

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-12)**, to convene the Village of Farmingdale Board of Assessment Review at 5:00 p.m. With Mayor Ekstrand, Deputy Mayor Barrett, Trustee Parisi and Trustee Priestley present establishing a quorum.

Trustee Rosasco arrived at 5:20.

The Work Session of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Farmingdale was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 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 (arrived 7:00)  
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis (arrived 7:00)

The following topics were discussed:

- 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 was presented to the Board and the public at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Work Session. Please see the minutes of that meeting.
  - 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. Stapleton Tree surveyed the area and said that no trimming was needed at this time.
  - NC DPW has been working on the Tulane sump as of about February 1<sup>st</sup>, maintenance is still underway.

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- Governor Hochul has announced that the September 29<sup>th</sup> storm event has been approved as a FEMA emergency and all information has been provided to the Linwood Avenue residents.
- Soil testing completed at Tulane St., results anticipated by February 24.
- Audit report – draft version: Presented by David Teller, Partner at Nawrocki Smith. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control were identified and no current year recommendations were made.
- Discuss Bernard Street one-way issue: A public hearing will be announced on March 4<sup>th</sup> to change the Village Code making Bernard Street a two way street with do not enter from Fulton Street to remain with one way exit from Bernard Street to Fulton Street

**AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-13)**, to approve a contract with Auctions International to auction vehicles that the Village declares surplus.

**USE OF FACILITIES - WEDDING** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-14)**, to approve a request from Teresa Pelio and John DeVito to use the Gazebo and Village Green for a wedding ceremony and photos afterward on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Chairs and decorations to be set up prior to the 2:00 ceremony, with a tent to be set up if it rains. They will have an acoustic guitar player. 50-60 people are expected.

**MUNICIPAL VALUATION SERVICES** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-15)**, to approve the hiring of Municipal Valuation Services Inc. to complete the 2025/2026 Assessment Roll at a cost of \$23,500, Adjusted Base Proportions at a cost of \$2,500 and 2024 Small Claims Proceedings for \$120 per parcel, with a preference for a three year contract holding prices.

**COURTROOM PREP & PAINTING** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

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**RESOLVED (#2024-02-16)**, to approve Phoenix Wall Covering and Painting Inc. to prep & paint walls in the Courtroom at a cost of \$1,365 for labor & materials.

**USE OF FACILITIES - PEANUTS PICNIC** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-17)**, to approve a request from Peanuts at St. Gregory's for the use of Gerngras Park for a nursery school picnic on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (rain date Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>).

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Kiwanis Club fairs/Fire Department fairs – request that the Kiwanis Club change the September fair dates to sometime in August.
- 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 derelict garage – framing is done, ready for windows and siding. In process, nearing completion.
  - Both Sterling Green and Robby Lee projects are proceeding. No issues with either project.
  - Dish Network application has been sent to Dick Comi for review. D&B is coordinating all related issues with Mr. Comi on revised plans.
  - VHB has been contracted to analyze the Master Plan and the developments that have occurred in the last 12 years – ongoing draft completed and will be presented to the Board at a January work session. Waiting for final plan.
  - Waiting for Verizon submission of an application to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer's Shopping Center.
  - “The Coop” went to the Planning Board and received approvals and will be at the February 7<sup>th</sup> court date to resolve issues there.

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- Lotus Garden should be ready to open as soon as the natural gas is installed. A permit has just been issued for installation, the gas line was installed February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Proposed 2 lot sub-division on Staples Street - application 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.
- Proposal for apartment at 207 Main St. to the Planning Board for review. The review is completed, need vote.
- Valance across from law office: in discussion with property owner for proposed changes, discussing with contractor.
- CVS lot letter to manage/ticket lot – need local law. Announce in February for adoption in March.
- Fading signage on parking lots, Scott has been contacted and will review.
- Zuzu gas line installed.
- Need to discuss waste stream with the ownership of the Nutty Irishman and 317 ownership.
- The Board requested a change to the Village Code to reflect the need for a Special Use Permit in the Business District restaurants to 21 seats. Village Attorney DeBellis will draw up the required public hearing notice and new local law documents. A public hearing will be set at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 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 issue is 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 have been completed, new driveway to Parking Lot 4 sidewalks and drain completed. Verizon has line removals between Prospect Street and Route 109 to complete their work (January 2024).

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- 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.
- CVS Lot 2 stop signs by McDonald’s crosswalk.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
- DPW crews went out salting and plowing during winter storm Lorraine. Crews did an outstanding job!
- DPW crews are still continuing to push up and clean out parking lots and remove snow piles.
- Hwy #7 2020 Ford F250 is having major 4 wheel drive issues. Truck had to be parked which hampered our plowing operations.

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- Hwy #M1, a 2007 Chevy 2500 pickup was also giving us plow issues during the storm which had to be brought up to the shop multiple times. The small pickup trucks are important to our operation for getting into small places.
- All 3 capital trucks worked flawlessly.
- Stapleton was in doing some removals.
- Town of Oyster Bay Lighting was in doing repairs and replaced a light pole that was knocked over from a car in the south railroad lot.
- The salt barn is full.
- Castro Landscaping did a good job clearing and salting the walkways on Main Street and other locations in the downtown area. He's still learning the route.
- Crews removed some downed trees during the storm from the heavy wet snow.
- 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 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.

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- 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.
- Contact PWGC regarding state grants.
- From John Falbo:
  - Each week there is progress, with treatment plants to meet development schedule and Board of Health requirements. It is a long process.
  - The one thing that helps is that we are still at non-detectable or at trace levels with contaminants that we test for. So we are in good shape.
  - Daily well maintenance.
  - Lead and copper survey is being conducted.
  - We did more hydrant repairs this week.
  - Helped with snow plowing and removal.
  - Organized and consolidated our trucks, in order to surplus old ambulance (which was used as our water utility emergency response) and Geary's old truck.
- 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.

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**USE OF FACILITIES – RUNNER’S EDGE** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-19)**, to approve a request from The Runner’s Edge to hold a three race fun run on Sunday, February 25, 2024.

**VETERAN’S ASSESSMENT REDUCTION** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-20)**, to approve a veteran’s assessment reduction in the amount of \$270,000 for 129 Staples Street.

**FFD DISPATCH SYSTEM CONSULTANT** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-21)**, to approve a \$2,000 payment to Chris Wright as consultant to repair the Farmingdale Fire Dispatch System at the recommendation of the Farmingdale Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners and to maintain his services for future needs at an hourly rate to be provided.

**FFD APPARATUS FLOOR BATHROOM DOOR** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-22)**, to approve FT Construction NY Inc. to supply and install one metal hollow door including jamb in the Farmingdale Fire Department apparatus floor bathroom in the amount of \$3,760.

**PARKING LOT 1 HANDICAP SPACES** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-23)**, to add 2 handicapped parking spaces in Parking Lot 1.

**AIM FUNDING SUPPORT** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Deputy Mayor Barrett, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2024-02-24)**, to support increased AIM funding to be forwarded to Governor Hochul.

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW CLOSE** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,



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**RESOLVED (#2024-02-18)**, to close the Village of Farmingdale Board of Assessment Review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer