

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, November 19, 2012 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, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonnie Kreisman.

Village Clerk Marie Hausner was excused from the meeting.

Also present: Patrick Theodore, Susan Quinn, Sari Infield, Peter Infield, Mary Distler, William Banks, James Sandquist, Michael Braitto, Virginia Geager, Thomas Mohrman, Ray Gaudio, Michael Kelapire, Dorothy Ames, Joan Linden, Thomas Mohrman, Carla Strauss, John Turkel

On the motion of Trustee Vella. seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", and Trustee Vella recusing himself, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 15, 2012.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for October 2012. Voucher numbers 20120219-20120233 dated October 3, 2012. Voucher number 20120234 October 10, 2012. Voucher numbers 201235-20120248 October 17, 2012. Voucher numbers 20120249-20120263 October 18, 2012. Voucher numbers 20120264-20120272 October 23, 2012.

Mayor Tanner stated in a "storm update" that he expressed thanks to the Department of Public Works staff, the members of the East Williston Fire Department, the Village office staff, Susan Quinn for keeping the Library open after power was restored, Trustee Siciliano for his hands on work during and after the storm, Deputy Mayor Parente for participating in FEMA meetings and handling the filing of paperwork, and Trustee DeBenedittis for supplying hot soup, coffee and cookies for those at the Village Hall for those residents who did not have power at their homes.

He further stated that the Village lost approximately 50 trees and over 100 damaged during the ensuing nor'easter.

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LIPA took four to five days to come to the Village to start restoration. It was felt that their performance was unacceptable. The Mayor visited a LIPA substation to ensure LIPA knew where the damaged areas were located. Crews from out of state will be assisting the New York State Department of Transportation which will be coming to the Village within two weeks to aid in debris clean up. This work was arranged by Governor Cuomo.

The Mayor stated that going forward, a panel will be installed to connect the generator that supplies power in an emergency to the Firehouse, to allow power to the Village Hall for emergency use as well. The Village will collect contact information from residents to keep them informed of changing information during an emergency. The Village will work with the Town of North Hempstead to have a reverse 311 "robo-call" to residents with information.

#### **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

##### **DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE.**

Trustee Parente reported that the Fire Department responded to a total of 66 calls in October 2012; 58 were fire calls, five EMS calls and three mutual aid calls. The high number of calls was due to the hurricane. The Fire Department also sent a fire truck to Long Beach to aid in emergency recovery in that area so badly damaged in the storm. The Department continues to send a truck in rotating shifts to Long Beach.

Trustee Parente thanked the Fire Department for all of their efforts during and after the storm.

##### **TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS**

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the Senior Committee will be holding a pasta party on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

The Historic Committee will be holding a reading of "A Christmas Carol" on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of East Williston.

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that as of this time, only 500 residents are signed up for email alerts from the Village. She encouraged residents to sign up to get the alerts, so they can stay informed in emergencies and events going on in the Village. She stated that the Village will be sending out postcards so residents can provide contact information to the Village.

##### **TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.**

Trustee Vella presented the Justice Court report for the month of October 2012. The court collected a total of \$1,550.00 in fines for parking and moving violations.

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Trustee Vella stated that the Library will be closed on November 22 and 23, 2012 in observance of Thanksgiving. Toddler story time continues to take place on Fridays at 11:30 am, and Pre-school story time continues on Thursdays at 11am. The Book Club will hold its next meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus will be at the Library on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm to offer various screenings to residents. The Library continues to collect gently used shoes for the "Shoes for All" project.

#### **TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO**

Trustee Siciliano thanked Public Works Superintendent James Bailey for his tireless efforts during and after the hurricane. By the day after the storm on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, all roads were cleared of trees with the assistance of the East Williston Fire Department. He stated that East Williston works together during difficult times.

He further stated that the Village had contacted both the Town of North Hempstead and the New York State Department of Transportation for help with debris removal. Unfortunately, the Town was extremely busy with its own clean up in the unincorporated areas. The State however will be coming within two weeks to aid in debris removal. James Bailey took the State representative around the Village to view what needed to be done. The State will bill FEMA directly for the costs involved, so the Village will not incur any costs.

Prior to the storm, various "problem" drains were cleaned out to allow for proper drainage.

The Village has placed collection boxes in the Village Hall lobby for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Residents may drop off non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, work gloves and toiletries.

#### **MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER**

Mayor Tanner stated that the Annual Tree Lighting on the Village Green will take place on December 4, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

#### **SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BONNIE KREISMAN**

The following building permits were issued in October 2012: 30 Ridge Road, reconstruction of driveway. 175 Bengeyfield Drive, legalization of deck. 200 Bengeyfield Drive installation of central air conditioning unit. 22 Hewlett Drive, major renovations to house. 26 Orchard Drive, installation of drywell. 54 Downing Street, removal of in-ground swimming pool.

Nassau County Police Department (Third Precinct) report for August 2012: One report of burglary at 207 Bengeyfield Drive. Five parking violations and no moving violations issued. Six auto accidents with no auto injuries reported.

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

Nassau County Police Department (Third Precinct) report for October 2012: No reports of burglaries. One parking violation and one moving violation issued. Six auto accidents with two auto injuries reported.

No report of grants for October 2012.

East Williston Fire Department Chief Patrick Theodore stated that availability of gasoline for fire trucks was an issue after the storm. He thanked North Hempstead Supervisor John Kaiman for aiding fire departments and villages in obtaining fuel in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He stated that all communities were working together to get back on track.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

William Banks of Meritoria Drive asked if there were any guidelines for how to handle debris. Trustee Siciliano stated that the regular sanitation pick-up guidelines apply (as per the contract with DeJana Industries). A copy of the guidelines can be obtained at the Village office. He further stated that when the New York State Department of Transportation comes to the Village to remove debris, they will only be picking up debris left at curbside.

Mary Distler of Concord Street brought up storm related issues of communication, disaster recovery plan, use of a "swift-reach" system like the Town of North Hempstead, possible partnering with Williston Park and Mineola for clean-up, instituting a system of block captains during emergencies, a Village supplied chipper to get rid of branches, the supplying of generators to churches and schools. She also noted that the street light at High and Concord Streets is out.

Mayor Tanner stated that cautions have to be taken to determine what residents can do independently vs. what the Village can do in an emergency. He stated that LIPA does not take direction from the Villages. The Village does not have individual representatives at the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, however, they do through Nassau County Village Officials Association (NCVOA). Mayor Tanner is on the executive board of the NCVOA.

Joan Linden of Concord Street stated that not everyone has a computer, so sending out a mass email to residents may not be the best way to communicate.

Trustee DeBenedittis felt that perhaps having block captains or quadrant captains would be a good way to communicate with residents during an emergency.

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Trustee Vella stated that East Williston is a small village. Communication is key.

A resident suggested getting a sound truck and go throughout the Village with announcements.

James Sandquist of Bengeyfield Drive thanked Trustee DeBenedittis for bringing hot soup when visiting the condominium. He also asked if the Village was looking to get reimbursed from FEMA.

Trustee Parente explained that the Village filed the claim, answering the declaration of disaster issued by FEMA. Reimbursement takes place where reimbursement is distributed as 75% by FEMA and 25% from the State.

Thomas Mohrman stated that LIPA should come to check utility poles, trim trees and replace spliced wires. A full evaluation is necessary.

Ray Gaudio stated that LIPA has easements for those properties with wires in the rear yard, so they can gain access at any time.

Michael Kelapire stated that if the Village provided a chipper, he would volunteer to run the equipment. He mentioned the use of sandbags on the drain in front of his house.

Carla Strauss stated that the Village Hall needs to be open in an emergency, even without electricity.

Trustee Parente stated that the Village's insurer does not allow the Village Hall to be open without electricity. It becomes a liability issue.

Residents questioned when the New York State Department of Transportation will be coming to remove the curbside debris? Trustee Vella stated that the State should be here within two weeks. The debris must already be placed at the curb. The service they are providing is not ongoing, as they must move on to other areas. Once the State makes its sweep through the Village, they will not return.

A resident questioned why the Village is not cutting up and chipping the trees, helping residents like other villages. Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village does not have its own sanitation department, it contracts sanitation service out. The Village Public Works Department employs only three employees, unlike other Villages. Trustee Vella added that the Village has limited resources, as adding more employees is costly.

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Resident John Turkel thanked Jim Bailey and Chris for helping clear the area near his home.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.