

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, June 11, 2018 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, Trustees Christopher A. Siciliano, James Iannone, Anthony Casella, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner..

Excused from meeting: Deputy Mayor/Trustee Bonnie L.S. Parente

Also present: Officer Dimsky and other officers from the Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct. Mr. & Mrs. Kozak, Mildred Clinton, Peter Batterson, Stephan Leccese, Matthew Cuomo, Mr. & Mrs. Botensten, Mrs. Bartali, Michael Guglielmo, Raphaella Dunn, Sarah Tragary, Matthew Cuomo.

The Board commenced the meeting with a continuation of a public hearing with regard to a proposed local law amending fees required to be submitted in conjunction with various applications.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Casella, the Board approved a resolution to continue said public hearing to July 9, 2018.

Officers from the Nassau County Police Department were present with regard to recent car break-ins in the area. They advised those present not to keep anything of value in a car, whether the vehicle is locked or not. It was helpful that some residents were able to supply security camera footage to the police. They added that these incidents have also occurred in the Roslyn County Club area as well as Williston Park.

Stephan Leccese stated that his vehicle was one of those broken into. He supplied video footage to the police.

The police said they have increase patrol in the area.

Mayor Tanner thanked the police for their presence at the meeting.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Casella and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of May 14, 2018.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of May 29, 2018.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, and Casella all voting "aye", the Board approved the abstract of claims for May 2018 voucher numbers 20170634 – 20170744.

Assistant Chief Peter Batterson presented the report for the East Williston Fire Department for May 2018. The department responded to a total of 14 calls. Six EMS calls, five general alarms, two motor vehicles accidents and one mutual aid to a neighboring fire department.

The members of the department participated in the Memorial Day ceremony and provided hot dogs and hamburgers to event participants.

Department members have been attending fire school at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy in Old Bethpage during the month of May. The department will now continue drills at the North Side School on Thursday nights.

Lastly, anyone interested in joining the department should come to the firehouse on Thursday evenings and speak to one of the chiefs.

TRUSTEES REPORTS

TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER SICILIANO

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Department of Public Works was still planting street trees while the weather is still cool. They will also begin making a list of sidewalks where village trees are lifting slabs for repair.

Semi annual hydrant flushing will soon commence to help alleviate rusty water.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Library appointed Jamie Cutinella and Erin Urkeil as co-library directors.

TRUSTEE ANTHONY CASELLA

Trustee Casella reported that the Village Justice Court settled 14 parking violations, no moving violations and one village ordinance, receiving \$750 in fines with no New York State surcharge.

The Recreation Committee continues to hold yoga classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11am. Gentle yoga takes place on Wednesdays at 6pm.

Summer tennis with instructor Jayne Alterman commences June 25th.

Fliers for all activities can be found in the Village Hall lobby.

TRUSTEE JAMES IANNONE

Trustee Iannone stated that the East Williston Fire Department finished up training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy, where members were able to practice fighting various types of fires with simulated "live burns".

Drills will now continue on Thursday nights at the North Side School.

He added that the East Williston Fire Department is a great organization and a sense of pride for the community. He urged residents to come down and perhaps consider joining the department.

MARIE L. HAUSNER, VILLAGE CLERK

In the absence of Trustee Parente, Mrs. Hausner advised those present that the East Williston Seniors will be meeting on June 21st at 1pm to hold an ice cream social. This will be the last meeting until September.

The Nassau County police report did not arrive in time for the meeting this evening.

Building permits issued for the month of May 2018 were: 100 Bengueyfield Drive, expansion of the driveway. 11 Summit Avenue, partial demolition of residence, addition to home, garage, installation of central air conditioning system. 10 Post Lane, construction of a 2nd story dormer and relocation of the driveway.

MAYOR DAVID TANNER

Mayor Tanner stated that he attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the North Side School on June 9th. The Village presented a proclamation to the school. Trustee Casella joined the Mayor in attending the celebration.

The Mayor opened the meeting to residents.

Resident living adjacent to the Tzu Chi Organization building at 60 East Williston Avenue expressed concern about expansion of the building. They said that members of the organization have been knocking on doors asking if they want to sell their homes. They also stated they received a letter in the mail from the organization inquiring if they wanted to sell their homes.

Mayor Tanner stated that this was the reason the Board passed a moratorium at the May 2018 meeting preventing a work on buildings considered conditional uses within the residential districts. This will give the village time to evaluate factors such as traffic, zoning, planning, pedestrian traffic, intensity of use, quality of life (noise) etc. for these areas. Any change of use of a property granted a conditional use, must be brought before the Board of Trustees for consideration.

While no formal application was submitted to the Village, Tzu Chi recently approached the Village with preliminary plans to hold day care activities and proposed related renovations to the building. At this time, no work or change of use to the building can take place because of the moratorium.

Mayor Tanner stated that he and the Board are as concerned as the residents about changes to the community, but must follow proper legal procedure in any evaluation. East Williston, being predominantly residential in nature, requires conditional uses for these properties. In evaluating any changes, professionals may be engaged to aid in consideration.

Mildred Clinton stated that her driveway on East Williston Avenue constantly gets flooded since the road was reconfigured. She has contacted Nassau County (as East Williston Avenue a/k/a Route 25B is a New York State owned, Nassau County maintained roadway).

Mayor Tanner stated that the County is not often responsive to the concerns of the Village, as witnessed by the installation of sidewalks along East Williston Avenue, just east of the Village Green. He added that the Village has no authority when it comes to the thoroughfares of East Williston Avenue and Roslyn Road.

Mayor Tanner returned to the discussion of the moratorium for the areas with conditional use permits.

Jeffrey Blinkoff stated that the 180 day moratorium commenced on the date of the public hearing May 14, 2018. During this time, the Village will engage experts to look at the use of the area, traffic etc. The Village will also take the concerns and comments of residents into consideration. Residents are encouraged to write to the Village about anything that can be helpful during this time.

Trustee Sicilano asked the residents who received letters from Tzu Chi asking to purchase their homes to provide a copy of the letter to the Village.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the moratorium allows the Village time to look at the entire process of conditional uses within the Village.

Mayor Tanner noted that the use of the properties (by churches) at the intersection of East Williston Avenue and Roslyn Road predates the village code and in some cases the incorporation of the Village.

Again, residents are urged to write to the Village enumerating their concerns about this issue.

Matthew Cuomo asked if the Board was aware of the proposed eight foot fence installation at the North Side School. He stated that (local) zoning would apply if the New York State Education Department does not have something in place to regulate such installation.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Village had not yet been contacted by the school district on this issue. He noted in the past, the district contacted the Village about traffic control issues around the North Side School.

Stephan Leccese felt that the Village needed to take a point of view on the issue of the fence around North Side.

Mayor Tanner re-iterated that the Village has not received anything from the school district.

Mr. Cuomo stated that the East Williston School District feels they are not subject to local zoning laws, but added that the New York State Education Department has no control over the installation of fences. He felt that the Village should engage the school district in discussion on the issue of a fence.

Mayor Tanner wondered why the issue of the fence was not part of the discussion during the recent School District elections.

Mr. Cuomo stated that the six to eight foot fence was mentioned at for the first time at the last school board meeting. In October 2017, the fence was mentioned, but the height of the fence was not discussed.

Michael Guglielmo stated that the school board wants to move forward with the fence but does not yet have a foot print of the fence. There are still many variables that have not been determined.

Mr. Cuomo stated that Nick Fusco, head of buildings and grounds for the school said that a six to eight foot fence is what Homeland Security suggested.

Raffaela Dunn stated that there are no standards that they are adhering to.

Mr. Guglielmo said his take away on the matter was that a four foot fence would not make sense or not be pragmatic for the area.

Trustee Siciliano had attended the meeting and said that the school district would be reaching out to the Village.

Mr. Leccese requested the Village to reach out to the school district and propose to have a meeting to inform the community. He also felt the Village should request a copy of the design of the fence.

Rita Botensten felt that the school should reach out to the East Williston Village Board, but added that Mark Kamberg said the plan had to go to New York State first.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board will determine the best way to reach out to the school board.

Mr. Leccese asked about the construction of the new elevated water storage tank in Williston Park. He was informed that the costs for this project are now more expensive than originally thought.

Trustee Siciliano stated that Williston Park is still in the preliminary stages of the proposed work and that they will be bonding the project.

Trustee Casella stated that the estimated \$7.7 million for the project is an estimate and not a bid. At the Williston Park meeting, he said there could be a possible increase of 30% in water rates.

Mr. Leccese did not feel that Williston Park should be allowed to pass along capital costs for the well to East Williston residents.

Mayor Tanner stated that the water rates were set for several years, and when the rates are re-set for East Williston, the same percentage increase will apply to Williston Park residents.

Trustee Iannone stated that if East Williston had opted to construct its own well, residents would be footing 100% of the capital costs for said well.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm