

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:30 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, Michael Delury, Treasurer.

Also present: Susan Corsello, James Iannone, Chief Patrick Theodore, Michael Guglielmo, John Azzara, Joseph Masters, Patrick Theodore, Barbara Seixas, Anthony Giunta, James Sandquist, Carla Strauss, Kathleen Rittel.

The Board opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. to entertain any questions residents had with regard to the 2015-2016 draft budget.

Mayor Tanner explained that the draft budget is not the tentative budget, which is also called the Mayor's budget.

Michael Guglielmo questioned the expense for the East Williston Avenue streetscape. He asked if this should be something Nassau County should pay for since East Williston Avenue is a County road.

Mayor Tanner stated that the monies allotted in the budget for this work is being put aside in the event the County does not come through and pay for the repairs to the sidewalks. He added that the Village installed the sidewalks some 20 or more years ago. The County may not repair these sidewalks, and they are in desperate need of repair.

Trustee Parente stated that the Village had to pick and choose what items they wanted the County to take care of, and this is not always as straight forward as any Village may like.

Mayor Tanner added that in the recent past, the County had stated they would not pay to have a crosswalk installed on East Williston Avenue

Mr. Guglielmo stated that the County should pay for this work.

Trustee Vella stated his comment was duly noted.

John Azzara asked who paid for the sidewalk work in front of the Community Church on East Williston Avenue. Mayor Tanner stated that the Community Church paid for that work.

Mr. Azzara also asked who would be liable if someone should fall on the sidewalks that are in disrepair. Trustee Vella stated that there is no getting around liability. A person may file suit against all municipalities involved including the County, Town and Village.

Michael Delury stated that the Village projected a \$45-60,000 surplus for the 2014-2015 fiscal. This is due to an increase in building permits and road opening permits during the fiscal year. He also reported that as of this date, he was not aware of any "budgetary" surprises. He also noted that the Village was still awaiting invoices for sand/salt delivery for snow removal during the winter.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village experienced a couple of strong years with regard to revenues from building and road opening permits.

Mr. Guglielmo asked if the Village can use the surplus for the East Williston Avenue streetscape.

Mayor Tanner stated that the surplus is liquidity for the Village's credit rating and not simply used for one project or another.

Mr. Guglielmo questioned what the expenses were for Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Delury stated that the costs were virtually nothing, in that the Village received reimbursement from FEMA and New York State for the costs incurred. The Village experience mostly tree damage and related sidewalk and street damage due to fallen trees. The Village had about \$200,000.00 in costs.

Mr. Azzara suggested that the Village attract programs to the Village Hall to obtain revenue for use of the Building to offset costs. He also felt that the Village spent a great deal of money on the Library.

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.

Mayor Tanner welcomed Anthony Giunta who will be completing his Eagle Scout requirements.

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 from the agenda meeting of February 4, 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 regular meeting of February 9, 2015.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee DeBenedittis, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting “aye”, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the budget workshop meeting of February 11, 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 February 2015 as follows: 20140407 – 20140487.

First Assistant Chief Patrick Theodore presented the East Williston Fire Department report for February 2015. The Department responded to a total of 13 calls: four fire calls, eight EMS calls and one mutual aid to another fire department.

Chief Theodore stated that new members have been attending training classes at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy in Old Bethpage, in addition to training drills held at the East Williston firehouse.

Chief Theodore once again reminded residents of the importance of having the street address number clearly posted on the front of their homes. Many households do not have a street number affixed to their home which can hinder emergency response.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente stated she had nothing to add to the fire department report.

Trustee Parente said that the Trustee DeBenedittis and the Recreation Committee hosted a great function on March 7th. The winter dinner dance was held to honor the 125th anniversary of the East Williston Fire Department.

Trustee Parente informed those present that on March 26th, the Town of North Hempstead will hold its annual ceremony for the Women’s Honor Roll. She stated that Trustee DeBenedittis will be one of the honorees recognized that day. She offered

sincere congratulations for this well-deserved honor. If anyone wishes to attend the event, it will be held at Harbor Links from 8am to 10am.

TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the 125 anniversary celebration for the East Williston Fire Department at Antonnette's in East Hills was a great success and enjoy by all who attended.

The sewing of pillow cases for pediatric cancer patients will take place on March 12th, all day.

The annual egg hunt on the Village Green will take place on March 28th at 10am. The rain date is March 29th. The cost is \$3.00 per child. Participants should bring a basket to the egg hunt. Volunteers are also needed that day. Any young person looking for credits for community service should consider volunteering that day.

The annual Village-wide tag sale will take place on Saturday, May 16th from 9am to 3pm, with a rain date of May 17th. The cost of registration is \$25 per household, with a late registration fee of 30.

The annual Memorial Day 5K race will take place on Monday, May 25th. Fliers for these events will be going out shortly.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella reported that the Justice Court collected a total of \$1,615.00 in fines from 34 violations in February 2015. The violations consisted of 34 parking violations, and no moving or Village ordinance violations. The New York State surcharge amounted to \$50.00.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano commended the Department of Public Works for the great job they did during the recent snow events. He also thanked the members of the Fire Department for staying at the firehouse on standby during the storms.

The new Elgin sweeper has been delivered to the Department of Public Works. As soon as the weather breaks, the sweeper will be out once per week cleaning Village thoroughfares.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner introduced James Iannone, the newly elected member of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Iannone stated that he has been a resident of the Village since 2009 and his wife grew up in the Village. He looks forward to serving the residents of East Williston.

Mayor Tanner asked Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff to apprise those present on the status of 8 Sumter Avenue.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that with regard to the property at 8 Sumter Avenue. He stated that the current target date for closing on the property is March 13, 2015. He spoke with the attorneys for the seller and buyer about the date. He added that the proposed architect for the buyers met with Building Inspector Robert Campagna last week to go over plans for the property.

Patrick Theodore asked what will be done to facilitate repairs to the house which is in terrible condition.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village has an agreement with the purchasers of the property to submit suitable building plans within 60 days of closing. They also must demolish the garage and shed, and immediately make the house "water-tight" with temporary tarps and such until the house is ultimately demolished to make way for the new house.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village will receive the back taxes and other monies owed to it just after the closing on the property.

Joseph Masters stated that it is his understanding that a young couple will be purchasing the property.

Susan Corsello presented the Library report.

Library Book Clubs

- Our "Day Time" book club will meet on March 10th at 1:30pm
- The "Evening" book club will meet on March 12 at 7pm.

Children's Groups

- "Pre-School Stories and Songs" meets on Thursdays at 11:45am
- "Toddler Story Time" meets on Fridays at 11:30pm

East Williston Senior Group

- The senior group will enjoy a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Thursday, March 19th at 1pm. Blood pressure screenings will also take place that day starting at 12:30pm.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in February 2015: 103 High Street, installation of a generator. 150 High Street, legalize and maintain a patio and wood deck. 383 Titus Way, major renovation to home. 120 High Street, addition to home. 210 Harvard Street, interior alterations. 107 Weeks Road, partial demolition of residence.

The Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct reported the following activity for January 2015: no reports of burglaries or robberies. Seven parking violations and eight moving violations were issued. There was one auto accident with no auto injuries reported.

The February 2015 report included a burglary at 4 School Street. Two parking violations and one moving violation were issued. Three auto accidents and no auto injuries were reported.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Barbara Seixas commended the employees of the Department of Public Works for the great job they did plowing and sanding Village streets this winter.

Mayor Tanner stated the Board will schedule a continuation of the Wheatley Hills Golf Course meeting by the end of March. The date will be placed on the website calendar and an email blast will also be sent out to those participating in the system.

Joseph Masters asked about any progress on the meetings with Williston Park pertaining to water.

Mayor Tanner stated that East Williston has met with Williston Park three times. He said East Williston had requested Williston Park to put their terms in writing. He stated that the Village is still considering "Plan B" which is to install its own well. He further stated that East Williston will hold another public meeting sometime in the near future encouraging public input.

Michael Guglielmo asked when the next public meeting will take place. Mayor Tanner said that when the Village has more information to be able to hold a meaningful meeting, a date will be set. To put a timeline on a meeting date at this time is not useful. The Board has been working very hard to thoroughly explore every option.

Carla Strauss thanked the Board for all of the time they have put in on this issue. She did not feel there should be a timeline set, when there are so many things to consider.

Mayor Tanner stated that Williston Park has refused to entertain the creation of a water district. East Williston has been in contact with a private water company to see if water rates could be lowered if the services of the private company could be utilized.

Mr. Masters also asked about the penalties Williston Park says it is owed by East Williston. Mayor Tanner replied that East Williston requested that Williston Park “stop the clock” on the penalty meter, but they have refused. The issue of penalties is still being discussed.

Trustee Parente stated that East Williston paid Williston Park what was ordered by the Court. The Village’s do not agree on further penalties imposed, and this is a part of ongoing negotiations.

Mayor Tanner added that after the finalization of the first lawsuit, East Williston had sent Williston Park an invoice for the amount that was overpaid to them before East Williston started withholding the monies in escrow, representing the difference in the old water rate and new water rate charged.

Trustee Vella stated that the amount of penalties Williston Park is charging is considerable.

Kathleen Rittel asked about the hearing for the Wheatley Hills Golf Club. She asked that the Village give residents at least a two week advance notice of the meeting when it is scheduled. Mr. Blinkoff advised that he will check the statute on the notification dates.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.