

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
JULY 30, 2012
AGENDA MEETING

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, July 30, 2012 at 7:30p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor David E. Tanner, Caroline DeBenedittis, Robert M. Vella, Jr., Christopher Siciliano Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Treasurer Michael Delury, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonnie Kreisman.

Excused from Meeting: Deputy Mayor/Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente.

Also present: Ray Gaudio, Pat Theodore, John Ferro and Tom DelaPorte

Mr. Gaudio informed the Board that the next meeting of TVASNAC (Town Village Airline Safety and Noise committee) will be meeting at the Stewart Manor Country Club on August 27th at 7:30pm. He stated that Valley Stream and Malverne are also joining the committee. He added that the September meeting will be held at Hofstra University with the undergraduate department of the college. TVASNAC is inviting Representatives Steve Israel and Carolyn McCarthy. A date for the meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Mr. Gaudio asked if the Village will be amenable to hosting a meeting at the Village Hall in October or November of 2012. Mayor Tanner asked Mr. Gaudio to coordinate the date with the Village Clerk. He should also advise as to the number of people who may attend to ensure that the maximum room capacity is not over the amount specified.

Mr. Gaudio stated that the Port Authority has a complaint hotline where residents can call when a plane is too low (800-225-1071). Barbara Lichtman overseeing the hotline says the Port Authority will track the complaint which will aid in more equitable distribution of air traffic on the runways at Kennedy Airport. The Port Authority is responsible for noise abatement. Pat Foy is the Chairman of the Port Authority.

He asked the Board if they will write letters to State Senator Martins, U.S. Senator Gillibrand and Representative Steve Israel.

Mr. Gaudio stated that the New York Times had contacted TVSNAC for information on the committee for a possible article.

Patrick Theodore, John Ferro and Tom DelaPorte were present at the meeting on behalf of the Fire Department.

Mayor Tanner stated that for consistency, the Fire Department should agree on a “point person” to be the exclusive contact with the Board and Village office on the budget. He also stated that the person who will be the contact person on the budget should go over the issues on the Fire Department being over-budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Tom DelaPorte mentioned that the budget that the Fire Department prepared and submitted to the Village earlier in the year is in a different format from the document printed by the Village. The Mayor stated that the protocol for the individual budget line items is set by New York State Comptroller’s office.

Mr. DelaPorte asked if the \$14,000 in funding for the Department (for fuel, service contracts, etc.) be paid up front, at the beginning of the fiscal year, as the service contract for the Fire Tracker software is due in June. Currently, the payment is made in quarterly increments. The Board felt this could be modified in the contract between the Fire Department and the Village.

Mr. DelaPorte asked about electrical upgrades to the chief’s office. The Board had to consult with former Trustee Braitto to see if this was included in plans for the Fire Department.

Mayor Tanner asked that Bob Campagna call Jimmy Igoe to ask about the fire wall between the fire department and the library, as it relates to upgrades.

Patrick Theodore stated that the front door to the Firehouse on Sagamore Avenue is damaged and needs replacing. The Mayor asked if Mr. Campagna can obtain prices for replacement (Colonial Crafters and other contractors).

Chief Theodore asked about repairs to truck 812, if the Fire Department can proceed with the work. They had narrowed down the exact work to be done to an amount of \$2,700. The Board stated that the repairs had been given the okay at the last agenda meeting.

The Board discussed the proposed amendments to the local law on fire and carbon monoxide alarm systems. The public hearing on this issue will be held on August 13, 2012.

Chief Theodore stated that resident Bill Matt wanted to come to the firehouse and measure the trucks, relating to the School Street Belgian block issue. It was suggested that a copy of the specifications for the trucks be provided to Mr. Matt, rather than actual measuring taking place.

The Board asked that the Clerk contact Jack Giunta about working at the Village Hall performing maintenance and meeting set-up duties. A list of duties will be provided to him.

The Board discussed the report from estimator Frank Antonucci on 8 Sumter Avenue. The Board asked Bob Campagna to obtain a scope of work for an RFP and then solicit three proposals for the demolition and the repair of the house to make the building/property safe.

Resolutions to be placed on the agenda of August 13, 2012 should be to authorize Dean Koutsoubis to provide bid specifications for an RFP for work for either demolition or repair of 8 Sumter Avenue. Another resolution will be needed to decide upon the decision to repair or demolish the structure property.

Trustee DeBenedittis addressed the raccoon issue at 8 Sumter Avenue. It was suggested that traps be put on the roof, wait for rodent activity to cease and then screen over the holes. The Village needs to obtain three proposals for raccoon removal at the house location, not only for the lawn area of the property.

The Village of Williston Park will be holding a public hearing on water rates on Monday, August 6, 2012. Trustee Vella asked when the revised Guastella report will be finalized. Mr. Blinkoff will contact Mr. Guastella on Tuesday, July 31st.

It was noted that Williston Park owes East Williston for overpayment of monies for the months the water bills were paid in full to Williston Park, prior to the institution of the escrow account, and pursuant to the decision of the court in the Article 78.

There was a discussion about the designation of a reserve account for the water fund.

Mayor Tanner stated that he will be meeting with Mayor Ehrbar on August 3rd, 2012 with the hope of reaching an agreement on water rates.

Jeff Blinkoff will contact Mr. Guastella to establish the Village of East Williston's water rate.

There will be three public hearings at the August 13, 2012 Board meeting. They are: consideration of revised parking fines (Clerk was asked to send current fines to Mayor Tanner, and was also asked to contact Judge Sperber to see if he can be at the hearing). Local Law on code modification on Trespassing.

Mayor Tanner asked about the status of the issue with National Grid and the gas main installation fees. Mr. Blinkoff stated that the hearing officer came back with a proposal of

\$80,000. National Grid offered \$19,000. Mr. Blinkoff felt the Village should seek to split the difference.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Lucchesi matter will be going to trial. He said he is obtaining fees from attorneys Peter Bee and Dan Cananaugh.

Trustee DeBenedittis discussed the topic of the Library setting up a credit card account to purchase books at locations like Amazon.com at a reduced rate. Right now, the Library Director is using her personal credit card and getting reimbursed. Mayor Tanner asked Mr. Delury to check with Frank Sluter's office to see what other villages are doing with respect to credit cards.

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that the Historic Committee's hay ride has been postponed due to a block party being held on School Street. (The block party is September 8th, with a rain date of September 22nd).

Trustee DeBenedittis stated that she has been approached by a young resident who wants to perform community service volunteer work. NYCOM has stated that there is no problem, as long as the work does not take away work from union employees. This is not an issue in East Williston. The Clerk was asked to check with the Village insurer to see if volunteers are covered by insurance.

Trustee DeBenedittis is working with Sari Infield to improve the Village website to make it more readable.

Trustee Vella stated that the tennis flyer will be going out to residents soon.

Trustee Siciliano stated that National Grid has been issued a permit for work on Meritoria and Orchard Drive. Work is expected to commence in two weeks. They will coordinate work with us and inform residents when the work will start. They will also power wash the road surface after work is complete.

Trustee Siciliano also stated that Laser Construction will be starting work soon on Bengueyfield Drive, Ogden Avenue and Congress Avenue to address drainage issues.

Trustee Siciliano and the office staff will procure brightly colored decals for use by residents to identify yard waste on black bags for sanitation pick up.

Trustee Siciliano asked if the Board would want to add a work session to the meeting schedule so the meetings do not have to run too late. Mayor Tanner stated that he was comfortable with two meetings per month, but suggested that everyone keep up with emails so that certain issues can be addressed as they happen, to lighten the discussion at the agenda meeting.

The bamboo issue still needs to be discussed by the Board. There was talk of a New York State Law to be put into effect regarding bamboo. A copy of the law needed to be obtained and reviewed.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village received a complaint from a resident of William Street about the Beacon Church holding periodic garage sales. Many years ago, when Tzu Chi purchased the former Christian Science Church at 60 East Williston Avenue, the Village Code was reviewed and found to have omissions where permitted uses and special exemption permits are concerned. Basically, when a new entity purchases a property, the way the use is before the sale is the same way the use will stay after the sale. The Board will need to examine the issue of the reoccurring garage sales.

The Clerk noted the Community Church of East Williston always contacts the Village when they will be holding an outdoor event. Once a year, they have a “trash and treasure sale” and in October they hold a “pumpkin patch”.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting “aye”, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.