

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON
AGENDA MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, October 31, 2016, 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: Francis J. Cashin, III, Caroline DeBenedittis, Rita Botensten, Walter Rivera.

Trustee Siciliano stated that Mr. Cashin was present at the meeting to discuss the sidewalk along the south side of East Williston Avenue. At this time, the Village is looking at removing the trees from Post Lane to Roslyn Road and installing a temporary surface along the sidewalk known as RCA (a crushed concrete blend) for the winter. The cost to remove the trees is \$4,500.00. The trees in the area will be replaced with wire and "sidewalk" friendly trees, once final restoration of the sidewalk takes place.

Mr. Cashin said the RCA blend will level off the surface, making traverse of the area more stable. The cost of this installation is considerably less than installing temporary asphalt at a cost of \$6,500.00.

Mayor Tanner asked if the material is handicapped accessible. Mr. Cashin said it was.

Mr. Cashin said the Village will then need to decide upon options for the material for the sidewalk (concrete/stamped concrete/asphalt/pavers).

Mayor Tanner asked who owns the aprons to the driveways along the south side of East Williston Avenue.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village owns the aprons, but he wanted to check with Building Inspector Robert Campagna.

Mr. Siciliano stated that Mr. Cashin had obtained quotes for various types of sidewalk surfaces from LandTek, the company that has a contract with Nassau County. The proposal for work was quoted at \$139,960.00, but brick pavers, stamped concrete, handicapped ramps with detectable warning, colored concrete, asphalt walks and aprons, and pavement marking would all be considered an add-on and priced above the aforementioned quote. (Example: brick pavers would be \$55,000.00 additional.)

Trustee Casella stated that Don Smith had designed the asphalt sidewalks in that area.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Board had to consider street lighting in the area before the permanent sidewalks are installed, as underground wiring would have to be installed, necessitating excavation in the area.

Mr. Cashin said that the Board needed to ascertain what type of sidewalk material will be used and then work around the issue of the aprons. He felt that using pavers for the aprons may not be a good idea, as they tend to move around and do not stay solidly placed.

He further stated that the pricing of \$139,960.00 requirements contract with LandTek, through Nassau County does not include street lighting.

Trustee Siciliano stated that thought was given to installing decorative lighting in this area.

Mayor Tanner stated that it was his hope that Nassau County would install curbing in the area, and “run interference” with New York State.

Mr. Cashin passed around a copy of a letter from the New York State Department of Transportation dated September 3, 2003 with accompanying documentation of ownership and maintenance of East Williston Avenue dating back to May 1924, before the Village was incorporated.

Trustee Siciliano stated that he liked the look of pavers for the sidewalk area.

Mayor Tanner stated that he felt that the aprons should be kept as asphalt.

Trustee Siciliano stated that he will be getting prices from local vendors who have performed work for the Village in the past for this sidewalk project. He will obtain quotes for the various types of sidewalk surfaces.

The Board expressed that they liked the idea of pavers for the area as well.

Trustee Siciliano reiterated that before the winter, the trees will be removed and the RCA material will be placed in the area. Homeowners in the area will be advised of the upcoming work. He also felt an email blast should be sent to the community about the work.

Mr. Cashin felt that while the Board was working on the south side of East Williston Avenue, there should be a “talking plan” for the north side of the street.

Mayor Tanner referred to Mr. Cashin's comment as "phase II".

It was noted that there are no street lights on the north side of the street.

Mayor Tanner asked if street lights should be installed on the north side as well as replacing lights on the south side.

Trustee Parente stated that economies of scale would dictate that performing work on both sides would cost less in the long run.

Trustee Casella stated that it would be best to get estimates for the north side, at the same time as the south side.

Mr. Cashin stated that for street lighting, the higher the light, the better the lighting coverage. This should be a consideration in choosing light fixtures.

Mayor Tanner asked that once quotes are in place, how long the actual work will take.

Mr. Cashin stated that it should take about a month to complete. He added that the project will need specifications, a layout and a scope of project limits.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the biggest concern about the project is the installation of curbs. Mayor Tanner added that the aprons were also a major consideration.

Trustee Siciliano felt that addressing the immediate safety concerns of the area right now is the biggest step toward the permanent restoration of the area.

Mr. Cashin also stated brought up drainage issues in the area. He felt that the Village needed to speak with the County, as they maintain "edge of pavement to edge of pavement" in the road.

Trustee Iannone wanted to discuss the sidewalk issue on Sumter Avenue. A resident from the east end of the block spoke with him and expressed her desire to remove the sidewalk in front of her home.

A map of Sumter Avenue indicated where sidewalks existed was distributed to Board members.

This matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

Caroline DeBenedittis, Rita Botensten and Walter Rivers met with the Board to go over the meeting of the Security Committee meeting on October 25, 2016. Mrs. Botensten presented the minutes of the meeting. A copy of said minutes is attached hereto.

Mrs. DeBenedittis gave information about the new police web based system NextDoor.com. It is a system just for security matters where a resident can sign up and receive and transmit information germane to their specific Village or area. She said the system is not yet up and working yet.

Mr. Rivera stated that someone from the actual web site or the precinct may be able to come to the Village and give a presentation on how to sign up and what functions the site can provide.

Mr. Delury stated that he belongs to a similar group in Long Beach. He sees the names of people who alert the police, and views reports from police about specific activities. He said the stream of information is not constant, but helpful.

Mayor Tanner stated that this seems to be an excellent program. He further stated that Villages, especially small Villages are not equipped to handle security matters. After consulting with Mr. Blinkoff, the Village has very little control over criminal activities.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that police authorities have the power to make arrests for criminal activity, where the Village does not. The most a Village can do (or residents in particular) is call the police when criminal activity occurs. The Villages does not have the legal authority or the means to make arrests.

Mayor Tanner stated that the police department has what may termed as a franchise on police services. The reason why the Village of Mineola was able to hold a referendum many years ago to consider a police force, was that they had a police force long before, but had disbanded the force. East Williston does not have any New York State approved legislation to have a police force.

Trustee Parente stated that crime is not rampant in East Williston. It is just that residents are now communicating more, and at a faster pace due to social media. This type of communication on social media riles people up.

Trustee Iannone stated that social media ends up being an echo chamber.

Mayor Tanner stated that he asked the police department for a more detailed monthly report, than what was provided to the Village in the past. This may or may not be possible, depending upon open/pending investigations and what the police may be able to convey without compromising those investigations.

Mayor Tanner stated that the police having been giving more attention to East Williston, so he felt that the private security firm hired by the Village may no longer be needed.

Trustee Iannone felt that with daylight savings time upon us, and darkness falling earlier, the private security should be extended for the month of November, as the police had advised that crimes often increase a bit when the clocks are turned back.

The Board agreed to have the private security patrol for the month of November 2016.

The Security Committee recommended that the company provide a report about their activity during its two shifts during the week. This was one of the requested made by a resident at their meeting on October 25th.

Mrs. Botensten also stated that the residents present at the meeting asked if another member could be added to the Security Committee (perhaps one of their group (East Williston Community Watch Facebook page).

It was the opinion of the members of the Committee that the number of members currently serving is sufficient .

Trustee Casella stated that if the group wants input, they should send a representative to meetings, but did feel that it is good to have more people who want to participate on committees. The Recreation Committee has 20 members.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Board is the representatives of the Village residents. It is not a matter of “us” and “them”. Residents are welcome to participate by attending meetings.

Trustee Parente stated that some residents are riling up others with information that may not be correct.

Mrs. Botensten stated that perhaps in the spring, the Board may consider adding more members to the Committee, but now the three members on the Committee is sufficient.

Mrs. DeBenedittis suggested that the Village should revive the block captain idea that started after Hurricane Sandy, but never really materialized.

Trustee Iannone stated that the Security Committee is doing a great job. The exchange of ideas is greatly appreciated, and the Board is reviewing the suggestions of the Committee.

Mayor Tanner stated that he hoped that the Security Committee will not be needed for long, as objectives are reached and patrols and police work by Nassau County are increased.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Security Committee is a conduit of information to the Board of Trustees. He said the meeting on October 25th went very well and the Committee is in complete control of the functions set.

Mayor Tanner stated that the Board of Trustees needs to review information provided by the Committee and decide what can and cannot be done.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Committee explained to residents that the Village has to determine what is feasible, and not have a knee jerk reaction to every incident that occurs. He told the resident that a lot is happening behind the scenes to advance security, but the best thing residents can do is to secure their own respective properties and report any suspicious activity to the police. He added that addressing quality of life issues is of great concern to the Village.

Mrs. Botensten stated that she wanted to meet with different resident groups on a one-on-one basis to encourage people to sign up for email blasts to increase communication.

There was a suggestion that she meet with the Senior Group or the “Mommy and Me” group.

Mr. Rivera stated that he met with someone in the security field about the cameras at Devlin Field. The suggestion was to have three cameras, focused wide to capture the ball field and Bengeyfield Drive, entering the park. There would be two high quality definition cameras with 50/50 imaging. Lighting and movement of a subject will affect the quality of the image. Also, the installation of motion sensor lights should go forward.

Trustee Casella felt that the lights should be enough, rather than moving to “stage 2” and installing cameras. The motion sensor lights will scare off those who should not be in the park after dark.

Mayor Tanner stated that cameras helped capture images of youths vandalizing the Train Station Pavilion a few years back. The Board showed the recording at two consecutive meetings to those present. The gathering of youths stopped shortly thereafter, after residents saw what was taking place.

Trustee Casella stated that someone from Cablevision was going around the Village putting fliers on doors. He reported it to the Clerk who was looking into the issue.

Mayor Tanner asked Trustee Casella if he wanted to discuss the water meter information he provided to the Board at a prior meeting.

Trustee Casella stated that the matter can wait to be discussed.

Mayor Tanner stated that by June 2018, Williston Park will be increasing water rates to East Williston. At the present time, the Village has other priorities that it must address.

Trustee Siciliano informed the Board that he met with Nick Fusco (East Williston School District buildings and grounds). They discussed drainage, tree planting and the potential of putting up fencing toward the rear of the school to protect the children at the North Side School.

Trustee Siciliano stated that he will be meeting with Anker's Electric and Albertson Electric regarding pricing to switch to LED street lighting.

Trustee Casella said he was impressed with the light near the public works garage. He asked if Mr. Delury can provide him with the current cost of street lighting per year.

Mayor Tanner stated that he has already asked Mr. Delury to run the numbers and provide information to the Board at a future meeting.

Trustee Casella stated that he went to the Town of North Hempstead to obtain information on the process to get a solicitation permit. He had to file a FOIL request, but has not heard back from them in response to his filing.

Mayor Tanner asked Trustee Casella to leave any legal issues to Mr. Blinkoff with regard to solicitation.

Mayor Tanner brought up the subject of sidewalks on Sumter Avenue.

Trustee Parente felt that when residents sell their properties, that the sidewalks be replaced at that time.

Mayor Tanner felt that fines should be continually issued until such time as the residents who removed sidewalks, replace them. It should be an open violation until the sidewalk is replaced. He asked that a letter be sent to the residents who removed the sidewalks advising them that they are still in violation.

Trustee Parente asked if a resident can make application for a variance to remove a sidewalk. Mr. Blinkoff stated that removing a sidewalk is considered removing public property and is not subject to a variance.

The Board agreed to hold the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Village Green on Tuesday, December 6th at 7pm.

Mr. Delury presented the following items for consideration by the Board. He proposed a resolution that is needed to adjust the assessed value and taxes billed to comply with the limits imposed on tax increases to PSEG LI by the New York State Legislature (LIPA Reform Act). The maximum increase is 2% for this property 81 P9U-301 Bill number 887. The assessor consultant has reviewed and recommended a resolution.

RESOLUTION #2016-41 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR FYE 2016-2017 FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES (1001) FROM 2,000,000 TO \$1,999,699.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Casella all voting “aye”, and Trustee Iannone absent from the vote, the Board authorized the adjustment of the adopted budget FYE 2016-2017 for real estate taxes (1001) from \$2,000,000 to \$1,999,699 to adjust the assessed value and taxes billed to comply with limits imposed on tax increases to PSEG LI by the New York State Legislature.

A resolution recording the Additional State Aid (Annual Per Capita Aid) and to decrease Appropriated Fund Balance by \$2,728, and allocating the costs of PDQ Security Services for its projected costs for the 2016-2017 budget which was not anticipated at the time of the adoption of the budget.

RESOLUTION #2016-42 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO INCREASE OTHER STATE AID REVENUE BY \$2,728 AND DECREASE THE APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE BY \$2,728.

On the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Casella all voting “aye”, and Trustee Iannone absent from the vote, the Board authorized the to increase other State Aid Revenue by \$2,728 and decrease the Appropriated Fund Balance by \$2,728,

RESOLUTION #2016-43 A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENSE LINE OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR FYE 2016-2017 BY \$16,500 AND REDUCE CONTINGENCY LINE BY \$16,500..

On the motion of Mayor Tanner, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Casella all voting “aye”, and Trustee Iannone absent from the vote, the Board authorized to increase the Public Safety Expense line of the adopted budget for FYE 2016-2017 by \$16,500 and reduce the contingency line by \$16,500.

RESOLUTION #2016-44 TO ACCEPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2016 IN DRAFT FORM, SUBJECT TO TWO CHANGES TO SAID DOCUMENT.

On the motion of Mayor Tanner, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Casella all voting “aye”, and Trustee Iannone absent from the vote, the Board voted to accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2016 in draft form subject to two changes to said document.

Mayor Tanner added that the document had to be filed within 30 days of adoption

Mr. Delury reported that the New York State had advised that the Village still had unused grant monies for carpeting and painting of the interior Village Hall from 2000-2001. This grant is a reimbursement grant. \$400 had been spent recently for carpeting in the lobby of the Village Hall. He was now obtaining quotes for painting of the stair risers and banister area and media room (where damage had occurred from the flood in February 2016).

RESOLUTION #2016-45 AUTHORIZED TO OBTAIN QUOTES FOR PAINTING OF THE VILLAGE HALL STAIR RISERS, BANISTER AREA AND MEDIA ROOM WITH UNBUDGETED GRANT PROCEEDS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

On the motion of Trustee Casella, seconded by Trustee Parente, and with Mayor Tanner and Trustees Parente, Siciliano, and Casella all voting “aye”, and Trustee Iannone absent from the vote, the Board authorized to obtain quotes for painting of the Village Hall stair risers, banister area and media room with unbudgeted grant proceeds from the State of New York.

Mr. Delury advised the Board that he just submitted documentation to the New York State Department of Transportation for CHIPs reimbursement for various sidewalk work and repair of collapsed drain on Harvard Street for approximately \$45-\$50,000.

In response to an email from Trustee Iannone, Mr. Blinkoff distributed two sample statutes dealing with the flying of drones. He noted that drones cannot take off from public places and cannot fly over private homes. This matter will be dealt with at a future meeting.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 pm.