

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, February 13, 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 Christopher A. Siciliano, James Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Esq., Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Walter Rivera presented information relating to quotes for surveillance cameras at Devlin Field. He had the original quotes from Wiremen and the new quotes from A+ Technology. The quotes from A+ Technology provide for better equipment that withstands harsh weather conditions, and have less maintenance issues.

The "Phase I" installation at Devlin Park will have two cameras with 180 degrees of coverage.

He added that if the Board proceeds with this surveillance camera installation, the Village will need to upgrade the computer equipment in the basement of the Village Hall as the current equipment will not be able to capture the additional footage.

Trustee Iannone stated that vandalism is a problem at Devlin Field and he wanted to know if the cameras will be for deterrence purposes as opposed to image capture.

Trustee Parente felt that the initial cost of the cameras will save on the costs to remediate the vandalism after the fact.

Trustee Casella asked if the Village will place signage in the area, advising of the surveillance cameras.

Also present: Patrick Theodore, Walter Rivera, Philip Chappo, Barbara Seixas. Carla Strauss, Marcia Weiser, Susan Corsello, Stephan Leccese, Nicole Paulo Russo John and Christine Connolly, Police Officers Atkin and Cooper.

Police Officer Atkin enumerated recent incidents that took place in the Village investigated by the police department on Donald Street and East Williston Avenue, as well as a case of mistaken address with a service person from a department store.

He also noted another case where an individual rang a door bell on East Williston Avenue on Super Bowl Sunday, and when no one answered the door, the person went to the rear of the house and was spotted by an occupant (whereby the police were called).

Officer Cooper stated that residents are being more proactive in their approach of protecting their premises.

Stephan Leccese stated that the email blast sent out to Village residents was not accurate.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and the Village Board are residents of the Village who were elected to office. When an incident occurs, it is incumbent for the Village to obtain information from the police and ensure what is reported is correct. This information does not always come instantaneously.

Trustee Casella stated that he has been in touch with officials from the Town of North Hempstead about solicitation permits granted to companies/individuals. He has advised the Town that the permits it issues do not apply to incorporated villages and that the Town should advise the solicitors of this matter.

Officer Atkin stated that unmarked police cars with license plate readers are still not in proper functioning order, so the department is working to get this equipment replaced.

He also noted that certain information on particular incidents under investigation cannot be released without going through the police department's public information office.

Officer Atkin stated that the website Nextdoor.com (a police department website) is not yet fully operational, but when it is up and running, information posted on the site will be verified.

Mr. Leccese expressed dismay about the communication between the police and the Village. He felt that information in the email blast (sent by the Village) purposely misrepresented the facts.

Trustee Iannone stated that no one is trying to downplay any incidents that have happened.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village needs to validate any information (about incidents) with the police. He has been in constant contact with Officer Atkin about

things that have occurred in East Williston. He felt that way too much attention is being focused on Facebook.

Trustee Iannone reiterated that the Board members are elected officials *and* residents. People have the right to communicate on Facebook, however the rancor is doing a disservice to residents. He further stated that “we all live in the community and want it to be safe”. He felt that perhaps it was time for a “reset” on the part of everyone.

Anthony Casella read a portion of a communication from a resident who felt that crime was not a problem in East Williston, but rather a safe place in which to live. The resident was concerned about posts on Facebook causing alarm.

Officer Atkin stated that on average, there approximately 300 calls during a police officer’s tour of duty. If a resident is looking for particular information they should go to Police Headquarters at 1490 Franklin Avenue and file a FOIL request with the public information office. Other, more general information can be obtained by logging onto www.pdcn.org.

Officers Atkin and Cooper reminded residents to “target harden” their homes by doing the following:

- Lock doors and windows
- Check to ensure that hedges are not blocking windows – place thorny bushes in the area to repel would be burglars
- Be mindful of automatic garage door openers
- Don’t communicate comings and goings on social media
- Install motion detector lights
- Make your house looked lived in. Install timers, leave a radio or television on when not at home.
- Don’t store valuables in the master bedroom. Make use of alternative places to store valuables.
- Install dead bolts on doors

Mr. Leccese asked if anyone was aware of crime statistics for the last 15 years, since there have been 12 burglaries in the last two years.

Trustee Iannone stated that his in-laws experienced a burglary years back, in the winter months when the sun set early.

Trustee Casella stated that when he was mayor from 1986 to 1989, he thought the Village had experienced four or five burglaries and the person who did this was caught. He felt that the community was a safe one and that the police do a great job.

Mr. Leccese stated that he had visited the police department's public information office a few weeks back and filed a FOIL request for information, but still awaiting a response from the office as to information on crime.

Philip and Maureen Chappo stated that they have resided in East Williston for over 25 year. The noted what they termed "spurts" of crime over the years.

Mrs. Chappo stated that the parking lot at the North Side School used to be locked on weekends, but now there are cars parked on the property.

Nicole Paulo stated that crime is a perception and residents are concerned about it. She stated that Mr. Leccese has reached out to the Board, but has not received transparency.

Walter Rivera stated that residents should ensure that their homes are not a soft target for crime. Everyone should go down the checklist that was sent to residents in December 2016. The police have increased patrols in the area. Residents should attend Board meetings to address information/questions with the Board. When an incident occurs or something suspicious is noticed, 911 should be called immediately.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone, and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 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 January 30, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, 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 for January 2017 as follows: 20160428 - 20160487.

Assistant Chief Patrick Theodore of the East Williston Fire Department reported that they responded to a total of nine calls during the month of January 2017: three EMS calls, three fire/general alarm calls, one motor vehicle and two mutual aid calls.

The renovations to the radio room are continuing, as well as updating the alarm system.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente reported that the East Williston Justice Court received the check for the grant from the Justice Court Assistance Fund in the amount of \$1,000 for the purchase of spectator chairs for the court sessions.

The East Williston Seniors will meet on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 1:00pm to celebrate National Heart Month. A professor of pharmacology will be in attendance to discuss drug safety.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano thanked the Department of Public Works for the job they did in clearing streets during the recent snow. He also thanked residents for clearing snow from around fire hydrants. He also thanked residents for not throwing snow back onto plowed streets, when clearing sidewalks.

He stated that the Village will institute a new subject line on the Village website where residents can report lost or found pets. A neighboring village is doing the same thing and should be helpful to pet owners.

TRUSTEE JAMES L. IANNONE

Trustee Iannone also thanked the Department of Public Works personnel: James Bailey, Simon Blanco and T.J. Brussich, in clearing the recent snow. He felt East Williston streets were attended to much better than neighboring communities.

The East Williston Fire Department is always looking for new members. He urged those who are interested to visit the firehouse on Thursday evenings when department drills take place.

He also reminded residents to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and ice to aid the fire department in an emergency.

TRUSTEE ANTHONY J. CASELLA

The Justice Court report for January 2017 showed a total of nine violations: nine parking, no moving violations and no Village ordinance violations. Fines collected totaled \$1,825.00 with \$0.00 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.

MAYOR DAVID TANNER

Mayor Tanner stated that the public work session for the 2017-2018 Village budget will take place on February 27, 2017 at 8:30pm.

So far, the budget has remained flat, with what equates to a slight reduction in the tax rate. A contributing factor is the small decrease in pension costs. He added that bids for the sanitation contract are due on February 17, 2017, and the results factored into the budget.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in January 2017: 167 Glenmore Street, interior renovations to home, installation of a central air conditioning unit and changes to the driveway.

The Nassau County Police Department report for December 2016 had no reports of burglaries or robberies. No parking or moving violations are issued. There were two auto accidents with no auto injuries reported.

The Police report for January 2017 had a report of an attempted burglary (with no loss reported) on Donald Street. No parking or moving violations were issued. There were four auto accidents with three auto injuries reported.

The Village office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017 in observance of President's Day.

Library Director Susan Corsello gave the report for the East Williston Library. The two book clubs (day time and evening) continue to meet monthly.

The Friends of the Library display case features an exhibit of antique cameras, film and dark room equipment. Concurrently, the display table in the library features digital cameras, memory card usage and video link info to aid users of iPhone cameras. The Library thanks contributors Margaret Casella, Anne Messina and Carla Strauss.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Nicole Paulo asked about budget information on work to be performed on Wheatley Avenue.

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Mayor Tanner stated that any information on the budget will be addressed at the February 27th public work session.

Carla Strauss wanted to recognize and thank public works personnel James Bailey, Simon Blanco and T.J. Brussich for their hard work in clearing Village streets during the recent snow storm. She commented that Village roads looked much better than other neighboring areas.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.