train station pavilion after dusk, which is prohibited by the Village Code.. P.O. Grassick stated that appearance tickets cannot be issued to youths under the age of 16. What they do is call the parents. He noted that most parents are receptive and “read the riot act” to their child.

Philip Chappo asked if the police knew where the youths were coming from.

P.O. Grassick stated that they are from all over the area, not just East Williston.

Trustee Parente stated that the goal was not to arrest the youths, but to ensure that the children were in a safe place. She added that the parents need to be made aware of where their children are.

A resident in the audience questioned whether the police monitor school bus dismissal. P.O. Grassick stated that at this time, the Nassau County police do not monitor school bus dismissal.

Another resident in the audience stated that youths will not congregate in areas that are well lit. He felt that fliers should alerting residents to the problem of youths congregating and maybe the parents will speak with their children.

P.O. Baorano reminded resident if they see something – say something. Call 911 to report suspicious activity.

Trustee Iannone agreed that people should call 911 in real time when an incident occurs, rather than posting on Facebook and then calling the police.

Officer Baorano reiterated that call the police should be the top priority. After that, an active Facebook community watch group can also help.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village was awaiting the start-up of the police department’s NextDoor.com

Melissa DeGregoris stated that she witnessed a black suburban, with four to five men inside and parks in front of houses in the area of Congress Avenue and Columbus Avenue. They drive around the block going slow and park again. It happens often.

P.O. Grassick said to call and alert the police. Let the police make the determination if there is criminal activity going on.

Ms. DeGregoris brought up the recent incident where a child was approached by a couple in a white car with tinted windows. She expressed that she did not feel safe with these incidents occurring.

P.O. Baorano again said to call 911 when something does not look right. He added that there has not been a dramatic uptick in crime, but social media has made things look worse than they actually are.

Stephan Leccese asked if the police could provide crime statistics at an upcoming meeting.

Mayor Tanner and the Board thanked the officers for their presence at the Board meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente reported that the East Williston Senior Group will meet on October 19th and will host a representative from PSEG to discuss energy and cost saving measures. Also, Chari Biton from Project Independence will give a brief talk on services for seniors. The program will start at 1pm.

On Thursday, November 16th, Town of North Hempstead Howard Kroplick will give a talk on Long Island history. Pumpkin and apple pies will be served.

Trustee Parente noted last week when driving past the Village Hall, she saw someone placing plants and decorations in front of the building. It was none other than Michelle Tanner taking time to beautify East Williston. Trustee Parente wanted to take the time to thank Mrs. Tanner for her service.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano stated that the sidewalk work on East Williston in the Historic District is almost completed. New lighting will be placed in the area starting this week.

Leaf bags are now available for pick up at the Village office.

The Village has looked in installing LED lighting throughout the Village. Further information will be provided at some point in the future.

Trustee Siciliano reiterated the sentiments of the police officers earlier, if you see something, say something and call 911. To help in this matter, if your neighbors are

away, take in any newspapers left out in front of homes, take garbage pails to the back yard and be aware of any suspicious activity.

TRUSTEE JAMES IANNONE

Trustee Iannone said that the East Williston Fire Department experienced an unusually high number of calls in the month of September. Sometimes, these events are cyclical and happen sporadically.

Trustee Iannone reminded residents to change the batteries in smoke detectors and CO2 alarms, as we approach daylight savings time on November 5th.

Lastly, he encourages residents to consider joining the East Williston Fire Department. New members are always welcome.

TRUSTEE ANTHONY CASELLA

Trustee Casella presented the Justice Court report for September 2017. There were 11 parking violations, no moving violations and no Village ordinance violations totaling \$1,600.00 in total fines collected, and \$118 in New York State surcharges.

The Recreation Committee report advises that yoga classes continue on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11am and gentle yoga classes take place on Wednesdays from 5:45 – 7:15pm. Come Play with Me takes place on Wednesdays at 10:45am. Movie night will be held on October 27th featuring the movie “Trolls”. The Ragamuffin Parade will be held on Saturday, October 28th at 2pm. Fall art classes will take place in November and December on Saturdays at the Little Art Studio at 470 Sagamore Avenue. Fliers for all activities can be obtained in the lobby.

Library Director Emily Willis thanked the Friends of the Library for their help in the annual book sale. The Library will be hosting two new classes: Learning Italian, and knitting for beginners. The Friends of the Library display case has a collection of tea pots and accessories from Ireland.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner advised that the East Williston Veterans’ Day observance will take place on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at approximately 11:15am on the Village Green. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the firehouse.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in September 2017: 383 Feather Lane, replacement of a retaining wall. 57 Robbins Drive, installation of a new driveway. 16

Fairview Avenue, installation of a central air conditioning unit. 17 Lee Avenue, legalize and maintain a rear deck. 455 Sagamore Avenue, legalize and maintain a boiler room and installation of a central air conditioning unit.

The Nassau County Police Department report for September 2017 reported an attempted robbery on Sagamore Avenue. No parking and no moving violations were issued. There were four auto accidents and one auto related injury during the month.

The Mayor opened the meeting to the residents.

A resident asked about the proposed installation of LED lighting mentioned by Trustee Siciliano earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board was reviewing a proposal to replace lights, or fill in lights where they may be needed. The project is in the early stages, as the Village goes through the agreement with the company and discussing design and mapping of existing lights. He said the Village will keep residents informed as the project progresses.

James Daw asked about type (brightness) of the lighting the Village was contemplating.

Mayor Tanner stated that while the company will be mapping all of the lights, brighter lights will be placed on main roads (Roslyn Road and East Williston Avenue, and Sagamore Avenue in the business district). Lower lights will be placed on Village streets.

Mrs. DeGregoris asked if the Village can have security near North Side School. The Board stated that this is a question for the East Williston School District, as they would be the jurisdiction to address security at the school.

Philip Chappo stated that he attended the recent school board meeting where the issue of the fence at North Side School was addressed. He was waiting for the school district to articulate what its needs are and what plans will meet those needs. He thanked Trustee Siciliano for attending the meeting. He thanked the Village for alerting residents of the school board meeting via email blast.

Mrs. Botensten attended the meeting and was left asking what the problem is (at the North Side School) with no clear evidence of what the purpose was to install a fence.

Mr. Daw stated that ramping up fear of a problem can become a self-fulfilling prophecy. It appears absurd that something is going to create a problem that does not exist.

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Michael Guglielmo did not want people to think the school board is advocating for the installation of a fence. What they wanted was feedback from residents.

Mayor Tanner reminded those present that this is strictly a school board decision, and not a Village board decision. He added that he did not like the idea of a fence being installed.

Mr. Chappo added that the school board put forth things they were considering.

Stephan Leccese stated that he had presented seven alternative specific proposals for the North Side School. He thanked the East Williston Board of Trustees for raising visibility about the school board meeting with its email blast.

Mr. Leccese stated that he has reviewed the Village's tax assessment and formulated a perspective of observations, since the time the Village broke away from using the Nassau County assessment roll.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village adopted its own roll, as opposed to using the Nassau County roll, as information contained in the County roll was approximately a year behind in current assessments.

Mr. Blinkoff added that when the Village used the County roll, it was guided by the roll, but not bound to it.

Mr. Leccese asked if the Village looked at the benefit to using the County roll and did the Village determine that spending for the services of an assessor is beneficial to the process?

Mayor Tanner stated that no one on the Board of Trustees has the skill to perform the work on an assessor. The move away from the County roll was a timing issue for current assessment information.

Mr. Daw (who is a former Village trustee) stated that it is not a dollars and cents issue. Residents did not have faith in the veracity of the information contained in the County roll. It was more of a matter of controlling the Village's own destiny.

Mayor Tanner stated that there is a state mandated mechanism to grieve one's assessment. The Village advises residents of the grievance period and people take advantage of the process as they see fit.

Mr. Leccese stated that the market value of homes in the Village is not correct, causing an unequal tax burden. He noted that in the last two years, only 6% of the homes in the Village were reassessed.

He also stated that homes sold have an incorrect value, some 15% below market value.

Trustee Parente pointed out that the assessed value and the market value are two different variables.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that certain instances trigger a reassessment, such as procuring a building permit for work on a home, or the sale of a house. The assessor does not randomly choose homes to reassess.

Mr. Leccese asked what grievances were received and payouts made when the Village used the County roll. He further asked that the Village determine to terminate the services of the assessor and again use the Nassau County assessment roll.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Mayor Tanner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.