

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, January 16, 2024**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

The Work Session of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2024.

**Present:** Mayor Ralph Ekstrand  
Deputy Mayor William Barrett  
Trustee Cheryl Parisi  
Trustee Walter Priestley  
Trustee Craig Rosasco  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty  
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel  
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis

The following topics were discussed:

- The Coop – representatives for The Coop did not show up.
- VHB – Reviewed the Master Plan Update draft with the Board and staff.
- The NCPD POP unit has requested assistance with the purchase of two TREX electric bicycles. Looking into co-sponsoring, storage and training issues – ongoing.

**RAVE MOBILE SAFETY CONTRACT** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-01-09)**, to approve to renew a contract with Rave Mobile Safety to provide SMS/Text and Voice Messages at a cost of \$3,852 for one year, from February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

**2024 ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-01-10)**, to approve the 2024 St. Patrick’s Day Parade, to be held on March 10, 2024 beginning at 2:00 p.m. The parade will kick off at Northside Elementary School and end at the Village Green. Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder will be the Grand Marshal.

**2024 MUSIC ON MAIN** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-01-11)**, to approve the following dates for Music on Main 2024, all to be held from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.: Thursday, July 11, 2024, Thursday, July 25, 2024, Thursday, August 8, 2024 and Thursday, August 22, 2024 with a rain date of August 29, 2024.

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The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Linwood Avenue update:
  - H2M has been hired to perform a drainage study of the area and to propose options for corrective measures. A preliminary report is anticipated in mid-January.
  - The Village will continue to monitor weather conditions and anything else that might have an impact in the area while H2M works on solutions.
  - Residents were informed about how to access FEMA/State programs along with contact numbers for Governor Hochul, Senator Rhoads and Assemblyman Blumencranz.
  - Mayor Ekstrand has coordinated with the Town of Oyster Bay for drain maintenance in the area, which is completed as of mid-December.
  - A resident requested tree trimming on Linwood Ave. to assist in limiting debris during storm events.
  - H2M will be coming in with a presentation at the January 22 work session.
- Fire Department
- Building Department:
  - Blue and Gold Development at 1 Conklin Street is now under construction.
  - 7-11 and Sunoco – the ZBA has approved the plans and the Board approved the Special Use Permit, awaiting construction drawings in order to issue building permit. Final State DOT comments received by developer.
  - Eastern Parkway house was in court with derelict garage – framing is done, ready for windows and siding.
  - New parking arrangements on Eastern Parkway under review in front of and behind 4 family houses. Met with Fairfield’s architect and have a tentative agreement for 11 spaces on-site parking in driveways that will be assigned and numbered, and 7 spaces on the street similar to other FF projects (with Board approval). Fairfield has requested contract – a proposed contract was sent to Fairfield.
  - Paver issue on Cherry Street, resident has submitted plan to come into compliance, with removal of hardscape in process, plantings to be done in the spring.
  - Both Sterling Green and Robby Lee projects are proceeding. No issues with either project.

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- Dish Network application has been sent to Dick Comi for review. D&B is coordinating all related issues with Mr. Comi.
- VHB has been contracted to analyze the Master Plan and the developments that have occurred in the last 12 years – ongoing draft to be completed by year end and will be presented to the Board at a mid-January work session.
- Waiting for Verizon submission of an application to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer’s Shopping Center.
- “The Coop” was issued a temporary C/O and will be going back to the Planning Board for exterior approval. They have requested seating modifications to interior for approval by the Board of Trustees and were asked to attend a mid-January work session.
- Lotus Garden should be ready to open as soon as the natural gas is installed. A permit has just been issued for installation.
- Proposed 2 lot sub-division on Staples Street is in process and will be sent to NCPC when Planning Board review is complete.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car may be moving into the corner of Route 109 and Route 24. Waiting for application, Superintendent Fellman was asked to contact them. Mayor Ekstrand reported that Enterprise is entering into a lease for this property.
- Need more information regarding proposed sporting goods store.
- Proposal for apartment at 207 Main St. to the Planning Board for review.
- The clock tower at Palmers Shopping Center has been painted to match the new paint on the building. Verified that they intend to paint the clock tower.
- Deputy Mayor Barrett received a complaint about the Cobb St. corner’s music level from a neighbor. The Building Dept. will investigate.
- Highway Department:
  - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
  - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
  - The new DPW garage is 99% complete: remaining items are final alarm system connections to fans, then Fire Marshal inspection.
  - Main St. pole removal project Phase 1 with PSEGLI & Altice completed. Street widening, sidewalks and paving has been completed, new driveway to

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Parking Lot 4 sidewalks and drain completed. Verizon has line removals between Prospect Street and Route 109 to complete their work (January 2024).

- Poles for FFD stoplights and traffic “loops” at Rte. 24 are ordered, anticipate delivery by January 2024.
- Magniflood quote for electric GFI type fixture \$325/\$350 per fixture for holiday decorations in parking lots.
- A tree on Prospect St. across from Doud St. needs to be evaluated for possible removal – removal on hold.
- Received plan for new DPW pocket park, approved by the Board. The gazebo is in and stored at the vendor’s facility.
- Village Green Gazebo brick wall needs repointing (Spring 2024).
- The Board requested that the new landscaper weed and mulch certain locations, and that deep root fertilizing for all parking lot trees and trimming of dead branches in all parking lots be accomplished in the spring of 2024.
- Need to move sign for resident parking on Washington Street.
- Need to evaluate lighting at the Melville Road/Secatogue Avenue intersection.
- Administrator Harty contacted Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding Main Street landscape architecture and Village-wide tree assessment, meeting completed with tour awaiting proposal from CCE.
- Mayor Ekstrand contacted National Grid regarding tree grant for Main Street. A meeting is scheduled for the week of December 18 – met with National Grid rep and they need tree plan. Anticipated grant will be between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
- A light is out over the sign in Parking Lot 3, parts have been ordered.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
  - Town of Oyster Bay Lighting has been in repairing streetlight outages.
  - Stapleton will be in for the new year for tree stumps and removals.
  - DPW crews worked Tuesday night/Wednesday morning to perform any needed maintenance on Linwood Ave. during the storm. Crews will also be working Friday night (1/12/24) as very heavy rain is expected again.

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- Water Department:
  - Water tower construction completed, including training on pumping system in tower base.
  - Dish Network is in engineering design review process.
  - Tank removal is completed and all debris has been removed.
  - AOP installation by Philip Ross is complete and testing to meet health department requirements is complete at Well 1-3. SCADA system design for this new system is underway by Philip Ross Industries coordinating with Eagle Control who will be installing the new system – installation of Well 1-3 anticipated soon.
  - New steel building to cover the GAC tanks at Well 1-3 has been ordered, will be delivered by January 19<sup>th</sup>. Foundation design and installation contractor is being arranged.
  - \$3,000,000 has been awarded to the Village in Gov. Hochul’s budget for Improvements WIIA grant. This funding will be applied for in the near term, Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel to follow up. \$4,624,000 in funding has been committed for Phase 2 project at Ridge Road from the New York State WIIA grant for the new GAC installation. PWGC handled the application and narrative for this grant.
  - Plant 2 construction underway with GAC building nearing completion. Pipe installation to connect into the system with cut ins to main trunk lines to be done as arranged by PRI when Well 1-3 is fully operational.
  - PWGC following up on required testing to secure funding from legal settlements.
  - Bans have been sold to pay for Water Department upgrades.
  - Discussed status of various projects with updates coming from PRI on all aspects.
  - Discussions underway with South Farmingdale Water District Inter-Municipal agreement for certain management services.
  - From John Falbo:
    - Water main break on Fulton Street in front of Sunoco with Merrick Utilities.
    - 12 inch main was capped off under the old water tower.

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- Monitor removal of old water tank.
- All chemical pumps were rebuilt with spare parts by the Water Department.
- Daily maintenance monitoring and meter work.
- Multiple communication failures which involves whomever is on call for the week to respond on overnight. This has been an ongoing issue for years. Hopefully the new system will help clear these up.
- Old water tower is completely down.
- Code Department:
  - Working until 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and day shift on Sunday until 7:00 p.m.
  - Noise issues regarding outdoor music, types and volume levels to be enforced with Notice of Violation and then summons if needed.
- Make Uber parking/pickup on Main St. after 10:00 p.m. for implementation spring/summer 2024, after pole removal project is completed. All signage and brackets are being ordered for Main Street.
- Deputy Mayor Barrett asked when the audit will be complete and raised questions about credit card fees.
- Deputy Mayor Barrett also indicated that a meter was not working properly, that a customer received a ticket just as he was trying to pay at that meter and a resident claimed to have received a ticket while displaying a resident sticker. Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel will investigate.
- Deputy Mayor Barrett questioned the texting costs for the Fire Department. Administrator Harty and Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel will investigate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**, upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-01-12)**, to move to Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-01-13)**, to reconvene the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer