

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON**  
**MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015**

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Thursday, December 17, 2015 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 Christopher Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., James L. Iannone, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Bonnie Kreisman, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Excused from Meeting: Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk.

Also present: Members of Williston Park Board of Trustees Mayor Paul Ehrbar, Deputy Mayor Kevin Rynne, Trustees William B. Carr, Teresa Thomann, Michael Uttaro, Village Attorney James Bradley, Superintendent of Public Works Keith Bunnell.

Also present: Doreen Ehrbar, Michael Guglielmo.

Williston Park Mayor Paul Ehrbar requested a meeting with the East Williston Board after the exchange of several letters between the Villages in order to formulate a proposed agreement for the continued sale of water.

Issues discussed were:

1. The water rate of \$4.33
2. Maintaining a rate ration between what East Williston pays and what Williston Park residents pay.
3. A 25 year agreement
4. Services to be offered in the agreement (meter readings/billing/repair of water main breaks/reporting.
5. Exclusivity.
6. Check and maintain street valves.

Williston Park expressed that they did not want a proposed "joint fund" between the Villages.

East Williston expressed concern about Williston Park having a "zero" fund balance in the water fund. Mayor Tanner stated that he has not seen evidence of a surplus.

Mayor Ehrbar stated that information is not correct. He said the Williston Park

Water Fund had a \$150,000 deficit, but now the fund has \$43,000 surplus.

The Boards discussed the issue of a rate lock. Williston Park held the price of water at \$2.99 from 2007-2012. The current rate charged of \$4.33 has been the rate for over three years.

Mayor Ehrbar stated that if the rate of \$4.33 is held in place for another five years that would entail an eight year lock on the rate.

Trustee Parente stated that the five year rate lock would start at the time of the proposed agreement.

The Williston Park Board said it would agree to a two year rate lock.

Trustee Vella stated the East Williston Board was looking for rate stability for its residents, not just a rate ratio between the Villages.

Trustees Parente and Vella stated they were trying to determine if the two year rate lock and some other limit. They also felt that the agreement should contain some sort of "catastrophic clause in the event of an unanticipated major expense.

Trustee Uttaro reiterated that Williston Park did not anticipate an immediate rate hike.

Trustee Thomann stated that the Williston Park Board had to be responsible to its residents. A rate ratio would cover this issue.

Mayor Tanner stated that a fiscal plan is needed for the formulation of an agreement.

Mayor Ehrbar stated that with regard to the pending litigation, less than \$50,000 is owed in penalties to Williston Park. Williston Park would offer a settlement of \$150,000 payable over two years.

Trustee Siciliano stated that \$150,000 could go into a capital reserve fund for use by both Villages as suggested by the creation of the joint fund.

Trustee Iannone stated that he was concerned about the integrity Williston Park's elevated storage tank and infrastructure.

Mayor Ehrbar stated that Williston Park's engineer, Dvirka & Bartilucci keeps the Village apprised of all issues with regard to the infrastructure. Reports from Dvirka & Bartilucci show no known defects needing repairs or replacements.

Trustee Vella stated that the knowledge of capital improvements and the sharing of information is a comfort that the water system is not in disrepair.

Mayor Ehrbar invited the East Williston Board to visit Williston Park and take a tour of the water facilities. He added that the elevated tanks are inspected every six months as ordered by the Nassau County Board of Health.

At this point in the meeting, the issues for consideration were:

- Two or five year rate lock.
- Rate ratio between what Williston Park resident pay and what is charged to East Williston.
- No joint fund, but the creation of a capital fund.
- \$150,000 paid over two years.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Iannone, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 8:30pm.

The Board re-convened at 9:00pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

East Williston offered the following response:

- A two year rate lock, plus a two year rate lock with a maximum of 10% increase.
- Unanticipated capital expense clause.
- \$90,000 penalty payment over two years.

Trustee Iannone stated that East Williston is trying to balance its rates to its residents as well.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Iannone, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 9:03pm.

The Board re-convened at 9:27pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Mayor Ehrbar presented a counter offer of \$120,000 in penalty payment, but with no rate lock.

Williston Park Village Attorney James Bradley stated that a rate lock is fiscally unsound.

Trustee Vella said he wanted to receive a periodic schedule to develop some framework for a rate lock for a specific period, and then perform a review of the rate.

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Mayor Ehrbar reiterated that you cannot guaranty the lock in of a rate because you can't predict the future (of expenses).

Trustee Uttaro stated that a capital plan can be expanded and laid out for all residents.

Trustee Parente asked for input (from Board to Board) prior to a public meeting on any rate hike.

Trustee Thomann stated that communication has been ongoing for five years in different directions.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 9:42pm.

The Board re-convened at 9:47pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Mayor Ehrbar offered the following:

- o Rate lock of two years, commencing tonight.
- o Joint informational meeting prior to any rate increase.
- o \$100,000 over two years into a general account.

Trustee Uttaro added that the rate lock is a little over two years, since it started in August 2012.

Trustee Carr stated that each Village stands the chance of losing.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, stated by Trustee Iannone, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 10:00pm.

The Board re-convened at 10:05pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Mayor Ehrbar offered the following:

- o June 1, 2018 will be the end of the rate lock.
- o \$100,000 paid in penalties up front/ one year.
- o 25 year rate ratio.
- o Current court case will be stayed.
- o Information session prior to any rate increase.

Mayor Ehrbar stated that his Board will review this information at its meeting on January 4, 2016 and hopefully will have something in writing to East Williston by January 12, 2016.

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A joint press release was suggested.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Sicillano, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.