

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, February 29, 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 and Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente, Christopher A. Siciliano, Robert M. Vella, Jr., James L. Iannone, Village Treasurer Michael Delury, Bonnie Kreisman, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Marie L. Hausner, Village Clerk, Village Attorney Jeffrey Blinkoff.

Also present: John Mirando, Ellen Ritz, Leonard Ritz, Edward Murphy, Michael Calder, Richard Kearns.

The Board opened the meeting with a budget workshop. Treasurer Michael Delury reviewed the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:30pm.

Mr. Delury noted the following items with regard to the budget: the purchase of a new dump/snow plow truck for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$60,000 will be undertaken in the next budget year; a number of commercial tax certioraris settled in the past year, will be paid down in the next seven years; Fire Department member John McWhirk will be stepping down as administrator/trustee of the LOSAP (length of service plan) program for the Fire Department. Mr. McWhirk volunteered his time in this capacity for close to 25 years. Due to new laws, the Village must now hire an outside, licensed firm to administrate the plan which will now be paid out of the budget.

Mr. Delury stated that the Village tax rate has gone down consistently for the past several years. The General Fund balance is approximately \$290,000.

He added that the finances of the Village are very strong.

Trustee Siciliano added that the purchase of the new truck for Public Works replaces a 1992 truck that is now out of service and not running.

Leonard Ritz asked about the budget line item for Judgment and Claims. Mayor Tanner stated that this item is for tax certioraris.

Mr. Ritz also questioned sidewalk expense. Mr. Delury stated that this is for the replacement of sidewalks where a Village tree has lifted the slab. He added that the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) reimburses the Village a certain amount for this

replacement, as well as other highway improvements. The CHIPs fund also helped fund a portion of the purchase of the new street sweeper.

Mr. Kearns asked about the sidewalks along East Williston Avenue. Mayor Tanner stated that the Village replaced the sidewalks along East Williston Avenue many years ago. He and Trustee Siciliano recently met with the Nassau County Department of Public Works about this issue, but have budgeted monies for replacement of the sidewalks anyway.

Mr. Murphy stated that he received a letter from Williston Park soliciting funds for its EMS unit. He thought East Williston had its own fire department and EMS service.

Mayor Tanner confirmed that the Village does maintain its own services.

Trustee Siciliano stated that East Williston is a “first responder” when emergency services are called, however it does not render transport services to a hospital. Williston Park performs this service for East Williston.

Trustee Siciliano stated that all of the volunteer agencies depend on donations from residents.

Mr. Ritz questioned where the monies owed to Williston Park (penalties) can be found in the budget. Mayor Tanner responded that the penalties are a balance sheet item and not currently budgeted.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the Board reconvened at 9:34p.m. No action was taken during the executive session.

The Board discussed the issue of brown water events in the Bengueyfield Drive area. Recent events have taken place due to National Grid subcontractors tapping into fire hydrants without permission.

John Mirando stated that the Village has a flushing program in place. Flushing of hydrants should take place west to east. Brown water occurs when a hydrant is opened, causing a reversal of flow in the system. He recommends night flushing (12-1am).

He stated that tuberculation is the problem that causes discolored water. Buildup of naturally occurring minerals and rust accumulate in the water mains. It is very expensive to go in and line water mains. New mains installed today are cast iron, concrete lined, which cause less rusty water problems.

Mr. Mirando added that the size of mains and velocity of water coming out of hydrants also causes rusty water (small mains, higher velocity; large mains, slower velocity).

Another way to alleviate rusty water would be to fee inhibiting chemicals (such as phosphates) into the mains. This too, is an expensive method of prevention, as the Village would have to construct a chemical feed system.

Mr. Mirando suggested that the Village track all calls on a map when rusty water complaints are received. He also suggested that the Village advise residents that they should adjust their hot water heaters to a temperature of not more than 120 degrees. They should also flush water tank on a regular basis and clean taps.

Lastly, when the public works department flushes hydrants, they should bring white cups with them and time how long it takes for the water to run clear from a hydrant.

Mayor Tanner asked Mr. Blinkoff to investigate raising of fines for hydrant use and adding fines for various violations. He also wanted the Department of Public Works Superintendent to be added to those able to grant permission for the use of hydrants, so those seeking hydrant use can be directed where to draw water and have it metered.

Trustee Iannone brought up the purchase of radios by the East Williston Fire Department. New radios cost approximately \$1,100 each. The Department needs to change from low band to high band. Assistant Chief Patrick Theodore was in contact with the Oyster Bay Fire Department. They have used radios they will sell to East Williston for \$288 each. He said Chief Theodore and Commissioner Paul Walters are in favor of purchasing the used radios.

RESOLUTION #2016-7 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF THE 1994 FORD SWEEPER BY PUBLIC BID TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Vella and Iannone all voting "aye" the Board authorized the disposal of the 1994 Ford sweeper by public bid to the highest bidder, and authorized the Village Clerk to publish a notice to bidders in the Williston Times.

Trustee Parente stated that the Senior Group has decided to separate its activities from that of the Library. Carla Strauss wanted to meet with Board of Trustees to discuss the Senior Group and future events. At this time, the group does not have an official leader.

Mayor Tanner suggested that perhaps the Recreation Committee can aid in the planning of activities for the Senior Committee and asked that Caroline DeBenedittis be contacted with regard to this issue.

Clerk Hausner provided some history about the Senior Committee. She stated that before Emily Asaro of Library took over the activities of the Senior Committee, Diana Reyer was the head of the group. She unilaterally planned and set up all of the functions of the Senior group. When Mrs. Reyer moved out of East Williston, the group still wanted to meet, but no one wanted to take charge of the group. The Library had agreed to help in the planning and set up of the activities.

Mayor Tanner asked if the office or any of the Trustees had heard from Ann Cavallaro Jimenez about her posting on Facebook about a call to police reporting a suspicious individual in the yard of her home. Neither the office nor any of the Trustees heard from this resident.

Mr. Delury stated that in view of John McWhirk stepping down as administrator/trustee of the LOSAP plan, he contacted Hometown Insurance to discuss the matter with them. Mr. McWhirk suggested that the Village speak with them first about the issue and actuarial work.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Mayor Trustee Vella, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.