

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 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, Robert M. Vella, Jr., Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie Hausner, Village Treasurer Michael Delury, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonnie Kreisman, Superintendent of Public Works James Bailey.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 7:15pm to discuss potential litigation. It is noted that Michael Delury, Bonnie Kreisman, and James Bailey were not present during the executive session.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board voted to come out of executive session at 7:40pm.

Mayor Tanner informed the three employees present that the Board has decided to phase in the health care contribution to employees commencing June 1, 2014. Instead of the 25% and 20% originally proposed, employees will pay 12.5% and 10% for the first year, depending upon salaries.

RESOLUTION #6-2014 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTION RATE BY EMPLOYEES IN THE AMOUNT OF 10% AND 12-1/2% FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING 6/1/14 TO 5/31/15. THEREAFTER THE CONTRIBUTION RATE WILL INCREASE TO 20% AND 25% DEPENDING UPON SALARY AND CAPPED AT 9.5% OF THE GROSS WAGE.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner, and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved a health care contribution rate by employees in the amount of 10% and 12-1/2%, depending upon salary for the fiscal year commencing 6/1/14 to 5/31/15. Thereafter, the contribution rate will increase to 20% and 25% depending upon salary and capped at 9.5% of the gross wage.

James Bailey spoke to the Board about the health care contribution. He stated that technically taking a pay cut with institution of this contribution by the Board. One of the

reasons he took the position with the Village was for the health care coverage, as the salary was lower than those offered in the private sector. The health care benefits offset the salary.

Mayor Tanner stated that he took it upon himself to say that the Board should have met with the employees before the memo about the health care contribution was distributed.

Trustee Vella stated that the cost of health care is a concern to everyone and the Village is trying to keep the budget in balance.

Mr. Bailey stated that the co-pays for the new plan the Board has proposed are higher than the co-pays in the plan currently offered. The increase in the co-pays, coupled with the institution of health care contribution is a large expense to the employees.

Trustee Vella stated that he pays for his own health insurance.

Bonnie Kreisman asked if the Board looked into whether employees can stay with the Empire Plan and pay the difference. She also questioned whether employees can opt out of the plan and seek insurance through the Affordable Healthcare Act, and be reimbursed through salaries.

Trustee Vella stated that the Village must offer health care coverage. If an employee exits the plan, the Village will be exposed to a penalty, as does the person who leaves the plan. If coverage is offered by an employer, the employee cannot opt out.

James Bailey said it was his understanding that an employer cannot base the health care contribution on ones' salary.

Trustee Parente stated that unless the law has changed very recently, contributions have been based in that way.

Trustee Vella stated that the economy is still contracting, and the Board is concerned about the Village's finances and budget.

Mr. Bailey stated that the cost savings experienced by the Village for the contribution to health care is in exchange for employee morale. The full time workforce of the Village is only five employees.

Trustee Vella stated that the Village Board is getting pressure from residents for employees to contribute to their health care benefits.

Trustee Parente stated that things have changed for everyone financially, in recent years.

Trustee Vella stated that the Board considered a wage freeze this year, but did not pursue the freeze. The slight increase in wages does not make up for the increased cost of health care, but noted that we are all faced with the same issue. Unfortunately, as Trustee Parente noted before, the financial climate has changed for everyone.

Mr. Bailey stated that only a few residents have been putting pressure on the Village with regard to health care.

The Board reviewed the results from the bid opening on March 18th for sanitation services. Three bids were received from DeJana Industries, Meadow Carting and Alpha Carting and Contracting.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that if the Board is in the first year of a three year contract with DeJana Industries and the Board has the option to renew the contract with DeJana if they desire to do so. He believes they must exercise this option by April 1st, but has to check the contract document to be sure.

The Clerk noted that recently (with the past two weeks), the Village office received 17 complaints from residents that DeJana employees had not returned garbage receptacles to the backyards. Trustee DeBenedittis also noticed that in one area where she had passed by, the garbage cans were empty, but still in the front of the homes.

Mayor Tanner asked if Mr. Blinkoff would contact John Mangano from DeJana to see if the Village can extend the option to renew until April 30th, so the Board can contact DeJana and speak with them about recent complaints received by the Village.

The Board then decided to reject all of the bids received for sanitation services.

RESOLUTION #7-2014 A RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS RECEIVED ON MARCH 18, 2014 FOR SANITATION SERVICES.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner, and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, and Siciliano voting "aye", and Trustee Vella abstaining, the Board rejected all bids for sanitation services received on March 18, 2014.

The Board discussed proposals received from Sidney B. Bowne & Son and Cameron Engineering relative to a traffic study of Bengeyfield Drive and Concord Street.

The Board stated that Bowne appeared to be the lower proposal. Mayor Tanner stated that a timetable for the study needed to be established to ensure an accurate count of vehicular traffic. It was discussed that perhaps early June, when the weather is good, but traffic will be at a normal level, as people are not on vacation for the summer.

RESOLUTION #8-2014 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF SIDNEY B. BOWNE & SON DATED FEBRUARY 25, 2014, TO PERFORM A TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY AT BENGEYFIELD DRIVE AND CONCORD STREET AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$2,200.00.

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 unanimously accepted the proposal of Sidney B. Bowne and Son dated February 25, 2014, to perform a traffic study at Bengueyfield Drive and Concord Street at a cost not to exceed \$2,200.00.

Michael Delury stated that Bob Sympson met with Jim Bailey regarding trees within the Village. Mr. Sympson had suggested that the East Williston try to attain "Tree City USA" status. To do so, the Village would have to initiate a tree advisory board, and have an Arbor Day celebration each year. The cost would be approximately \$2.00 per household.

Mr. Bailey stated that Mr. Sympson was impressed with the amount of trees within the Village. He added that Mr. Sympson was looking mainly at Village trees, rather than trees on private properties.

Trustee Siciliano addressed the Village tree on the island located on Shadow Lane. The tree, a Norway maple is dead and needs to come down. Mayor Tanner suggested meeting with the residents at the next agenda meeting on April 28th to discuss the matter with them at that time. He asked the Clerk to send a letter to the residents of Shadow Lane about the meeting.

Mr. Bailey stated that he has contacted a company that is able to "neuter" trees to eliminate a number of the "spiny seed pods" that fall from these trees. A call today from the resident of 144 High Street wants this Village tree removed all together. The Board felt that we cannot remove every tree that produces these seed pods.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Town of North Hempstead sweeper is on loan to sweep the streets. The size of the sweeper is small so that it can fit into the bay doors of the public works garage.

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the annual egg hunt on the Village Green will take place on Saturday, April 12th at 10am, with a rain date of April 13th.

The Board discussed proposed fees for residents who have not closed out building permits that are years old.

Trustee Vella asked if the building permit system is automated on the computer, and is the system able to send reminders on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Kreisman stated that the system is manual. The Village looked into a few computer programs years ago, and they were cost prohibitive in comparison to the size of the Village and the amount of permits generating fees. She added that moving forward with new permits, they can be put on the computer with reminders. With old permits, this will be much harder, if not impossible. At this time, there are 300-400 open permits (both building and plumbing) open. The types of permits range from large renovations to installation of fences. Other permits need the submission of an electrical certificate or need a final plumbing inspector.

It was the Village's hope to be proactive and close out building permits within a ten month window.

Mr. Delury provided a list of fees charged by various villages to close out permits.

Ms. Kreisman stated that besides the paperwork and documentation involved to close out old permits, the time of the building and plumbing inspectors will come into play with regard to the fee.

Mayor Tanner stated that perhaps before instituting the fees, the Village could offer a one time, six month amnesty so people can close out the permits.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village can issue violations to those who do not close out a permit, and the resident must appear in Village Court.

Trustee Vella suggested that the fines be commensurate with the amount of time the permit has remained open.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm.