

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday March 10, 2014 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, Trustee Robert M. Vella, Jr., Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: Susan Quinn, Daniel Cramblitt, Patrick Theodore, Joseph Fabrizio, James Sandquist, Al Testani, Ellen Ritz, Carla Strauss, Michael Guglielmo, Dan McGill.

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 approved the minutes of the preliminary budget meeting of February 5, 2014.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2014.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the preliminary budget meeting of February 12, 2014.

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 approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of February 24, 2014.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", and the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for February 2014 as follows: 20130520-20130579.

Chief Daniel Cramblitt presented the February 2014 report for the East Williston Fire Department. The Department responded to a total of 12 calls during the month. There were six fire calls, five EMS calls and one mutual aid call to another other fire department.

Chief Cramblitt stated that the Fire Department's annual fund drive is underway. He thanked those residents who have sent contributions.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Bonnie Parente stated that the East Williston Fire Department has noted that many house numbers in front of homes within the Village are not well lit, not placed high enough (in the event of snow cover) or not displayed at all. The Chief reports this is a huge problem especially when an emergency situation takes place. The displaying of house numbers should be taken very seriously. Trustee Parente said that the Village will be sending out an email blast about this issue. She also suggested that residents talk to their neighbors' subject. Proper home identification can save a life.

TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS

Trustee DeBenedittis stated the Recreation Committee will be hosting movie and game nights on March 21st and March 28th, respectively. On April 12th at 10am the annual egg hunt will take place on the Village Green. A spring wreath making class will take place on May 1st at 7pm at the Village Hall. The Recreation Committee is still working on dates for the Village-wide tag sale and the party on the Village Green.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella stated reported that the Justice Court collected \$1,100.00 in fines during the month of February 2014, however no court was held during the month. There were nine parking violations and no moving violations disposed during the month.

Trustee Vella presented the Library report for events to be held in March 2014. Pre-K story time will be held on Thursdays from 11:30am to 12 noon. Toddler story time will be held on Fridays from 11:30am to 12 noon. The seniors' Group will meet on March 20th from 1-3pm for a St. Patrick's Day celebration. The daytime book club will meet on March 11th to discuss "City Boy" by Herman Wouk. The group will meet again on April 8th to discuss "The Manor, Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island".

The evening book group will meet on Thursday, March 13th at 7pm to discuss "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes. The selection for the April 10th discussion is "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty.

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Children ages six and up can participate in the making of St. Patrick's day cupcakes on Tuesday, March 12th at 4:30pm.

Blood pressure screenings will take place in the lobby on March 20th from 12-2pm

Interior design make-over lecture will take place on Monday, March 31st at 7pm.

The Library continues to collect new and gently worn shoes for "Shoes for All" and empty ink cartridges for recycling. The Library will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day.

The Library Friends Group is still presenting a display of Pinewood Derby Cars from Boy Scout Pack 8 and information on the Old Motor Parkway from Al Velocci.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano presented the Department of Public Works report. He said that the Village will once again be renting a street sweeper when the threat of snow ends so that a final clean-up of streets from sand can take place.

The Village experienced a major water main break on William Street over the last weekend. It was repaired over the weekend.

The Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants in the spring. Residents will be notified prior to said flushing.

Trustee Siciliano stated that he and Mayor Tanner met with North Hempstead Highway Superintendent Thomas Tiernan recently to explore ways in which the Village can "piggy-back" with the town on various services to save money. Areas discussed were the purchase of fuel, street trees and street signs.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner stated that the public hearing on the 2014-2015 budget will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014. He noted that the Board has held a number of meetings on the budget and a few residents attended these meetings. He noted that the Board is proposing no tax increase for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

RESOLUTION #5-2014 INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW 2 OF THE YEAR 2014 AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING

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 following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Local Law “2” of the Year 2014 providing for an amendment to the Village Code of the Incorporated Village of East Williston which would authorize a property tax levy in excess of the limit established by New York State General Municipal Law 3-c shall be introduced for the consideration of the Board of Trustees. Said section of the General Municipal Law otherwise limits any increase in the property tax levy to no more than two per-cent or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lesser, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hold a public hearing on said proposed Local Law at the Village Hall in the Incorporated Village of East Williston at the address of 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Village of said public hearing at least three days prior thereto.

Mayor Tanner added that the Village will hold this public hearing on the tax cap in the event of an unexpected event, however the Village does not anticipate exceeding the tax cap during the next fiscal year.

Mayor Tanner announced that Library Supervisor Susan Quinn was leaving the employ of the Village. He and the entire Board wished her much success in her new position.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER

The following building permit was issued in February 2014: 43 High Street and 29 Orchard Meadow Road, installation of in-ground swimming pools.

The Nassau County Police Department 3rd Precinct Report for February 2014 showed no cases of burglary or robbery. There were four parking violations and five moving violations issued. One auto accident with no auto injuries was reported.

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Mayor Tanner asked Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff to apprise residents about the status of the 8 Sumter Avenue property. Mr. Blinkoff filed an affirmation with Judge McCormack and supplied a report from an engineer who entered the premises. The judge advised the Muzio's that "...they were at the end of the road..." and gave them 30 days to come back to court and either supply a report that contradicts the Village's engineering report on the structure of the home, or have a contract in place to sell the home. Mr. Blinkoff will be back in court with the Muzio's in April 2014.

Mayor Tanner opened the meeting to residents.

Ellen Ritz asked if there was enough debris to warrant the purchase or lease of a street sweeper. Trustee Siciliano stated that with sand from storms and debris from trees, or those who careless and litter the streets, there is a need for a street sweeper, and it will be out every week.

Mrs. Ritz also asked if the Village can order number signs for houses. The Board said it will look into vendors

Mr. Blinkoff noted that there is a federal law mandating that street address numbers be placed at each premises.

Michael Guglielmo stated that with regard to the Fire Department looking for street addresses, they may want to "Google" the address when an emergency call comes in to help better locate the premises.

Trustee Parente stated while this seems like a good idea, in an emergency, the fire department members are concentrating on driving to the location in a safe and efficient manner, and will not have the time to look up addresses on a computer.

James Daw added that the Chief of the department is working on an emergency, and will not be able to properly direct his or her volunteers, safely arrive at the emergency scene and facilitate emergency efforts if he is busy looking up an address, which should be posted.

Chief Dan Cramblitt appreciated the suggestion from Mr. Guglielmo, but stated it is not "time effective" to "Google" a house location in an emergency. It is also not cost effective, as the Department does not have tablets or laptop computers in emergency vehicles to perform this function.

Connie Leonick suggested that perhaps one of the Girl Scouts can work on a “Gold Award” by photographing each house, place the photos in a binder and place the house numbers under each photograph.

Trustee Parente stated that something similar had been done in the past by either the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, but with renovations to homes, the photos become outdated overtime.

Michael Guglielmo stated that some of the Village budget meetings and School Board meetings coincide on the same evenings. He asked if the Village had any flexibility to change Board meeting dates.

Mayor Tanner stated that it difficult to coordinate with everyone’s individual schedule. This year, the Village held more meetings so that residents could attend. Mayor Tanner told Mr. Guglielmo that he could have contacted the Village and a copy of the draft budget, as it was being worked on could have been emailed to him.

Mr. Guglielmo stated that the Village’s budget hearing scheduled for April 7th coincides with a meeting of the East Williston School Board. He asked the Board to consider moving the date.

Patrick Theodore asked if there is any law to prevent another situation similar to what is occurring at 8 Sumter Avenue.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village Code requires that the New York State Property Maintenance Code be enforced. Under the Property Maintenance Code, enforcement through Village Justice Court (through fines issued) and the Supreme Court (through injunctions) is the matter of course to be followed. He added that 8 Sumter Avenue has been a concern for some time now and the matter was also one of timing and adhering to court orders.

James Daw stated that the 8 Sumter Avenue situation has been going on for the past 20 years. The Village actively and aggressively pursued the homeowners about them not taking care of the property. Certified letters to the homeowners went unclaimed and ignored. The Village Attorney had to take the matter to Supreme Court which is where the Village stands now.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village does not want to “over govern” in many cases, but 8 Sumter Avenue was more of anomaly rather than the norm, as most everyone does comply when an issue arises.

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Carla Strauss asked the Village to contact the homeowner at the corner of Titus Way and East Williston Avenue about the bamboo growing within sight of the road. She felt they should be brought to court with regard to the growing of bamboo, given the local law passed recently by the Village.

Mayor Tanner asked Treasurer Michael Delury to give a brief statement about the status of the draft budget for 2014-2015.

Mr. Delury stated that the Village has reduced health care costs to employees. Debt service is affected by capital improvements. The budget vs. actual information is only extended to the end of February 2014, and does not yet include March 2014.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.