

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Tuesday, July 18, 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 Siciliano, James L. Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Village Attorney Thomas Mullaney, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Also present: James J. Daw, Jr., Michael Guglielmo, Carla Strauss, Marcia Weiser, Rita Botensten, Stephan Leccese, Eileen Murphy.

RESOLUTION 2017-24 – A RESOLUTION AWARDING WORK FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALK PAVERS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF EAST WILLISTON AVENUE TO JRH LANDSCAPING AT A COST OF \$81,500.

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 unanimously approved a resolution awarding work for the installation of sidewalk pavers on the north and south sides of East Williston Avenue to JRH Landscaping at a cost of \$81,500.

RESOLUTION 2017-25 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BLOCK PARTY TO TAKE PLACE ON DICKSON CIRCLE ON AUGUST 26, 2017, WITH A RAIN DATE OF AUGUST 27, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing a block party to take place on Dickson Circle on August 26, 2017 with a rain date of August 27, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 12, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone and Casella voting "aye", and Trustee Parente abstaining, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of June 26, 2017.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting “aye”, the Board approved the abstract of claims for June 2017 as follows: 20170000-20170036.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente reported that the East Williston Senior Group is on hiatus for the summer, but noted that she received a check from the Town of North Hempstead to go toward activities they undertake. She added that the Seniors are an amazing group of individuals with diverse interests bring lively conversation to each meeting. The group will meet again in September.

Trustee Parente stated that with the impending heat wave predicted in the coming days, she urged residents to check on elderly neighbors to ensure that they are okay.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano reported that the department of public works is currently replacing sidewalk slabs being lifted by Village trees.

The Village passed a resolution authorizing work to commence on the installation of pavers on the sidewalk area along the north and south side of East Williston Avenue in the area of the Long Island Railroad tracks and up to near the area of Roslyn Road, in the Historic District.

Trustee Siciliano presented the Library report. New Library Director Emily Willis could not be present this evening, but wanted to thank Susan Corsello for helping with her transition as Director.

The Summer Reading Program is well underway with 70 children signed up to participate. The Library is holding a story and craft program on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is well attended. The play “Madagascar” was held on the Village Green on July 6th and attended by 100 people. The “Animal Show” will be held on July 19th. The reading program end of session pool party will be held on August 8th at the Williston Park pool.

The Friends of the Library display case features classic children’s books and stuffed animals of the main characters. The display is courtesy of Carla Strauss.

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Trustee Iannone did not have the exact number of calls answered in the month of June in the absence of Chief Patrick Theodore. Information will be reported upon next month.

TRUSTEE ANTHONY J. CASELLA

Trustee Casella gave the Justice Court report of June 2017: A total of \$1,215.00 in fines from 26 parking violations, no moving violations and four Village ordinance violations. There were no New York State surcharges for the month.

Yoga classes take place on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Gentle yoga takes place on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:15pm.

MAYOR DAVID TANNER

Mayor Tanner had nothing to report at this time.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in June 2017: 80 Robbins Drive, installation of a basketball hoop. 61 High Street, installation of a new driveway. 30 Orchard Drive, legalize and maintain a finished basement.

The Nassau County Police Department report for May 2017 reported no reports of burglaries or robberies, two parking violations, no moving violations, four auto accidents with two auto aided calls.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Carla Strauss said she was experiencing problems with the pickup of yard waste by Meadow Carting. The Mayor asked the clerk to call Anthony Core of Meadow Carting tomorrow so that the two could address the matter.

The clerk advised that there were two other complaints about yard waste pick up which take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from April to the first week in December.

Trustee Siciliano felt that the Village should contact Meadow about changing yard waste pick up to the days that residents have their regular refuse picked up.

Stephan Leccese asked about the tax assessment issue that he previously brought up to the Board with the comparison he provided. He wanted to know if any changes will be made.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board discussed the issue and feels that the system used is fair. The Village assessor-consultant follows rules set forth by New York State. Information is provided to the Village by the Office of Real Property Tax Services.

Mayor Tanner added that some years back, the Village used the Nassau County assessment roll, but experienced problems with availability of the roll and that it lagged behind by a year for the assessment therein established.

Mr. Leccese said he stood by the figures he provided to the Board. He felt that only updating some homes and not others means properties are unequally assessed, some 60% of market value. He said none of the Board member's homes had been reassessed.

Mayor Tanner said there is a process by which resident can grieve their assessed valuations. Each year, the Village mails out a notice to each resident that the tentative assessment roll is available on February 1st and those residents can submit grievances by the third Tuesday in February. The assessor reviews each grievance thereafter, and notifies resident of a decision. If a resident does not agree with that decision, then a small claims assessment review (SCAR) can be filed.

He further stated that the Board is comfortable with this process.

Eileen Murphy asked when the sidewalk work along East Williston Avenue will be completed. She felt that the sidewalk area is not adequate.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board has worked long and hard to come to a decision that will address both safety and esthetic issues in the area. He further stated that the Village was hoping to obtain grant money for the work, but that may not be possible.

Trees were removed in the area and quotes for the work had been obtained from three contractors as required by the State Comptroller's office. Issues regarding the installation of lighting also needed to be addressed.

Trustee Siciliano stated that work to install pavers will be starting within the next three to four weeks. A conduit for the street lighting will be installed under the aprons to driveways.

Trustee Parente stated that the work to obtain the right structure in the area did take longer than expected, but the final result will be a safe and more aesthetic look.

Mayor Tanner agreed that the area will look much nicer than before.

Michael Guglielmo asked the Board to consider inviting the Village's assessor to a future meeting to discuss the assessment issue, so that questions can be answered, and the subject can be put to rest.

Mayor Tanner stated that he will discuss this suggestion with the Board.

Mayor Tanner added that East Williston is not different than many other Villages, in that the Board leaves the process (of assessments) to the experts.

Mr. Leccese stated that the assessment system is not being properly maintained. Taxes are not allocated properly.

Trustee Parente stated that Mr. Leccese's statement was not true.

James Daw stated that if Mr. Leccese was not happy with the way things are, he should run for office.

Trustee Casella stated that he objected to being accused of not paying his fair share.

Mr. Leccese said that all Board members had pulled building permits for their properties.

Trustee Iannone stated that he has not pulled a building permit for his property, so that information is not true.

Mr. Daw asked about the proposed fence to be installed at the North Side School.

Mayor Tanner stated that he was informed that the fence installation is on the "back burner" with regard to the school board.

Rita Botensten stated that the school board has not firmed up any final plans, but the fence is still on the table.

Mr. Daw felt that the installation of a fence would be dreadful. He hoped that the voice of the Board of Trustees would help sway the school board into not installing a fence.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village has zero jurisdiction in this matter and felt it would be misleading to residents to say that the Village can do something to stop the installation of a fence.

Mr. Daw stated that many years ago, the Board took a position about a proposed exit on the Northern State Parkway at Route 25B.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Village is best suited as a conduit for information to residents and to encourage residents to attend school board meetings to keep informed.

Mr. Guglielmo said he attends almost every school board meeting. The school district placed the fence in the budget. They will also have community outreach on the subject. He said residents should attend a school board meeting and voice their opinions.

Mrs. Botensten stated that she wanted to be a part of the decision process on the fence issue.

Mayor Tanner said that everyone goes in to this with an opinion, and hopes that people will keep an open mind, weighing all of the facts involved.

Mr. Leccese stated that he appreciated the sentiment of the email blast sent out by the Village about this subject.

TRUSTEE JAMES L. IANNONE

Trustee Iannone apologized for coming late to the meeting. He reported that members of the East Williston Fire Department completed fire school in June. The department responded to approximately 9 calls, with no fires or mutual aid calls to neighboring departments. He added that the department continues to hold weekly fire drills on Thursdays through October.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.