

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, September 12, 2016 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 Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Village Attorney Steven Leventhal.

Excused from meeting: Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Esq.

Also present: Susan Corsello, Patrick Theodore, Caroline DeBenedittis, Walter Rivera, Rita Botensten, James Sandquist, Carla Strauss, Marcia Weiser, Carol Batali, Louis Sasso, Michael Baltzer, Stephan Leccese, John Azzara, Nicole Paulo, Michael Guglielmo, Marie Greico, Anna Cavalalero, Ann Mageau.

The meeting commenced with a public hearing to consider local law number 1 of 2016 pertaining to the opening of fire hydrants (amending Section 154-19 of the Code of the Village of East Williston). A verbatim transcript of said hearing is on file in the office of the Village Clerk.

**RESOLUTION #2016-35 A RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL LAW NO. 1-2016 AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE SECTION 154-19 PERTAINING TO THE OPENING OF FIRE HYDRANTS.**

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Mayor Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

A Local Law amending Section 154-19 of the Village Code of the Incorporated Village of East Williston pertaining to the opening of fire hydrants as follows:

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston, New York as follows:

**Section 1, Requirement of permit to open fire hydrant.**

No person or entity shall be allowed to open a fire hydrant in the Village without a permit being granted by the Village Clerk. The permit shall be in such form as the Village Clerk shall determine.

**Section 2. Requirement of Village personnel on site when fire hydrant is opened.**

Upon a permit being provided for a person or entity to open a fire hydrant within the Village, such person or entity shall only open the hydrant in the presence of either the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, or such other representative of the Village as the Village shall designate.

**Section 3. Penalties.**

A person or entity who fails to comply with this Local Law shall be subject to a fine of \$500.00 for the first violation in a twelve month period; \$1000.00 for the second violation in a twelve month period; and \$2000.00 for the third violation in a twelve month period. Violations may be issued to the person opening the hydrant, and any entity employing such person for this purpose, each of whom shall be separately liable.

**Section 4. Exercise of supersession authority.**

The Village hereby exercises the power of supersession granted to it pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law 10(1)(ii)(e)(3) with respect to the within local law and hereby supersedes Village Law Section 7-706(2) to the extent it requires notice for publication other than has been, or will be, provided as to the within local law.

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This law shall take effect immediately.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of August 8, 2016.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone, and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of August 29, 2016.

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 approved the abstract of claims for August 2016 as follows: 20160118 - 20160154.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE BONNIE PARENTE**

The East Williston Seniors will meet on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Senior’s will be hosting a discussion with a registered physical therapist.

Trustee Parente thanked everyone for attending the September 11<sup>th</sup> candle light ceremony last night. She especially thanked the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for participating in the ceremony and the reading of the names of residents who perished in the events of September 11, 2001.

### **TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER A. SICILIANO**

Trustee Siciliano that the Department of Public Works has almost completed the replacement of street signs around the Village. In the fall, the department will be planting trees. Sidewalk replacement has been completed. Anyone who has a Village tree that is lifting up a sidewalk slab should report it to the Village office to be placed on the list for sidewalk slab replacement next year.

Trustee Siciliano witnesses drivers traveling at high rates of speed near the North Side School. He reminded residents to take care when passing this area.

### **TRUSTEE JAMES L. IANNONE**

Trustee Iannone stated that the East Williston Fire Department experienced a pretty quiet month as far as fire calls were concerned.

He urged residents to check the batteries in their smoke and fire detectors to ensure they are in proper working order.

Trustee Iannone invited residents to stop by the East Williston Fire Department booth at the Williston Day street fair on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **TRUSTEE ANTHONY J. CASELLA**

The Justice Court report for August 2016 showed a total of 40 violations: 21 parking, 15 moving violations and four Village ordinance violations. Fines collected totaled \$1,300.00 with \$0 in New York State surcharges.

The Recreation Committee reported that yoga classes continue to take place on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:15am. Gentle yoga takes place on

Wednesdays from 5:45 to 7:15pm. Fliers for all activities can be found in the Village Hall lobby.

Fall tennis started on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm, the children's tent party will be held on the Village Green. On Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the adult "Hoedown" party will be held from 7-11pm.

The "Come Play With Me" program for pre-school age children will commence in mid-September. The day of the week will be determined and announced soon.

Trustee Casella stated that at a previous meeting where police officers from the Nassau County Police Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct attended, they warned residents to watch out for solicitors with clip boards. He said he encountered such an occurrence with men who were selling replacement window systems. He called the police, as they did not possess a Village issued permit to solicit, and were soliciting beyond the time called for in the Village Code.

Trustee Casella acknowledged the informative letter received by the Village from six residents.

### **MAYOR DAVID TANNER**

Mayor Tanner stated that an email blast had been sent by the Village on solicitors and the regulations involved. He also followed up with the "POP" cop (problem oriented policing) on the issue of solicitors.

Trustee Iannone added that everyone should sign up to receive Village email blasts. Greater participation in this program is vital in keeping the community informed about what is going on, and offers a better stream of communication.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village also needed residents to inform the Village of things that occur, in addition to calling 911 in an emergency. The flow of communication goes both ways and helps to get out accurate and concise information when an incident occurs.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and Deputy Mayor Parente met with the commanding officer of the Third Precinct and POP officers a few weeks ago address to discuss various concerns. Issues discussed were increased police presence in the Village,

alcoholic beverage consumption and vandalism in Village parks, as well as communication between the police and the Village officials.

Trustee Parente stated that she was investigating a grant to attempt to purchase license plate readers. Nassau County cannot pay for license plate readers for the exclusive use of the Village, but if the Village can obtain the equipment, the police can manage/maintain the information and provide an immediate response.

Mayor Tanner stated that with regard to the cameras at Devlin Field, the vendor expressed concern about the coverage the proposed equipment would provide in the park, so the installation is delayed while further information is gathered to provide a better system of observation.

Lastly, Mayor Tanner stated that the Village has entered into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of North Hempstead to purchase fuel for Village public works and fire department vehicles. This will lead to a greater cost savings for the Village.

#### **VILLAGE CLERK MARIE L. HAUSNER**

The following building permits were issued in August 2016: 34 Ridge Road, expansion of foyer and addition of a front porch. 11 Post Avenue, major renovation and addition to home. Demolition of garage and construct new two car garage and new driveway, and installation of a central air conditioning unit. 457 Bengueyfield Drive, enlarge kitchen window. 19 Shadow Lane, install new basement bathroom and relocate laundry room. 15 Fairview Avenue, installation of new driveway. 470 Sagamore Avenue, installation of new parking lot. 75 East Williston Avenue, installation of solar panels. 412 Latham Lane, installation of central air conditioning unit. 462 Sagamore Avenue, replace central air conditioning unit.

The Nassau County Police Department report for July 2016 indicated the following: No reports of burglaries or robberies. No parking violations or moving violations were served. Three auto accidents was reported, with no auto injuries were reported.

Library director Susan Corsello presented the Library report.

#### **Library Book Clubs**

Our "Day Time Book Club" will meet on September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss "The Gilded Years", by Karin Tanabe. Our "Evening Book Club" met on September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss "The Language of Flowers", by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

### Toddler Story Time

The Toddler Group will resume on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will meet on Fridays at 11:30 am while school is in session.

### Library Friends Display Cabinet

Friends of the Library, Peggy Abad and Marcia Weisser, share their collection of Playbills from Broadway Shows seen through the years. Come reminisce at the East Williston Library and enjoy this special display throughout the month of September.

### Library Friends Book Sale

The East Williston Library Friends' Book Sale will take place on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am at the Village Hall. Donations of books will be accepted during library hours.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

James Sandquist questioned the installation of new water meters throughout the Village. He wanted to know if the program was mandatory.

Mayor Tanner advised that installation of meters is not mandatory, but if a meter stops, the replacement of the meter is necessary.

Stephan Leccese stated that he and other interested residents forwarded a letter to the Board of Trustees intended to be a constructive dialogue on security issues and to contribute to increased security. He stated he was surprised that there was not more of an engagement for some of the proposals in the letter. He further felt that the formation of the security committee was "cloaked in mystery", in that no one was made aware of whom the committee members are.

Mr. Leccese wanted to know what is the right format/forum for dialogue with the Village and the security committee for an exchange of ideas.

Mayor Tanner stated that the members of the security committee were residents of the Village appointed to the committee by the Board. The committee is advisory in nature and relays suggestions/information to the Board of Trustees. If a resident wanted to address any security concerns or suggestions, the forum would be to attend the monthly Village Board meetings and address the Board about the issues. This is the same mechanism that has been in place for any issue for many years.

Residents should come to the Board so as to have issues addressed in a structured way. The members of the security committee are not elected officials.

Mr. Leccese asked if the committee meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Leventhal stated that the meetings of the committee are not covered under the open meetings law.

Mr. Leccese wanted stated that residents wanted better security as well as action and results toward that end. They want to feel that their input is valued.

John Azzara wanted to know if the security committee provide any feedback to the Board on the letter written by him, Mr. Leccese and other residents.

Mayor Tanner stated that items in the letter were discussed between the committee and the Board. He further stated that the Village has increased email blasts, has looked into procuring license plate readers and discussed security cameras.

The outgrowth of the letter has increased a dialogue, and the Board was being responsive.

Nicole Paulo stated that there needed to be a long term strategy for the community.

Mayor Tanner stated that the committee has no formal authority to perform any function, but acts on an advisory level to the Board of Trustees. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss security or any matter may contact him, or any Board member.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Mayor and Board went through the letter sent by Mr. Leccese, Mr. Azzara and others line by line. There was a great deal of information in the letter, some of which needs to be researched. He added that the Board meets twice a month, and residents are welcome to attend agenda meeting work sessions to hear the discussion that takes place.

He added that the Board was made aware, for example that the procurement of license plate readers can only be done by the Village and not the Nassau County Police Department. The Village was advised that the police can monitor the activity from the readers, but cannot purchase them.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Board needs to investigate exactly what items listed in the letter can be done and the costs involved and then holistically consider those costs and how to fund

Ms. Paulo stated that the concerns brought up by residents should be kept in the forefront of any decisions made by the Board.

Trustee Parente stated that she appreciated all of the input presented by residents and assured everyone that the Board is taking all of the security suggestions seriously and is working to go through all of the information to ensure that whatever is implemented is as effective as possible.

Mayor Tanner stated that not everyone is signed up to receive email blasts and he implored everyone to sign up for the blasts.

Ann Mageau asked if the Village was looking into replacing sidewalks along the south side of East Williston Avenue.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and Board members have met with representatives from Nassau County about replacement of sidewalks, removal of trees and leveling the area.

Rita Botensten brought up the removal of trees on the south side at North Side School. Some trees were replaced, but thought more were going to be planted.

Mr. Leccese stated that when the trees were removed, they were replaced on a one to one basis. Funding for capital improvements at the school are now focused on drainage and similar issues from Wheatley to Andrews on Downing, due to the fact there are no curbs in the area.

He felt that the Village and School District should have more dialogue on drainage issues in the area of North Side School. Perhaps curbing can be installed in the area.

Ms. Paulo added that water comes down the road in this area and pulls debris out of the drain when it rains, leaving the area in quite a mess.

Trustee Siciliano stated that Mr. Fusco from the School District contacted him about placing "perma-drain" blocks in this area.

Mr. Leccese stated there is no barrier in the area to stop the soil from draining away.

Anna Cavallaro asked if the security committee will give regular briefings to the public.



She wanted to know about incidents that take place in the Village getting reported to residents.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village has passed along to residents through email blasts (such as when cars were entered recently).

Ms. Cavallaro stated that the Village should ask the POP cop to give a weekly debriefing to the Village to increase information flow about issues.

Mr. Azara stated that signs should be installed stating that the area is under video surveillance. Cameras could be installed in phases.

Trustee Parente stated that the Board is looking into this issue and also looking for the right type of wording for such signage.

Mr. Leccese asked that since the security has been established, he wanted a better understanding of what their mandates are and what they are tasked to do. He said it would be helpful to know who is on the committee as well.

Mayor Tanner stated that former Trustee Caroline DeBenedittis is on the committee as well as another long-time resident. Another member has a security background.

Mayor Tanner stated that more information will be coming in the weeks ahead.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.