

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

Agenda Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York. (Note meeting re-scheduled from 12/26/16)

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: Michelle and Brianna Janicek, Nicole Paulo Russo, Stephan Leccese.

Michelle Janicek, leader of Girl Scout Troop 1825 is working with daughter Brianna and other troop members on "A Year of Giving". One of the projects under consideration is placement of "bat houses", where bats can "nest". The kits for the construction are provided the scouts who put them together. It was the hope of the troop to get permission from the Village to place them in one of the Village parks.

Brianna Janicek stated that the bats help the environment by eating mosquitos.

Trustee Parente stated that both Christopher Morley Park and Eisenhower Park have bat houses installed.

The Board asked that the clerk call the Nassau County Health Department to see if there may be any issues with bat houses. If there were not concerns from the Health Department, a suitable place may be the passive park adjacent to the tennis courts on East Williston Avenue, as the area has sunlight to warm the houses for the bats, and will not interfere with ball playing on Devlin Field.

Trustee Casella stated that an acquaintance of his who is an artist was interested in the possibility of displaying art work in the "Friends of the Library cabinet" in the lobby at the Village Hall. He wanted to know if the Village had insurance to cover loss of the art objects should this occur.

The Board asked the clerk to contact the Villages insurer to see what the maximum coverage limits are and what if any waivers needed to be obtained from those who display items in the cabinet.

Trustee Casella brought up the concern of resident Philip Chappo about having a high assessment placed on his home last year. He said his cousin got a letter that his house

was reassessed, but the work on his home (through a building permit) is not yet completed.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board had asked that letters be sent this year to residents if there was a significant increase in an assessment.

Ms. Kreisman confirmed that these letters were sent out to residents. She added that East Williston assessments were historically low. She also stated that assessor/consultant Mark Davella reviewed all building permits in order to properly address changes to assessments of properties.

Trustee Casella stated to be fair, if you apply for a building permit, it should not trigger a higher assessment.

Mayor Tanner stated that Mr. Davella was conducting the assessment practice using standards of the industry.

Trustee Casella felt that the reassessment of a residence should not take place until the work is completed.

Mayor Tanner suggested that Trustee Casella meet with Mr. Davella to discuss the procedures involved in this process.

Trustee Casella stated that with regard to the draft budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, he noted that the Village already has street lighting (relating to possible conversion to LED street lights). He felt a more important project would be to replace water meters throughout the Village. He mentioned that a few months back, he presented a report as to what other water districts are doing with regard to replacement of meters. He felt this should be a Village priority.

Mayor Tanner asked Mr. Blinkoff if the Village needed to have a request for proposals for the change out for street lighting to LED's. Mr. Blinkoff stated that an RFP will not be needed for an engineer, but for the purchase of the actual lighting, unless the lights could be purchased off of a New York State Contract.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village experienced a water main break last weekend. It was repaired the same day.

Trustee Siciliano noted that a neighboring village is undertaking a program dealing with pet safety, in that when a pet is missing, the village places the info on its website. He thought this may be something East Williston can do for its residents.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that he is corraling information on all MTA agreements with the Village so that the information (created over the years) can be in one place.

The Board discussed the issue of the illegal removal of sidewalks by two residents on Sumter Avenue.

Trustee Parente stated that the residents damaged the sidewalks which are public property therefore, they are violation of the Village Code.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Casella, the Board adjourned into executive session at 8:30pm to discuss possible litigation.

The Board reconvened at 8:40pm. No action was taken during the executive session.

Bonnie Kreisman advised that the water meter has been installed at the Wheatley Hills Golf Club, however the “end point” which registers the usage is not yet in working order, so the Village office is not receiving readings at this time.

Ms. Kreisman also advised that the Golf Club performed a renovation whereby they did not obtain a plumbing permit for said work.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that working without a plumbing permit is addressed in the property maintenance code, and would warrant a violation being issued to the Golf Club.

The Mayor asked that pluming inspector Jack Gayson speak with building inspector Robert Campagna about issuing a violation.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that he spoke with the Town of North Hempstead Attorney’s office about solicitation permits issued by the Town, but not being valid in incorporated villages. He was directed to Town Clerk Wayne Wink’s office. This would be a matter of revising the application to be more specific as to the locations in which those granted permission could solicit.

Michael Delury gave an overview of the draft budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. He noted that at this time, there appears to be no tax increase on the horizon.

Mayor Tanner felt that there may even be a tax reduction.

Mr. Delury explained that assessed valuations have increased, which equates to a “flat budget”.

He also noted the following:

- Less tickets were issued during 2016-2017.

- An addition \$1,000. 00 in grant funding was added to the budget for painting of doors and risers (left over from a New York State in 2003).
- Traffic control line can be decreased, at street sign installation has been completed.
- LOSAP increase advised to the amount of \$82,500.
- The East Williston Chief's vehicle has now been paid off.
- Add line for security patrols in the amount of \$10,000.
- Street lighting would be decreased if LED street lighting is installed. The LED street lighting conversion would be placed in the capital budget.
- Tree maintenance is down slightly.
- New York State Retirement System costs have dropped.

Trustee Casella questioned the installation of water meters.

Ms. Kreisman stated that 12 meters have been installed and eight to 10 residents have asked to be placed on the list for replacement.

Mr. Delury stated that it is projected that 15 to 20 would be purchased and installed next year, with the residents paying for the meter, so it would not impact the budget.

Trustee Casella asked how much water is the Village losing by not installing all new meters.

Mr. Delury stated that as for gallons billed, the loss factor in 2015 was 8.4%. However, the water loss factor for 2016 was difficult to ascertain due to arrears in water payments.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2017 A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THAT THE DRAFT 2017-2018 BUDGET INCLUDE \$350,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF WATER METERS AND NOT INCLUDE FUNDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING.

On the motion Trustee Casella, with no second by any Board member, the motion proposed that the draft 2017-2018 budget include \$350,000 for replacement of water meters and not include funds to replace street lighting.

There being no second to said proposed motion, the resolution was not approved.

Trustee Parente stated that street lighting in East Williston is more important than replacing water meters.

Mayor Tanner stated that it is fiscally irresponsible to replace water meters for which the Water Fund cannot afford. He added that when Williston Park raised the water rate to \$4.33, the current East Williston water rate absorbed the increase so as not to burden resident any further. The Village has not raised water rates since then (noting that East

Williston is responsible for the water infrastructure {mains/hydrants, etc.}). The Village is best served by maintaining funds for a water rate stabilization fund.

Trustee Casella stated that the Board wanted to spend over six million dollars on a well.

Trustee Parente stated that was not true.

Trustee Iannone stated that anyone who wants to replace their water meter can do so, but they cannot replace their street lights. Residents should not have to absorb the cost of the replacement of some large water meters, when their own meter is of a smaller size. Street lighting is a safety issue.

Trustee Siciliano stated that water meter prices are much different than the cost of street lights. He also noted that those undertaking major home renovations or the construction of a new house must purchase a new water meter.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2017 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REQUIREMENT THAT EACH NEW HOMEOWNER MUST UPGRADE THE WATER METER IN THE HOME BY PURCHASING A REMOTE READ WATER METER FOR INSTALLATION IN THE PREMISES.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Parente and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, Iannone and Casella all voting "aye", the Board authorized the requirement that each new homeowner must upgrade the water meter in the home by purchasing a remote read water meter for installation in the premises.

Mayor Tanner stated that any home with a water meter over 40 years old should be replaced.

Ms. Kreisman said she can create a list of residences by age of meter.

The Board said they wanted to discuss this issue further to fine tune the meter replacement.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Fire Department is not yet purchasing fuel from the Town of North Hempstead.

Trustee Siciliano stated that one of the chiefs should speak with James Bailey about arranging to sign up at the Town of North Hempstead to purchase fuel.

Mrs. Hausner informed everyone that the sanitation bids will be opened on February 17th, enough time to include information into the draft budget.

She also advised that the New York State Retirement System now requires that the Board approve a resolution for all elected officials who are members in the system, each time their respective term of offices are renewed by election. She will have the resolution form ready for the February agenda meeting. She further noted that going forward, the NYS Retirement System suggests adding the resolution to the Pro Forma resolutions each year at the Annual Organizational Meeting.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Casella, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.