

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor David E. Tanner, Trustees Caroline DeBenedittis, Christopher A. Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner.

Excused from meeting: Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente.

Also present: Susan Corsello, James Sandquist, Louis Sasso, Carla Strauss, Mildred Clinton.

On the motion of Trustee Vella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", and Trustee DeBenedittis recusing herself, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2014.

The Board was unable to approve the minutes from the agenda meeting of July 28, 2014 because two Board members have to recuse themselves from voting, and there is not a quorum present to vote. This item will be placed on the agenda for September.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of June 23, 2014.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Vella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees DeBenedittis, Siciliano and Vella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the abstracts of claims for July 2014 as follows: 20140022 – 20140099.

The East Williston Fire Department chiefs were not able to attend the meeting to present the July 2014 report. A report will be presented next month.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE

Trustee Parente was excused from the meeting. Trustee Siciliano will give her report at this meeting.

TRUSTEE CAROLINE DEBENEDITTIS

The Recreation Committee will commence the next dance class starting the week of August 18th. Ballet will be held from 3-4pm and hip-hop from 5-6pm.

On Monday, August 18th, the East Williston Fire Department will be holding its 125th Anniversary Golf Outing at the Wheatley Hills Golf Club. A barbecue will be held at 4pm at the club.

TRUSTEE ROBERT M. VELLA, JR.

Trustee Vella reported that the Justice Court collected a total of \$3,140.00 in fines from 42 violations in July 2014. The violations consisted of 12 parking violations, one moving violation and one violation of a Village ordinance.

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano presented the Fire Department report in Trustee Parente's absence. She apologized for not being present as she was away on a short vacation with her family.

Trustee Parente met with the Fire Department Commissioners and reported that they are moving forward with needed electrical repairs to the Fire Department, as planned in this year's budget, and are moving forward with striping, and installing radios and lights in the new Chief's car. Our Commissioners worked hard to get this done efficiently and economically.

She stated the Village welcomed home the commissioners and chiefs who attended the recent Fire Convention. They returned with ways of saving money and with new information on updated equipment and laws that affect volunteer fire departments. Trustee Parente wanted to personally thank them for giving up a summer weekend with their families to improve our department.

Finally, our Fire Department had an excellent response to two major fires over the past few weeks, in neighboring villages. We were called in the early morning of July 24th to respond to a five alarm fire in Williston Park. You will notice the devastation to the buildings if you drive on Willis Avenue. The firefighters did an incredible job of containing that fire before homes and other businesses were affected. Then on August 5th, there was a call for our Engine to serve in Port Washington where an explosion occurred in a residential neighborhood. One person died and five firefighters were injured. Our East Williston firefighters were safe and assisted in making sure that the fire did not spread to the nearby homes. Trustee Parente's thoughts were with the families of the victims and hoped the injured firefighters fully recover.

Trustee Parente thanked the Fire Department once again for the continued dedication and service.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Fire Department has ordered decals with the emergency phone number so residents can place them by their telephones. They will be available at the Village office shortly.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the fence surrounding the public works yard will soon be replaced, making the area more attractive. The public works employees are currently reading water meters in individual homes. If you receive a green card at your home, please call the Village office to make an appointment for a meter reading.

Trustee Siciliano stated that if you find that a street light is out near your home, please call the Village office to report the outage.

Lastly, he stated that the Village is enjoying the beautiful flower baskets surrounding the Village hall supplied by resident Barbara Seixas.

MAYOR DAVID E. TANNER

Mayor Tanner stated that there was an article in Newsday last week about the price Williston Park has billed East Williston for water. He stated that East Williston will pay what it owes (amount of approximately \$254,300.00). The Village received a bill from Williston Park where approximately \$300,000 is assessed in interest and penalties. In a commercial environment, this amount could be considered usurious by the average person.

Louis Sasso asked how the \$300,000 in penalties is going to affect tax payers. He stated that this appears to be a case of revenge of some sort.

Mayor Tanner stated that East Williston was not ordered to pay a penalty by the court. Monies were put in escrow during the time the lawsuit. East Williston has tried countless times to resolve the water issues with Williston Park.

Both Mayor Tanner and Trustee Vella encouraged residents to attend Village of Williston Park Board meetings to express their concerns about the water rates and issues. East Williston residents pay considerably more than Williston Park residents.

Mayor Tanner stated that East Williston continues to work on long term solutions to the water issue.

Trustee Vella stated that the entire situation with Williston Park is disheartening. East Williston has tried to work with Williston Park, but nothing has come of any negotiations. The amount of the penalties and interest is unjust.

Mayor Tanner stated that every action the Village has taken with regard to the water issue has been undertaken with the consensus of the entire Board. When Trustee Vella speaks about this issue, he speaks for the entire Board of Trustees.

James Sandquist asked if the Village has paid what they feel is owed to Williston Park. Mayor Tanner stated that East Williston will be paying the bill this week.

Library Director Susan Corsello presented the Library report. The Summer Reading Program is concluding tomorrow with a party at The Williston Park Pool. One hundred and three children participated in the program. Our “Summer Stories and Crafts” program met twice a week for six weeks. The program was a great success due to the leadership of Elizabeth Quinn and the help of twenty-four teenage volunteers. We had great attendance at our two summer events, “Frogs, Bugs, and Animals” and “Beauty and the Beast”, on the Village Green.

Fall Library programs are in the process of being planned. Our two adult book clubs, our two children’s programs, and our seniors’ program will resume in September.

The Library Friends lobby display is “Our “Favorite Children’s Books” will be featured in honor of The Summer Reading Program until the end of the month. Carla Strauss, a resident of East Williston, generously lent us this collection.

VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER

The following building permits were issued in July 2014: 212 Bengueyfield Drive, resurfacing of driveway. 2 Downing Street, installation of central air conditioning. 370 Charles Street, installation of a generator. 1 Ridge Road, additions to the house. 24 Ogden Avenue, resurfacing of driveway.

The Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct report for the month of July was not received in time for the meeting.

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

Mr. Blinkoff stated that he was still awaiting a signed order from the Nassau County Supreme Court which should be forthcoming. While the order has not yet been issued. The owners of 8 Sumter Avenue filed an appeal with the Appellate Division for a stay,

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but since there is no order, there is nothing yet to appeal. The auction of the property is set for September 9th.

Carla Strauss asked about the bamboo near the Wheatley Acres sign. Mayor Tanner stated that the building inspector is addressing this with the homeowner. Also, the Beautification Committee together with public works is re-planting the area and cleaning up the sign on the wall.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano , seconded by Trustee Vella, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.