

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

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, August 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, Trustees Christopher Siciliano, Bonnie L.S. Parente, James L. Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner, Treasurer Michael Delury, Bonnie Kreisman, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff.

Also present: Caroline DeBenedittis, Rita Botensten, Walter Rivera.

Mayor Tanner stated that he asked the members of the Security Committee to the meeting this evening to discuss their preliminary meeting on security matters.

Mrs. DeBenedittis stated that the Committee felt that communications going out to residents relative to security issues immediately (advising of burglaries/vehicle break-ins/suspicious activity, etc.) is very important. The suggestion of starting a Facebook page may be another avenue to explore, aside from email blasts. She added that cars in the Ridge area were rifled through a few weeks back.

Mrs. DeBenedittis stated that it is important for the Village to receive incoming information from residents, so the Village can be aware of situations. Mayor Tanner agreed wholeheartedly. The more information the Village receives, the better.

Mayor Tanner stated that communication is a two-way street. Aside from a resident reporting an incident as soon as it occurs to 911, they should also be contacting the Village office to advise of the occurrence. Contacting the Village office is in addition to the calling of 911, not in lieu of contacting the police.

Trustee Casella stated that a week or so back, men with clip boards were going house to house on his street soliciting for Anderson Windows. He confronted the men advising that they needed a permit. The men told him they didn't need a permit. Trustee Casella called the police.

Mrs. DeBenedittis stated that if the Village were to get security cameras for installation on major arteries, they would have to be high definition, enough to see license plates and faces clearly.

Mayor Tanner stated that he was looking to find out if the Village purchased such cameras, if the Nassau County Police Department could monitor the camera feed.

Mr. Rivera stated that the cost of cameras of this type is very expensive. There will need to be enough staff to be able to monitor footage as well.

Mayor Tanner questioned the installation of the cameras at Devlin. Ms. Kreisman stated that the vendor was skeptical that the cameras will work as promised. They are testing the equipment to ascertain the viability of the cameras.

Mayor Tanner asked Mr. Blinkoff if the Village can hire a peace officer.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that towns in the State of New York have a statute in State Law that allows them to hire peace officers. The Nassau County Police Department may deny the Village the ability to hire a peace officer, if it sought such legislation from the New York State Legislature.

Mr. Blinkoff added that some courts have peace officers.

Trustee Casella felt that the Village should work with the Security Committee and ramp up awareness.

Mr. Blinkoff suggested the hiring of deputy code enforcement officers.

Trustee Iannone felt that the Village is not getting proper attention from the police.

Mr. Rivera noted seeing an increase in patrols lately, so they seem to be stepping up police presence in the Village.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and Deputy Mayor Parente and Trustee Siciliano met with Inspector Berry and two POP officers today to discuss pertinent security issues and shared the concerns of residents with the Inspector.

Mayor Tanner stated that for all issues involving the police, he is the point of contact between the Village and the police department. He added that the Village had also sent out a recent email blast informing residents of the security committee's formation and activity.

Mrs. DeBenedittis drafted a proposed flier to be sent to residents about signing up for email blasts and communicating with the Village about incidents that occur.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village needed to be proactive, rather than reactive in its approach to security information.

Mayor Tanner was looking to the Nassau County Police Department to have a mobile LPR unit to drive around the Village.

Mr. Rivera stated that an anti-crime unit recently arrested individuals in a local park. He also stated that the Village needs information to be able to follow up with police. This way the Village can avoid sending out email blasts without all of the facts.

Mayor Tanner stated that two way communication is key between the residents and the Village.

Trustee Parente thought that perhaps residents can email information to the Village when something occurs. The Village may want to explore setting up a separate email address to report incidents.

Mrs. DeBenedittis stated that the gist of the communication to residents is , in the event of an incident to 1) call 911. 2) follow up by calling or emailing the Village and advising of the incident. 3) follow up with the POP cop.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village needs to establish a protocol as to how it responds and monitors the information. It will also entail a manner of the flow of information.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Village would need to rate the urgency of each notification it receives from residents.

Lastly, Mr. Rivera wanted to add that having residents place the “VEW” resident decals on vehicles is not a good idea in that they will be targeted when they are in other areas.

Mayor Tanner stated that when meeting with Inspector Berry, they discussed the issue of drinking in public (open container law).

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village already has this local law in its Code.

Mayor Tanner questioned the court jurisdiction in which the summons would be returnable.

Mr. Blinkoff suggested that the Village will lose control if the summons was answerable to District Court in Nassau County.

Mayor Tanner stated that this was the reason why the East Williston Court was established in the first place. The Village never got the attention in the past at District Court.

Mayor Tanner stated that zero tolerance for open container violations should be given when adjudicating summonses in court.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that no summons for an open container has come before the judge in East Williston.

RESOLUTION #2016-33 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON AND THE EAST WILLISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 2016 TO MAY 31, 2017 .

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Iannone, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting “aye”, the Board authorized the Mayor to sign the contract between the Inc. Village of East Williston and the East Williston Fire Department for the period June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

Mr. Delury stated that the agreement with Pinnacle Associates for administration of the LOSAP plan has been approved by the East Williston Fire Department. Mr. Blinkoff is working with Pinnacles representative about finalization of the indemnification. The agreement should be signed by the Mayor in the near future.

Mayor Tanner asked if Firefighter Mulrooney had undergone a mask fit test as required by the Department by-laws. Trustee Iannone stated that Mr. Mulrooney did in fact, undergo the fit test as required.

RESOLUTION #2016-34 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BLOCK PARTY APPLICATION FOR RIDGE ROAD FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 WITH A RAINDATE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 .

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting “aye”, the Board approved the application to hold a block party on Ridge Road on September 10, 2016, with a rain date of September 11, 2016.

Clerk Hausner reviewed the letter from the New York State Retirement System relative to some reporting corrections that must be forwarded to the System. Generally, these are “housekeeping” issues that require certain forms to be filled out and filed with New York State. The other issue of ensuring that all future part time employees are made aware of their option to join the retirement system will be implemented by having a future employee sign a form stating that they do not wish to join the retirement system, and the form will be kept in the personnel file.

Mayor Tanner asked when the Village can expect the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016. Mr. Delury expected Skinnon and Faber to be finished with the audit by early October.

Trustee Casella stated that with regard to the installation of commercial water meters, the meter at North Side School has been installed. The Wheatley House condominium officers were dragging their feet, so to speak. They were concerned about paying for the meter, but confused that the Village still owned the meter. After speaking with president Ann Wadman, and explaining the benefits of the new meter, the condominium will be moving forward to have the meter installed.

Trustee Casella said he has spoken to several residents who have asked why they must pay for the new meters. He felt that the Village should pay for the meters and that it is a legitimate expense.

Mayor Tanner stated that early the Village had budgeted to replace meters. At that time some residents were very vocal in their opposition to the replacement of meters and the cost to the Village. About that time, Williston Park had increased its water rate to East Williston from \$3.83 to \$4.33. After this, without increasing rates to Village residents, it is not possible to provide new meters at a cost to the Village.

He also noted that East Williston was confronting an issue of “water loss” (water not accounted for, as not having been registered through metered use). The Board had approved a resolution in January 2016 to commence the meter program, have residents pay for the meters. The program would start with the replacement of the larger meters in the system, being North Side School, Wheatley Hills Golf Club and The Wheatley House. That is why the residential meter replacement program is voluntary for single family residences. The Village is not requiring residents to replace their meters.

Trustee Casella though it would be great if the Village could eliminate meter reading by the Public Works staff.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village needs to focus budget monies on upgrading East Williston Avenue at this time.

He also note that rating agencies will not have a positive view of the Village’s general fund supporting the water fund, if the Village were to absorb costs of meter replacement. The water fund cannot handle such an expense.

Trustee Casella felt that it will be more efficient if the Village replaces the meters at its own cost.

Mayor Tanner stated that if that were to take place, water rates to residents will have to be increased. Raising the water rate is something he did not want to do. The Village also has other financial priorities at this time.

Mayor Tanner stated that after the Wheatley House meter is installed, the Village office should contact the Wheatley Hills Golf Club again about the installation of their new meter.

Trustee Siciliano stated that 114 sidewalk flags were replaced, where Village trees were lifting the slabs.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Iannone, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.