

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, December 10, 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, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: Patrick Theodore, Michael Guglielmo, Al and Sarah Testani, Connie Leonick, Carla Strauss, Mrs. Copperstone, James Sandquist, Barbara Seixas, Richard Tedesco.

The meeting commenced with a public hearing to consider a Local Law amending the Village Code to provide for an amendment to Chapter A162 "Schedule of Fees". A verbatim transcript of the public hearing is on file in the office of the Village Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2012 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER A162 "SCHEDULE OF FEES".

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the changes to the following Village fees:

Plumbing permit per fixture fee from \$5.00 to \$15.00.

Village parking lot residential fee from \$35.00 to \$75.00 per vehicle (as of 2/1/13).

Village parking lot residential fee as of 2/1/14 \$90.00 per vehicle/per year.

Village parking lot commercial tenants fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per vehicle (as of 2/1/13).

On the motion of Trustee Parente, 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 November 19, 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", and the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of November 26, 2012.

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On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting “aye”, the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for November 2012 as follows: 11/6/12 20120273-20120286. 11/13/12 20120287-20120294. 11/26/2012 20120295-2012305. 11/27/2012 20120306-20120312. 11/29/2012 20120313-20120315. 11/30/2012 20120316-20120322.

EAST WILLISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Patrick Theodore reported that the East Williston Fire Department responded to a total of 37 fire calls during the Month of November 2012: 31 fire calls, four EMS calls and two mutual aid calls.

Chief Theodore thanked the members of the Department for helping the Long Beach Fire Department after Hurricane Sandy, as their department was decimated.

The Chief also stated that with the winter months approaching, he asked residents to clear fire hydrants if they are located near their homes and possibly assist elderly neighbors in this respect. He again reminded resident to ensure their house numbers are visible from the street to aid in a swift response during an emergency. Clearly visible house numbers can save lives.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente thanked the members of the East Williston Fire Department for their help in making the annual tree lighting a success. There was a large turnout of residents that night along with participation by the Boy and Girl Scouts. The annual event is a great start to the holiday season.

Trustee Parente reminded residents that the Fire Department will once again hold “Operation Santa”. Residents should sign up at the Firehouse on Thursday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:30pm, and bring an unwrapped gift to the Firehouse for distribution to Winthrop Hospital Children’s Cancer Ward, St. Christopher Othillie Home and the Mary Brennan Inn.

Trustee Parente reported that she attended FEMA meetings to obtain information on reimbursement for damage left in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. The Fire Department is putting together a list of their volunteer hours during the storm to be submitted for reimbursement from FEMA.

TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the Historic Committee’s presentation of “A Christmas Carol” by Jon Kruk was attended by 150 people at the Community Church. She thanked outgoing Historian Tom Mohrman, the Community Church and the Committee members for helping to make the event a success.

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The Senior Committee will hold a pasta party on December 20th at noon.

Seniors are also urged to participate in radio station WCWP 88 am, on Friday's from 10am to noon. Seniors can volunteer as a co-host for topics such as senior health updates.

The Recreation Committee will be sending out an email blast shortly on Boot Camp, Mommy & Me, and Yoga, as well as Movie Nights.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella presented the Justice Court report for the month of November 2012. The court collected a total of \$1,560.00 in fines for parking and moving violations.

Toddler story time continues to take place on Fridays at 11:30 am, and Pre-school story time continues on Thursday's at 11:30 am. The Book Club will hold its next meeting on December 11th discussing the book The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. The St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus will be at the Library on December 20th from 10am to 2pm to offer various screenings to residents. The Shoes for All project continues its collection in the Library.

Trustee Vella wished everyone a safe and wonderful holiday.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano congratulated Robert Vella's son on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Trustee Siciliano reported that the Village continues to grind and remove stumps left from Hurricane Sandy and determine the list of repairs for sidewalks damaged due to the downed trees. He had personally taken inventory of lights that were damaged (also outages) during the storm. The list was provided to Anker's Electric for repair.

The electrician is almost finished with the panel to connect the emergency generator to the Fire Department phone system in the basement so communication during storms will continue.

Trustee Siciliano wished everyone Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner thanked Monsignor McDonald from St. Aiden's Church, and the Boy and Girl Scouts for their participation in the annual tree lighting. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying a great time. He also thanked the Board members for their participation.

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Mayor Tanner stated that the Nassau County Village Officials Association wants to become a more effective voice between all 64 Nassau County villages and LIPA to better effectuate communications during both storms and everyday affairs. Mayor Tanner is a member of the NCVOA executive committee and is working to cull suggestions to better represent East Williston in this endeavor.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in November 2012: 50 School Street, conversion of a garage into habitable space and construct a new two car garage. 14 Donald Street, construction of a new front portico. 14 Post Avenue, major renovations to home. 17 Sumter Avenue, installation of a burglar alarm. 377 Charles Street, repairs to roof damage.

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

No report of grants for November 2012.

Mayor Tanner opened the meeting to the residents.

Michael Guglielmo asked what costs have been incurred from Hurricane Sandy. Mayor Tanner explained that the costs are still being gathered as invoices are still coming in. He stated that the budget notes in anticipation of reimbursement if items are over-budget due to extreme circumstances (for example costs incurred and accounted for in tree trimming).

Carla Strauss stated that street lights are still out along East Williston Avenue east of Roslyn Road. Trustee Siciliano stated that the outages have been reported to Anker's Electric for repair.

Carla Strauss questioned the status of the property at 8 Sumter Avenue. She said that raccoons and rats are coming from that property onto other properties in the immediate area. The property continues to have debris and overgrown brush and trees all over the location. She questioned why the engineer was taking so long to go forward with a proposal to demolish or remediate the location. The Board said that the engineer was delayed due to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and that the proposal should be received by mid-December.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2012 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO PROCURE THE SERVICES OF A TRAPPER TO CATCH VERMIN AND RACCOONS ON ADJOINING PROPERTIES OF 8 SUMTER AVENUE, EAST WILLISTON.

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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 authorized to procure the services of a professional trapper to capture vermin and raccoons on adjoining properties of 8 Sumter Avenue, East Williston.

Al Testani of Meritoria Drive addressed the Board relative to the Village's regulations on the removal of trees on private property. He stated that while being quite environmentally conscious, his home is surrounded by several huge trees, none of which are diseased or rotted. However, he further stated that many of the trees that were felled by Hurricane Sandy were quite sound, and had come down regardless of their obvious health. He felt that at this time, the Village should reassess the tree policy on what trees can be taken down and find some middle ground. He expressed concern about the safety of his family and home during storms and the possible threat the trees have on this safety. Many of the trees are close enough to hit his home. He felt residents should have more ability to have a say in what trees can be removed from their properties. If a tree is big enough to hit a house, a resident should be able to remove the tree.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board needed to determine some way to regulate this issue. This is why the Village is now using the services of a professional arborist to review tree removal applications.

Connie Leonick of Atlanta Avenue stated that the Village should consider the psychological distress the presence of large trees in close proximity to homes. The Board should consider allowing residents to remove large trees, and plant smaller trees in their place.

Hope Copperstone informed the Board that her daughter Ashley is in line to receive a grant to create a program for local youth through Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. It will be a six week program involving eight through 12th grade students. She urged the Board to consider granting permission for this worthwhile program. Mayor Tanner asked the Clerk to invite Ashley to the Agenda Meeting on January 9, 2013.

Chief Patrick Theodore strongly urged residents to check the batteries in their carbon monoxide detectors, and not to remove the batteries if the alarm goes off. This is extremely dangerous. Always ensure that the detector is in proper working order.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.