

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor David E. Tanner, Trustees Bonnie L.S. Parente, Caroline DeBenedittis, Christopher Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk.

Also present: Susan Corsello, Chief Patrick Theodore, Kathleen Rittel, Carol Bertalli, Michael Guglielmo, Richard Corrado,

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye" the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting regarding water issues with Williston Park of January 15, 2015.

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 minutes of the meeting regarding water issues with Williston Park of January 29, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for January 2015 as follows: 20140388-20140406.

First Assistant Chief Patrick Theodore presented the East Williston Fire Department report for January 2015. The Department responded to a total of eight calls: one fire call, six EMS calls and one mutual aid to another fire department.

He reminded residents to clear snow from fire hydrants so that precious time will not be wasted in the event of an emergency.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE**

Trustee Parente stated she visited the firehouse on the night of the last snow storm. Many members were on standby for 18 hours straight during the storm. She commended the members for their dedication, adding that the East Williston Fire Department is one of the things that make East Williston a special place to live.

Trustee Parente reiterated Chief Theodore's comment about clearing snow away from fire hydrants. This small act can save lives in an emergency.

**TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS**

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the Winter Dinner Dance has been scheduled at Antonette's in East Hills on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 7:00pm. The cost to attend is \$70 per person and it is in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East Williston Fire Department.

The sewing of pillow cases for pediatric cancer patients will take place on February 12<sup>th</sup>, all day.

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

Trustee Vella reported that the Justice Court collected a total of \$3,195.00 in fines from 18 violations in January 2015. The violations consisted of 48 parking violations, 13 moving violations and four Village ordinance violations. The New York State surcharge amounted to \$113.00.

**TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO**

Trustee Siciliano commended the Department of Public Works for the thorough job they did clearing the streets after the recent storm. He also thanked the members of the Fire Department for putting in a great deal of time during the storm.

He asked residents not to park in the street during and after snow storms so that the Department of Public Works can efficiently plow the streets. He also asked residents not to shovel or blow snow into the already plowed streets, to place the snow back on to their respective properties.

Lastly, he said to look in on elderly neighbors during the winter months.

**MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER**

**RESOLUTION NO. 6-2015 A RESOLUTION SETTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE WHEATLEY HILLS GOLF CLUB APPLICATION FOR MARCH 5, 2015 AT 8:00PM.**

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting “aye”, the Board unanimously scheduled the continuation of the public hearing regarding the Wheatley Hills Golf Club application for March 5, 2015 at 8:00pm.

Susan Corsello presented the Library report.

#### Special Events

- A “Defensive Driving Course” will be offered on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am - 3:30pm.
- A “Property Tax Assessment Grievance Workshop” will be offered on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Charles Berman, Town of North Hempstead Receiver of Taxes, will provide guidance on the grievance process.

#### Library Book Clubs

- Our “Day Time Book Club” will meet next month to discuss *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by Richard Flanagan.
- Our “Evening Book Club” will meet next month to discuss *What She Left Behind*, by Ellen Marie Wiseman.

#### Children’s Groups

- “Pre-School Stories and Songs” will resume on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- “Toddler Story Time” will resume on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### East Williston Senior Group

- The senior group will meet on Thursday to catch up after the holidays.

Mayor Tanner asked Jeffrey Blinkoff to apprise residents about the status of the 8 Sumter Avenue property.

Jeffrey Blinkoff apprised those present of the status of the property at 8 Sumter Avenue. He stated that there is an order to seek guardianship over the owners of 8 Sumter Avenue pending in court. The owners have still not closed on the sale of the house. A new tarp was placed on the roof to make the structure water tight until such time as permanent repairs are made. The Village will be returning to court in late February where he will be asking the court for clearance to pursue demolition of the buildings on the property, absent papers indicating that a closing on the sale of the property is

imminent. He noted that anytime another court becomes involved in a case (the issue of guardianship) it can further delay court proceedings that are already ongoing.

**VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER**

The following building permits were issued in January 2015: 40 High Street, first and second floor renovations. 174 Bengueyfield Drive, installation of a generator. 150 Charles Street, legalize and maintain a finished basement.

The Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct did not forward its report in time for the meeting this evening.

The last day to file assessment grievances for the 2015-2016 tax year is Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The office will be open that evening between 7pm and 8pm to accept the documents necessary to grieve assessments.

The Village office will be closed on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Presidents' Day.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Michael Guglielmo asked about the date of February 18<sup>th</sup> for Grievance night, as stated in the card mailed out by the Village. The Clerk stated there was a misprint on the card that the Deputy Clerk will be present that night as well to accept assessment grievances.

Richard Corrado asked if the Board could provide an update on the status of the meetings with Williston Park on the water issue.

Mayor Tanner stated that he is optimistic that the best possible arrangement can be worked out. In the future, another public meeting will be held for residents to provide a more comprehensive update.

Mr. Corrado asked if another village can supply East Williston with water. Mayor Tanner stated that East Williston had met with all surrounding water suppliers and they could not, for various reasons, supply East Williston with water.

Michael Guglielmo stated that he understood that there were now two viable options; to construct a new well in East Williston for its own water supply, and to negotiate an acceptable price and agreement with Williston Park. He questioned the meetings with Williston Park.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that under the Open Meetings Law, there are certain issues where a board may go into executive session. One is collective bargaining, and the second is to negotiate, for example, a lawsuit.

The Board meets openly, and then the Mayor of each village, one trustee and the village attorneys meet separately, so there is not a quorum, but each entire board is present in the building during the meeting. Since a notice of claim was served on East Williston by Williston Park, this matter is potential litigation.

Trustee Parente stated that East Williston sent a different trustee when meeting separately with the mayors and attorneys, for different levels of negotiations. She felt that there is always a formula for settlement out there.

Trustee Vella stated that the East Williston Board had to protect its residents and have to find common ground in this issue. He said the Village will continue to meet until it is no longer fruitful to do so. Then we will be better able to address residents at another public meeting. If East Williston continues to purchase water, it has to make sure that Williston Park's water system is viable.

Trustee Vella continued that constructing our own well gives East Williston a greater degree of certainty, measuring against the uncertainty of the viability of Williston Park's water system infrastructure. East Williston in essence could be stuck paying for repairs in their water system. Both Mayor Tanner and Trustee Parente agreed.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and the Board asked Williston Park for its capital plan, but they could not provide one.

Trustee Vella stated that East Williston has a very comprehensive idea of what the costs will be to build our own well, so we are very aware of what repair costs may lay ahead for Williston Park's water system.

Mr. Guglielmo asked that an East Williston residents' water bill will look like. The Board stated that the Village pays \$4.33 per 1,000 gallons to Williston Park for water at this time. The Board stated that they will be addressing this issue at a future meeting with residents.

Trustee Vella stated that Williston Park has raised its rate to East Williston by 35% in the last three years. The rate paid to Williston Park is only for the purchase of water. It does not include East Williston's cost to run the actual water system.

Kathleen Rittel asked about the hearing for the Wheatley Hills Golf Club. It was her understanding that it would be addressed tonight. The Board informed Mrs. Rittel that this

meeting was only to set a date for a continuation of the public hearing, which is now scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 8:00pm.

Mrs. Rittel stated that the Village had a golf outing at the Wheatley Hills Golf Club. She wanted to know what the Village paid to hold the event there. The Board advised her that the event was for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East Williston Fire Department. Individuals paid for this outing and it was not paid out of Village funds.

Mrs. Rittel wanted to state for the record that the East Williston Fire Department is a fabulous organization doing good work for the community.

Mayor Tanner stated that it would be more effective for Mrs. Rittel to address her concerns at the public hearing on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.