

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**INC.VILLAGE OF EAST WILLISTON**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 19 , 2019**

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of East Williston was held on Monday, August , 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2 Prospect Street, East Williston, New York.

There were present: Mayor Bonnie L.S. Parente, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Christopher A. Siciliano, Trustees James Iannone, Anthony J. Casella, Raffaella Dunne, Village Attorney Jeffrey L. Blinkoff, Village Clerk Marie L. Hausner

Also present: Chief James Clark, Tara Siciliano, Kathleen Daw, Erin Urkeil, Ajla McDonald, Rita Botensten, Matthew and Paula Cuomo, Joseph Hoffman and Family, Philip and Maureen Chappo, Michael Guglielmo, Marcia Weiser, Carla Strauss, Leonard Ritz, Raymond Gaudio, David Eng.

**RESOLUTION 2019-24 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL OF ANKER'S ELECTRIC SERVICE INC. FOR REPAIR UNDERGROUND WIRING ON WEEKS ROAD AT A COST OF \$4,765.00.**

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella, and Dunne all voting "aye", the Board approved the proposal of Anker's Electric Service Inc. for repair of underground wiring on Weeks Road at a cost of \$4,765.00.

**RESOLUTION 2019-25 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF SABRINA SCARANTINO FOR A BLOCK PARTY TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 ON BENGEGYFIELD FROM GRIFFIN LANE TO CONCORD STREET.**

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Siciliano and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella, and Dunne all voting "aye", the Board approved the application of Sabrina Scarantino for a block party to be held on September 14, 2019 on Bengegyfield Drive from Griffin Lane to Concord Street.

**RESOLUTION 2019-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EAST WILLISTON JUSTICE COURT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FOR 2019-2020.**

On the motion of Mayor Parente, seconded by Trustee Casella and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella, and Dunne all voting "aye", the Board authorized the East Williston Justice Court to participate in the Justice Court Assistance Program grant for 2019-2020.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees honored Mr. Joseph Hoffman with a proclamation upon his retirement as chairman and member of the East Williston Library Board.

On the motion of Trustee Iannone, seconded by Trustee Siciliano, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella and Dunne voting "aye", the Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of July 8, 2019.

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Dunne, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella and Dunne all voting "aye" the Board approved the minutes of the agenda meeting of July 29, 2019

On the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Casella, and with Mayor Parente and Trustees Siciliano, Iannone, Casella and Dunne voting "aye", the Board approved the abstracts for August 2019 claim numbers: 20190019 - 20190083.

Chief James Clark of the East Williston Fire Department gave the report for July 2019. There were a total of 15 calls. Eight emergency service calls, one auto accident, two general alarms and four mutual aid to neighboring fire departments: Port Washington, Carle Place, Westbury and Williston Park.

Chief Clark thanked the Girl Scouts for raising money to purchase oxygen masks for pets and donated them to the East Williston Fire Department.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE CHRISTOPHER SICILIANO**

Trustee Siciliano informed those present that the department of public works, together with the Beautification Committee have been landscaping areas around the village hall and parking lot.

Public works is still getting bids for sidewalk work for village trees that are lifting sidewalk flags at various locations in the village.

The village anticipates the pilot program for the LED lights to commence sometime in September. An email blast will be sent when the lights are about to be installed.

He added that if a residents sees a light out to contact the village office to report it for repair.

Trustee Siciliano stated that Ajla McDonald is the new chairperson of the Library Board, and presented the following library report:

Pre-school story time with Miss Steph will take place on Thursdays at 10:30am. Toddler story time with Miss Dee will take place on Fridays at 10:30am. Afternoon book club will be reading "The Female Persuasion" by Meg Wolzer on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The evening book club will read "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The Movie "Hotel Mumbai" will be screened on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Tween Trash Bag Dress Contest will take place on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Mr. Mouse puppet show will take place on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The Library asks residents to stop by and see all the museum passes that they offer for a three day period.

### **TRUSTEE JAMES IANNONE**

Trustee Iannone stated that the East Williston Fire Department will be acquiring a new rescue vehicle by September. He noted that almost half of all calls for the East Williston Fire Department are 9A or emergency calls.

As always, the department is looking for new members. If anyone is interested, they should come to the firehouse on Thursday nights around 8pm and speak to one of the chiefs or commissioners.

Trustee Iannone reported that the East Williston Senior Group will be meeting on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm for pizza and desert with musical entertainment provided by Angela and Thomas Stallone.

### **TRUSTEE ANTHONY CASELLA**

Trustee Casella presented the Justice Court Report for July 2019. There were 37 parking, two moving and five village code violations were dispensed, with fees collected of \$2,285.00 with \$93.00 in New York State surcharges.

The Recreation Committee will continue to hold yoga classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Gentle yoga will take place on Wednesdays from 6-7pm.

The Come Play with Me program will resume in September, the date and time yet to be determined.

Fall Tennis with Jayne Alterman will commence on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pickleball will take place on Wednesdays from 9:30am to 10:30am beginning on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, the Recreation Committee is looking for new members. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Maeve Kilgo.

**TRUSTEE RAFFAELA DUNNE**

Trustee Dunne stated that the East Williston Little League 11U team won the District 28 Williamsport Little League World Series.

The Beautification Committee is asking residents who may have hostas to divide, ground cover, daylilies, bulbs or small perennials to contribute, they asked to contact Michelle Tanner or Jeanne Trotter. The plantings will be placed near the train station and around village hall and parks.

The Teen Safety Committee met twice this summer. The young adults of the group have come up with some ideas for use of public spaces to help alleviate vandalism, litter, etc. Currently they are working with the Recreation Committee to schedule an open air movie night in September at Devlin Field.

**VILLAGE CLERK MARIE HAUSNER**

The following building permits were issued in July 2019: 71 Bengeyfield Drive, additions to the home and installation of a central air conditioning unit. 35 Atlanta Avenue, additions to the home and renovations. 432 Sagamore Avenue, replacement of the central air conditioning system. 207 Concord Street, replacement of the driveway. 43 Robbins Drive, legalize and maintain driveway.

The Nassau County Police Department Third Precinct report for July 2019 had no auto accidents, eight aided cases, no reports of burglary or robbery, no auto larcenies. No reports of criminal mischief. There were no moving violations, and five parking violations issued.

**MAYOR BONNIE L.S. PARENTE**

Mayor Parente apprised residents about the Article 78 action brought by the East Williston School District. The essence of the proceeding is that the district wants correspondence sent by the Village removed and withdrawn. The Village attempted to set up a meeting with the School District to resolve this issue, advocating them to follow the Village Code.

The Village has asked the School District numerous times to discuss the height of the fence, but the District said they will not speak or meet with the Village if the discussion deals with the height of said fence.

The East Williston Fire Department met with representatives of the District as to where the gates should be located to accommodate the turning radius of fire trucks, etc. At

the conclusion of said meetings, the District had no problems with the Fire Department's recommendations.

Trustee Siciliano who lives in the immediate vicinity noticed mark outs for gates, and they were not in locations originally suggested. The locations had been changed.

Mayor Parente wanted residents to know what the Village wanted, and what the District is not doing.

There was discussion about a retaining wall, whereby the District removed it from there plan, stating that the Village had requested its removal. That is not true. The Village never requested said removal.

Raymond Gaudio felt it was amazing that one government is suing another government.

Trustee Iannone attended many School Board meetings. He noted that the further one lives from the North Side School, the less the fence means to a person. He felt that the questions posed by residents to the Village should be directed to the School Board.

Kathleen Daw asked what legal remedies/options does the Village have in this regard.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that with the litigation pending, he and the Board of Trustees cannot comment on the legal strategy or how it will proceed.

Mrs. Daw stated that if the fence is permitted to be constructed, it will set a precedent for the rest of the community.

Michael Guglielmo stated that the School District has been clear that they have jurisdiction and do not have to pay attention to the Village Code.

Matthew Cuomo asked about the letter the District asked to have removed.

David Eng stated that he serves on the Safety Committee for North Side and Willets Road Schools. He stated there was a security audit performed for a school security plan. He was advised that North Side School was the only elementary school in Nassau without a perimeter fence. Police officers had advised them of this fact.

Carla Strauss stated that this is not true. There are other elementary schools without fences surrounding them.

Philip Chappo stated that the School District is suing the Village, as they are afraid of having to take down the fence, once it is constructed. The School District should adhere to the zoning laws.

Trustee Iannone did not see any standard involved where there is a need for a fence around the school, as it relates to safety. He has walked the area many times during recess. He was upset with the Article 78 in that the Village has tried to work with the School District but meetings and such were basically ignored.

Maureen Chappo said the School District "stepped on us" (residents of East Williston).

Rita Botensten stated that it seems this is the first time the School District has not worked with the Village. In the past, there was always compromise and discussions on issues. This time, with regard to the fence, the District was not honest with the Village or its residents. She stated that they had obtained about 200 signatures from both residents and those outside the Village, but within the School District, who were against the installation of a fence.

Paula Cuomo stated that the gates pictured on the plans are not in the exact location where they are now. She had contacted School Board President Mark Kamberg.

Trustee Siciliano stated that Chief Clark and he had met with representatives of the School District at the site. They had suggested gates on Hillside Avenue and on Downing Street, opposite Feather Lane. He only found out that they had moved the gates while walking his dog.

Mr. Blinkoff stated that the Village, via letter, had asked the School District to abide by the Code. This is the letter that is the basis of the Article 78 that the district wants removed.

Mrs. Daw felt that all communication between the School District and the Village should be in writing to document everything that is said or goes on.

Mayor Parente stated Mrs. Daw's point was well taken.

Mr. Cuomo had asked Mark Kamberg about the School District's rationale for a six foot fence. He felt the Village should be advocating they adhere to the Zoning Code and apply for a variance. There is no State regulations on perimeter fencing.

Mrs. Daw felt the Village Board should make it's legal position clear. The Village has rights, and it seems that the Village of East Williston gets stepped on.

Mr. Guglielmo asked if the School District first asked to have the letter removed before taking legal action.

Mr. Blinkoff said they did not ask for this before taking legal action.

Mayor Parente said that the Village will be filing a motion to dismiss the action by the School District. The Village is also in communication with the District about the location of the gates.

Mrs. Botensten asked if the Village can put out a newsletter about the fence issue.

Mayor Parente stated that the Village is committed to keeping the public informed through email blasts and posts on East Williston Families, but it will not be sending out a newsletter on this issue.

Mrs. Cuomo stated that whatever will take place, time is of the essence.

Tara Siciliano stated that cars park on Downing and Andrews Road constantly during school hours. She wanted to know who will dictate parking on these streets after the fence is installed to not block gates.

The Board advised that the Village has purview over village streets, and will need to review parking restrictions.

Mrs. Daw stated that cars speed down Downing Street in the mornings before school and afternoons when it is time to pick up children.

Trustee Siciliano stated that the Village is in the process of obtaining quotes from engineering firms to perform a traffic calming study along Downing Street, due to many residents expressing concerns.

Mr. Eng brought up the Newsday article about the cost of water, noting that they reported that East Williston had the fourth highest cost of water in Nassau County.

Mayor Parente stated that East Williston purchases water from Williston Park. Williston Park can only raise rates to East Williston, if they raise rates to their residents by the same percentage. The article did not note that East Williston controls its own water infrastructure (water mains, fire hydrants, etc.). If there is a water main break, or someone hits a fire hydrant, East Williston is responsible for the cost of repair, not Williston Park.

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Mayor Parente noted that Nassau County began installing flashing beacons near the North Side School for safer pedestrian crossing in the vicinity.

There being no further business, on the motion of Trustee Siciliano, seconded by Trustee Dunne, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.