

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**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, March 27, 2023.

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

**USE OF FACILITIES** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2023-03-34)**, to approve a request from Erin Sharon & Justin Ayoub for the use of the Village Green for a wedding ceremony on Sunday, September 3, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. 80-90 people are expected, a licensed service will set up chairs and possibly a tent if needed.

The following topics were discussed:

- Kona Shaved Ice Truck – Trustee Parisi will contact them.
- Kiwanis Craft Fair – The Board is offering September 9, 2023 on the Village Green.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2023-2024 BUDGET** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2023-03-35)**, to set the public hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget for Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**SALARY INCREASE** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2023-03-36)**, to increase Village Justice Anthony Addeo's salary from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Fire Department:

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- Training needed to use Gators.
- Dispatcher discussion: Mayor Ekstrand explained that the Board considered using Nassau County Firecom from midnight to 8:00 a.m. because of longstanding and repeated difficulty in filling those shifts. Approximately 20% of the shifts needed to be filled by other personnel where part-time personnel didn't show up or the shifts were not able to be filled in spite of a pool of approved/trained/qualified dispatchers. The midnight to 8 a.m. shift accounted for 11.8% of total call volume and was difficult to fill so that was the shift that the Board believed should be taken over by Firecom. It was not the desire of the Board to go to Firecom but circumstances indicated that this change was both justified and warranted. This was discussed with Chief Tortoso and it was agreed to proceed with Firecom. Firecom is the Nassau County centralized dispatching service for Fire Departments. They receive referrals from the 911 Emergency Dispatch service and are tasked with notifying local fire departments of emergencies. A number of Fire Departments throughout Nassau County who do not have dispatchers use this service exclusively. Firecom is funded through Nassau County taxes.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Hammond and FFD Commissioner Romano spoke to the Mayor and the Board regarding issues with Dispatcher FT/PT management. Chief Hammond indicated that he is opposed to the 12-8 move to Firecom and spoke about Village growth and the increase in call volume to the FFD from approximately 600 annual calls in 2008-2009 to approximately 1700 calls today. Chief Hammond indicated concerns about potential theft, citing an example where a firehouse was broken into and a truck stolen, the ability to open and close firehouse doors when responding to calls in those hours and personal attention to callers needing assistance that dispatchers typically provide to FFD members when responding to such calls (That information is available on a tablet carried by FFD Chiefs with specific data readily available by location). The Chief raised a question about Firecom ability to provide proper calls (tones) to our personnel but could not determine the cause or remedy of what appears to be miscommunication. Additionally, he reported that one Firecom dispatcher is responsible to dispatch 14 Fire Departments implying potential call conflicts. Commissioner Romano indicated that he believed that over the last few months that dispatcher management was "getting better". There was no statistical back up to that statement and the dispatch group issues remain and need attention. Three

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

new dispatchers have been hired and are currently undergoing training with a fourth to be added by mid-April.

- The discussion then centered on ambulance service and potential revenue. It should be noted that the Board initiated this revenue opportunity modeling it after a newly instituted system in Amityville where Amityville provided the template to bill for ambulance service. This service would be provided by a vendor under contract and that contract is currently under review by the Village Attorney to engage in a contract for billing services. Funds received are targeted for us for Fire Department services and expenses. This ability to bill for ambulance service was recently enabled by a change in the state law allowing such billing. The intent of the Village is to only bill insurance companies where the resident would not have to make co-payments.
- The Chief cited examples of the potential income for these services and suggested that the new income be used to hire at least one additional full-time dispatcher. He also mentioned rates that are currently being charged by an ambulance company in Bellmore. The Chief requested that the Village consider a condition of hiring where if the employee did not meet certain criteria they would be terminated and told this upon hiring. The Village Attorney was asked to consider the legal implications of the request.
- The BOT guidance is to fill all of the shifts between now and moving forward and to meet again on or about June 1<sup>st</sup> to review the results of a newly reorganized dispatch crew and see if the issues are resolved. The Village will continue to consider the relationship with Firecom and discuss issues raised by the Chief to see what issues exist and what the remedies are.
- Building Department:
  - Blue and Gold Development will be bringing final plans for a building permit for development at 1 Conklin Street in the near future, approved for 12 units. Waiting for state DOT sign off.
  - The Carlyle (formerly Robbie Lee) - Construction is underway.
  - 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.
  - Peter Florey/D&F Development (Sterling Green):
    - Building permit has been issued
    - Demo is completed

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- Site work is underway, pilings completed, ongoing construction
- Arrow Exterminating has been engaged to solve the rodent problem, abatement is underway. Progress has been made but work continues when necessary. No calls recently.
- Daler Pizza at 331 Main Street – construction continues. Natural gas easement completed. Awaiting permit.
- New fence has been requested along the LIRR from Melville Road to Secatogue Avenue.
- LIRR has announced that trestles at NY 24 and Merritts Road will be rehabilitated starting in mid-April and finishing by end of August 2023.
- Eastern Parkway house in court with derelict garage. Permit issued for roof repair.
- New parking arrangements on Eastern Parkway are being finalized in front of 4 family houses. Awaiting plans from Fairfield.
- New application for 250 Conklin St. office building has been received and new public hearing will be announced on April 3 for hearing on new plans for May hearing.
- Stratford Green needs to rehabilitate the area on Rte. 24 that was damaged by a car. Insurance settled, permit to repair condo has been issued.
- Noise code review
- New ice cream parlor in Palmer’s shopping center needs a Special Use permit for 24 seats.
- The Board requested updates on 250 Conklin St., Eastern Parkway – Fairfield parking plan, Fairfield completion of Secatogue improvements and ice cream store in Palmer’s shopping plaza.
- Highway Department:
  - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
  - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
  - The new DPW garage foundation construction is underway for the steel building. New fence along property line on south exposure to be installed by highway personnel.
  - Window and door project at Village Hall is complete.

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- Main St. pole removal start date is March 6 due to engineering changes and changes in pricing. PSEG will be supplying a phasing of the project in the near term once all contractor issues are resolved. Met with Altice as first proposal was unacceptable, we are awaiting final pricing. Verizon meeting held to finalize construction plans, pricing was received and approved. Coordinating with Asplundh.
- Magniflood quote for electric GFI type fixture \$325/\$350 per fixture for holiday decorations.
- The walkway north of the tracks near My Grandmother's Kitchen needs cleaning – completed
- A tree on Prospect St. across from Doud St. needs to be evaluated for possible removal.
- A request to remove a tree in front of Burgerology was approved.
- The Board requested information regarding telephone poles on Cherry St. with PSEG improvements.
- Need to address separating seams in Parking lots 1 & 2.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments for the week of March 24:
- Westar is repairing the ceiling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the firehouse kitchen due to a roof leak.
- DPW crews repaired the water patch and government strip on Melville Road due to water main break.
- DPW crews were out filling government strips with topsoil from stump grindings.
- DPW crews assisted Stapleton with tree removals and stump grindings.
- DPW crews have started winter/spring clean ups at certain locations around the Village.
- Sweeper has been out sweeping. Sweeper operator J. Langon is training M. Kilbridge on the Ravo sweeper.
- I'm having Stapleton come in this week to inspect the Village bicentennial tree on the Village Green, it's not looking too healthy. Wayne will give us some recommendations.

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- DPW fleet maintenance crews have been busy keeping up with services and NYS inspections along with getting all the spring and summer equipment such as weed trimmers, lawn mowers and leaf blowers ready for the season.
- DPW crews still doing their day-to-day routines, walking lots, garbage patrol, waste baskets, doggie waste baskets, outer area, cleaning debris, among other tasks.
- Assisting the Water Department when they need it.
- Need to remove “metered parking” sign on Secatogue Ave. and Eastern Pkwy. until new meters are delivered.
- Water Department:
  - Water tower construction with punch list items being addressed. Generaor has been installed and old diesel tank removed. Generator start up scheduled before mid-March – coordinating with Huntington Power, The new tank is now in operation.
  - Cell providers organizing contractors to remove old equipment from the old tank and install new on the new tank, including NCPD microwave. Verizon is the first provider and they will be doing the changeovers in sequence. All cell providers will be on the new tank by April 30, 2023.
  - AOP installation by Philip Ross is underway with foundation and installation of tanks along with health department submittals.
  - \$3,000,000 has been awarded to the Village in Gov. Hochul’s budget for Improvements WIIA grant. This funding will be used to install new pollution control equipment. Documents have been signed and submitted to the state to receive funding.
  - New doors and hatch approved for all well locations are completed. All locks need to be changed on the new door installation as well, Abetta Lock has been contacted.
  - Coordinating with Bob Holzmacher and the Health Department to install piping and new valves to enable filling of ground tank at Ridge Road from both wells.
  - New site plan and location of equipment has been agreed. PWGC to handle NYS submittals for reimbursement of WIIA grant and legal consulting services only.

## **WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, March 27, 2023**

### **INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- A meeting was held with Bethpage Water District to discuss meter pit and water purchase agreement.
- A meeting was held with South Farmingdale Water District to explore ways of working together.
- Met with Philip Ross Industries to develop Plant 2 treatment. Initial site plan is in working phase.
- From John Falbo – Water Department for the past week:
- This week consisted of following up and inspecting on projects throughout the Village.
- Main Street electric project – so far very successful. I have pictures of where the pipes cross over our water mains and services. Only one repair needed to be done last week.
- Fire Service piping for the new Ridge Road garage was tapped into water main successfully.
- Eastern Parkway treatment plant moving along with Phillip Ross piping in ground. Careful excavating, taking a lot of pictures.
- All entry alarms to new water tower have been completed. On April 4, Electronix will install the 2 motion detectors.
- A meeting is to be called for the new water tower by general contractor Tom Diorio so we can tie up all loose ends and close out the project.
- We are catching up with all maintenance in all wells, coming into our peak pumping season.
- Thank you!
- Code Department:
  - Working until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
  - Noise issues were discussed regarding outdoor music, types and volume levels to develop new Village Code.
  - New signage ordered for LIRR North parking lot has been installed with special thanks to Dave Rodenburg, Mike Tortoso and Matt Kilbridge.
  - The Board requested a review of nighttime personnel as outdoor dining and open windows have changed with the season.
  - Contact FBS for rollout and administration of parking meter policy.

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Monday, March 27, 2023**  
**INC. VILLAGE OF FARMINGDALE**

- Make Uber parking/pickup on Main St. after 10:00 p.m. for implementation spring/summer 2023.

**NEW CURB – 190 BETHPAGE RD** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2023-03-37)**, to approve the installation of new curb in front of 190 Bethpage Rd. in the amount of \$3,000.

The discussion continued on the following topic:

- “Stop for Kids” is under review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer