

Village Hall

The Village of Farmingdale was formed in 1904 from the Town of Oyster Bay. The Town in the late 1800s established local offices in the larger hamlets so that residents did not have to make the long trip to Oyster Bay for all Town matters. Farmingdale had such a satellite office located where our village hall stands today. In this small wooden structure, taxes and fines were collected, and minor judicial cases were heard by a justice of the peace. Incidentally, the Gregory Museum, a small natural science facility in Hicksville, is housed in their 1895 “courthouse” which still stands.



The new Village of Farmingdale arranged to rent the old Town of Oyster Bay office following incorporation in 1904. In 1923 the Village purchased the building. It was razed once the decision was reached to build a brick Village Hall/Firehouse on the site several years later.

The decision to build it back in 1930 was not an easy one. For one thing, the nation was beginning the second year of a profound economic slump which we now know as the Great Depression. The village numbered only 3373 residents in the 1930 census, barely 40% of our current figure. The first proposition to build a village hall/firehouse for \$140,000 failed in December 1930 by a 2-1 margin.

On March 17, 1931 a second vote with the bond debt scaled back to \$74,000 was held. This passed easily, again by a 2-1 margin. Bids were sought on construction, which were opened on July 3. The contractors selected began work early that summer, and had the new facility ready for occupancy just after New Years Day 1932. Dedication was held in January and the first regular meeting of the Village Board met on January 11 in the new building. Frank Scholl, who had been elected mayor the previous March, presided at both events.

The new building enabled the two fire services, the Hook and Ladder Company and the Water Witch Engine Company, to unite under one roof for the first time as the Farmingdale Fire Department since their founding in the 1880s.

In 1979 on the occasion of the Village’s 75th anniversary, an addition was constructed, including a new entrance, lobby, and meeting chamber, among other improvements (picture below).

In recent months the current administration has conducted an infrastructure modernization, upgrading and updating operation systems at Village Hall to make services as cost efficient as possible.



During this three-quarters of a century Village Hall has become an iconic landmark of our village, along with our historic railroad station and houses of worship, giving our village an identity and “sense of place” often lacking in many communities. We are indebted to our elected Village officials and residents of the early 1930s who struggled during the difficult economic times of that era to give us our own Village Hall/Firehouse.