

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, December 12, 2016, 2016 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 Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Esq., Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Excused from meeting: Trustee Christopher Siciliano.

Also present: James Clark, Caroline DeBenedittis, Susan Corsello, Al Testani, Anthony Tufano, Ray Gaudio, Marcia Weiser, Guiliana Atcheson, Barbara Seixas, Walter Rivera, Rita Botensten, Michael Guglielmo, Carla Strauss, Harold Cronk, Stephan Leccese, John Azara, Police Officers Grassick and Rodriguez.

Mayor Tanner stated that he met with the Commissioner of the Nassau County Department of Public Works and Robert Campagna about the stanchions at the entrances to the Village on Roslyn Road and East Williston Avenue. He was advised that the stanchions must be seven feet from pavement.

RESOLUTION #2016-47 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALPINE SOFTWARE INC. FOR REDALERT RECORDS MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE AT A COST OF \$15,097.88, AMOUNT PAID OUT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND ACCOUNT.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", with Trustee Parente not present for said vote, the Board authorized to enter into an agreement with Alpine Software Inc. for RedAlert Records Management Software at a cost of \$15,097.88, amount to paid out of Fire Department fund account.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Iannone, and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of November 14, 2016.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Iannone, and Casella all voting “aye”, the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of November 28, 2016.

Police Officers Grassick and Rodriguez from the Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct to present information regarding recent crime statistics/information. Officer Grassick stated that crime was down 43% from 2015 to 2016. He noted that an arrest was made for the burglary that took place on September 23, 2016. Of the four residential burglaries that took place during the year, three were closed out by two arrests. He noted that neither felony assaults nor reports of stolen autos had taken place. There was one report larceny from an auto.

Mayor Tanner stated that he was hoping to have a report on the recent burglary that took place on Harvard Street. The officers did not have information on this particular occurrence.

The officers offered tips for home owners to make homes less appealing to criminals (lock doors and windows, set alarms, set lights on timers, etc.). Always make your house looked lived in.

A resident present at the meeting stated that her home was burglarized about a year ago, but said she never heard anything back from the police department.

Officer Grassick said he will speak with her after the meeting about the issue. He stated that the Nassau County has a burglary division, so this particular crime may have been forwarded to this division.

Harold Cronk asked why these occurrences take place here in East Williston. The officers said that one explanation is the Village’s close proximity to major highways.

Michael Guglielmo stated that with approximately 850 homes in the Village, four burglaries is less than one percent. While even one occurrence is too many, he was curious to know how East Williston compares to other areas.

Trustee Casella stated that he moved here in 1967. He said he was only aware of four to six burglaries during that time. He further stated that he was very pleased with the work the Nassau County Police have done.

Trustee Parente stated that because of social media, awareness about crime has increased.

Stephan Lecesse stated that the 43% reduced crime statistic cannot be correct.

He further noted that the officers did not have information about the Donald Street and Harvard Street burglaries.

Officer Grassick cited the following statistics for 2015: a total of 14 crimes were committed. In 2016, there were six residential burglaries, one assault, one grand larceny and one car break-in.

Trustee Parente stated that residents have sometimes failed to file a police report when their vehicle has been entered (and items removed) when they failed to lock the car. These unreported crimes do not enter into the statistics.

Walter Rivera felt that the police information should be clarified so as to better understand the statistics. He added that residents should always call 911 when first, when they notice something suspicious, or if a crime has been committed. Then, if they desire they can place something on social media.

Trustee Iannone stated that there is nothing wrong with sharing information on Facebook, but residents have to report occurrences to the police. The police do not monitor Facebook, so information placed on it may not be correct or complete.

Officer Grassick stated that the police department has a crime analyst who compiles data, along with a mapping system, that aids in arrests.

The burglaries that have been closed due to arrests are: Feather Lane, Wheatley Avenue, and 19 High Street. At this time, no arrest has been made in the Donald Street burglary.

Trustee Parente asked the officers what other Villages are doing to combat crime.

Officer Grassick stated that residents should be aware of their surroundings. Also surveillance cameras on homes also help the police in solving crimes.

Trustee Iannone inquired about cameras at entry points to Villages.

Officer Grassick stated that he was not aware of anything like that in place at this time.

Mr. Tufano stated that the Village of East Hills has been working on a plan to install surveillance cameras around their Village.

Mayor Tanner stated that the cost quoted for the East Hills camera installation is approximately \$600,000. He added that the Village of Freeport has an intermunicipal agreement with Nassau County for camera installation, but Freeport also has its own police department.

Trustee Parente agreed that the use of home surveillance cameras aid in helping the police solve crimes.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the abstract of claims for November 2016 as follows: 20160317 - 20160390.

Assistant Chief James Clark presented the report of the East Williston Fire Department. The Department responded to a total of 10 calls during the month of November 2016; five calls, three EMS calls, one motor vehicle accident and one mutual aid to a neighboring fire department.

He added that the Department will once again host Operation Santa and will be collecting gifts and signing up residents for a visit from Santa on Thursday nights leading up to Christmas Eve.

Lastly, he added that residents should check their carbon monoxide alarms to ensure that they are in good working order.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente reported that the East Williston Seniors will be meeting on December 15th at 1pm for a holiday part and musical entertainment. All are welcome to attend.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

In the absence of Trustee Siciliano, the clerk reported the following:

The Village Department of Public Works is awaiting the delivery of its new dump truck with an aluminum bed. The truck will be used for snow plowing, and the aluminum bed will resist rust and corrosion when salt and sand are placed in the back.

Public Works is getting ready for winter weather with the delivery of sand and salt and installing plows on all trucks. Hydrant flags are being installed this week.

Residents are reminded to report street light outages to the Village office.

Trustee Siciliano extended a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to residents.

TRUSTEE JAMES L. IANNONE

Trustee Iannone thanked residents for participating in the annual drumstick dash on November 25th, which benefited the East Williston Fire Department.

He reiterated Chief Clark's announcement about Operation Santa.

Mayor Tanner added that he was proud of the members of the Fire Department who give up their time on Christmas Eve to have Santa visit the homes of residents.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Board approved the purchase of a new monitoring system for the fire department. The program is a significant upgrade from the system previously used, noting that the company supplying the old system has gone out of business.

TRUSTEE ANTHONY J. CASELLA

The Justice Court report for November 2016 showed a total of 10 violations: 10 parking, no moving violations and no Village ordinance violations. Fines collected totaled \$2,164.00 with \$329.00 in New York State surcharges.

"Come Play With Me" pre-school program takes place on Fridays at 10:30am.

Yoga classes continue to take place on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:15am. Gentle yoga takes place on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 7:15pm. It was

noted that Yoga will not take place on December 26th and January 2nd. Fliers for all activities can be found in the Village Hall lobby.

MAYOR DAVID TANNER

Mayor Tanner stated that the date of the next regular Board of Trustees meeting has been changed to Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in November 2016: 4 Ridge Road, replacement of a rear patio. 12 Fairview Avenue, construction of a rear addition to the house. 212 Auburn Street, installation of a central air conditioning system.

The Nassau County Police Department report for November 2016 reported no incidents of burglaries or robberies. No traffic or parking tickets were issued. There were two auto accidents with no auto injuries reported.

Library Director Susan Corsello gave the report for the East Williston Library. The "Day Time Book Club" will meet on December 13th to discuss "The Rent Collector" by Camron Wright. They will meet again on January 10th to discuss "Miller's Valley" by Anna Quindlen. The "Evening Book Club" met last week and discussed the book "The Chaperone", by Laura Moriarty. They will meet next on January 12th to discuss "The Gilded Years", by Karin Tanabe. The Library Friends display cabinet features a charming winter display presented by the East Williston Beautification Committee.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Harold Cronk asked what the Village can do about the constant pooling of water in front of his home on Atlanta Avenue. Mayor Tanner stated that he will relay this information to Trustee Siciliano who is not present this evening.

Ray Gaudio stated that the "police headquarters tax" on the Nassau County tax bill is approximately \$750 to \$850,000 and there is only one car assigned to East Williston, what is the Village actually getting in police protection? How long is the police car physically in the Village? He felt that East Williston residents are paying for the police to be in other parts of the Third Precinct coverage area.

Mayor Tanner confirmed that the Village has one police car assigned to our area. There has been an increased police presence given the Village's communication with the Third Precinct, after incidents that had taken place this year. He added that if an incident occurs, other police cars are re-directed from other areas and sent to the Village.

Trustee Parente stated it would be good to know how long the police are in the Village at any given time.

Michael Guglielmo wanted to know if one police car for 850 homes is a fair amount of coverage.

A resident (not identified) asked if East Williston ever looked into forming its own police department.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village is not entitled to have its own department since the Nassau County Police have a sort of "franchise" on police operations.

He added that when Mineola held a referendum a few years back to implement its own police force, they previously had a police force in the early 1900's that had been disbanded. Because of this, they could (by referendum) reinstate a police force. Since East Williston never had a police department of its own, it is not able to form one now.

Mayor Tanner said the Board looked into a position of "peace officer", but this would not be practical.

Prior Boards looked into joining forces with the Village of Old Westbury, hoping to utilize their police force in our area, but Old Westbury was not interested in the arrangement.

Trustee Parente stated that the issue of police departments is a complicated one.

Trustee Iannone stated that certain types of criminal activity that take place in villages that have their own police forces is still handled by the Nassau County Police Department such as murder and home invasions.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village tried several years ago to start its own auxiliary police force, but no one in the community wanted to undergo the extensive, mandatory training necessary to become a member.

Caroline DeBendittis stated that the Security Committee is exploring whether East Williston can join Williston Park's Auxiliary Police, but does not have any answers on this subject yet.

Mr. Tufano stated that the Village of East Hills will be installing surveillance cameras in their Village, and the size of East Hills is much larger than East Williston.

Mayor Tanner stated that a vendor for this project needed to be found.

Mr. Tufano also stated that East Williston streets are dark at night.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village is looking at lighting, but the solution is not that simple. Some residents are not happy when lighting is increased.

Mayor Tanner stated that the placement of security cameras in Devlin Park will be a pilot program. The Village wanted to ensure the clarity of the picture as well as the area able to be captured by the cameras.

Mr. Gaudio felt that the Village should have a police department, so as not to pay a headquarters tax to Nassau County.

Trustee Parente felt there was no issue with the Nassau County Police that could be improved upon.

Stephan Leccese asked if there was any update on the Security Committee, and if any thought was given to eliminating it as an "ad hoc" committee.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Security Committee will be staying the same at this time.

Mr. Leccese asked if the Security Committee meetings can be placed on the website calendar and if an email blast can be sent out as to when they will take place.

The Board said that the meetings will be placed on the website.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Iannone, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.