

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Agenda meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor Bonnie L.S. Parente, Trustees Raffaella Dunne, James Iannone, James Lark Anthony Gallo, Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk, Deputy Clerk William Basel, Treasurer Michael Delury, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Bonnie Kreisman, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff.

Also present: Mark Davella Assessor/Consultant, Thomas Devaney, Patrick Theodore.

Mark Davella was present to apprise the Board about possible issues with tax grievance firms challenging rates that New York State determines for each village. Each year the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services issues the Residential Assessment Ratio (RAR) and the Equalization Rate (ER) for each taxing agency. These rates convert the assessed valuation of a property to the market value.

These firms do not have grounds to challenge this rate with each taxing agency because the rate is issued through New York State.

Mr. Davella stated that in the event a challenge arises, the village should budget: 1) \$2,500 for court costs, and 2) Article 78 fees of \$10,000, in case the lower court decision is appealed. These fees would be on top of what was budgeted for the normal assessors budget.

He noted that the village received 48 SCAR filings in April 2021. He added that the village does not have the right to appeal SCAR decisions.

Mr. Delury stated that there will be a larger contingency for SCAR refunds.

Mr. Delury stated that the village received the SAM grant from State Senator Kaplan's office for the award for village outlay for the fire department emergency.

He is further seeking another SAM grant for a front wheel loader for the Department of Public Works. A resolution was needed for said grant.

RESOLUTION #2021-35 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TREASURER TO APPLY FOR A SAM GRANT FOR A FRONT END LOADER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

On the motion of Mayor Parente , seconded by Trustee Lark, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Dunne, Iannone, Lark and Gallo all voting “aye”, the Board approved a resolution to authorize the Treasurer to apply for a SAM Grant for a front end loader for the Department of Public Works.

RESOLUTION #2021-36 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2020 EAST WILLISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT LOSAP POINTS

On the motion of Mayor Parente , seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Dunne, Iannone, Lark and Gallo all voting “aye”, the Board approved a resolution to accept the 2020 East Williston Fire Department LOSAP points for 32 members who met the fifty (50) point requirement.

Trustee Gallo stated that Gra-Der will be back on the coming weeks to finish punch list items on the refurbishing of the tennis courts. He noted that any work done on the courts is meant to be placed on fresh asphalt, so there will be minor bumps in the surface.

Trustee Gallo will contact resident William Farrar who had questions about the tennis court project.

Trustee Dunne stated that the facility fee of 10% from what the instructor collects should go toward the maintenance of the tennis courts.

Ms. Kreisman informed the Board that many water meters are still being installed in homes. 100 homes do not have meters: currently there are 40 appointments scheduled, and 60 homes that have not made appointments. It should also be noted that some homes have had the meter installed, but the meter is not working properly.

Ms. Kreisman stated that there are issues with six households that have the same three end points.

Mrs. Hausner stated that two proposals for a traffic study of Sagamore Avenue were received. Nelson & Pope \$8,500 and VHB \$9,250.

After discussion by the Board, it was determined that the cost of the traffic study was not worth the cost to the Village at this time.

Trustee Dunne stated that the Recreation Committee will not hold the Ragamuffin parade this year due to Covid, but will host a “Movie Under the Stars – Halloween Special” of Monsters Inc. on Friday, October 29, 2021.

Trustee Dunne also noted that the Turkey Trot (Drumstick Dash) will take place again this year the day after Thanksgiving.

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Gallo, the Board adjourned into executive session at 8:40pm to discuss personnel matters.

The Board re-convened at 8:45pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Thomas Devaney was present for the meeting to discuss the issue of extra LOSAP points during Covid from March 17, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

The Board advised that they had passed resolution number 2020-22 on August 31, 2020 that the Board of Trustees approved the granting of five (5) points for each complete month of the period, pro-rated for the partial months, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 202 of 2020 during the period March 13, 2020 to September 30, 2020.

Mr. Devaney pointed out that a few members of the department miss out as it does not come into effect with the 2021 year.

LOSAP was extended from 40 years to 50 years by the New York State Legislature.

Mayor Parente stated that she supports the LOSAP program.

RESOLUTION #2021-37 A RESOLUTION TO SET A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 18, 2021 RELATIVE TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 466-c TO APPROVE A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION RELATING TO PROPERTY OWNED BY AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT IT SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION TO THE EXTENT OF TEN PERCENT OF THE ASSESSED VALUE OF SUCH PROPERTY

On the motion of Mayor Parente , seconded by Trustee Gallo, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Dunne, Iannone, Lark and Gallo all voting "aye", the Board resolved to set a date for a public hearing on October 18, 2021 relative to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-c to approve a property tax exemption relating to property owned by an enrolled member of the fire department that it shall be exempt from taxation to the extend of then percent of the assess value of such property.

Patrick Theodore stated that Chief Peter Batterson is working to obtain quotes on a fire alarm system for the firehouse. He will also be getting a proposal to the Mayor with regard to the need for firefighter gear..

Mr. Theodore stated that the Roslyn Highlands Fire Department may have gear available.

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Trustee Gallo is still waiting to set up an appointment with a firm he works with regarding cameras for the firehouse and other village needs. Also, he is looking into cameras on the south side of the firehouse.

Mr. Theodore asked about the fire department performing hydrant testing.

Mrs. Hausner stated that since East Williston is considered a water district by the Nassau County Department of Health, the public works department must perform the testing, even though we do not have our own licensed operator since James Bailey's passing. Even when Mr. Bailey was superintendent, the other two public works employees performed the flushing of hydrants.

Trustee Iannone stated that the fire department is short on EMT's.

It was asked that the department look into getting word out the public of the benefits of becoming a firefighter/EMT.

Mr. Theodore stated that with regard to village security, he will be in contact with the commanding officer of the Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct. The MTA police have also been a constant presence at the train station.

He stressed that when residents witness something, they must call 911 so the call is properly logged and assigned a police officer.

Mr. Theodore also noted that fencing needs need to be addressed with the department of public works at Devlin Field at the ballfield and tennis courts..

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm