

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, January 6, 2025**

**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 6, 2025.

**Present:** Mayor Ralph Ekstrand  
Deputy Mayor William Barrett  
Trustee Cheryl Parisi  
Trustee Walter Priestley (arrived 7:15)  
Trustee Craig Rosasco  
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Brian Harty  
Deputy Clerk Daniel Ruckdeschel  
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis  
Superintendent of Buildings Stephen Fellman

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**, upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was (4/0 vote),

**RESOLVED (#2025-01-01)**, to move to Executive Session.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was (5/0 vote),

**RESOLVED (#2025-01-02)**, to reconvene the meeting.

The following topics were discussed:

- Tonight's public hearings/hearings to be announced: On-site parking/residential areas
- Discuss Safety Inspections to maintain two-family status – modify fee for completely owner-occupied properties.
- Fire Department:
  - Schedule Commissioners and Chiefs to meet with the Board on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
  - Chief Hammond was asked to look into blankets to handle car battery fires.
- Building Department:
  - 7-11 and Sunoco – ZBA approved plans and the Board approved a Special Use Permit. Construction drawings received, permit has been issued, waiting for permit to be picked up.

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- Verizon resubmission of plans to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer's Shopping Center was received and is being reviewed by D&B. Special use permit hearing has been rescheduled for February 3, 2025.
- The Nutty Irishman & 317, dumpster constructed, needs second dumpster guard – awaiting delivery.
- National Grid grant for street trees and planter boxes has been submitted – approximately \$10,000, awaiting response.
- Toretta Estates – review site plans for three building applications for remaining lots. Waiting for revised plans.
- Bodega on Conklin St. signage reviewed, remedy proposed.
- L.I. McGrath's is open and operating, need Special Use Permit.
- The Pour Authority (lease executed) will be moving into space adjacent to 335 Main Street (application anticipated).
- A seafood restaurant will be moving into the former Creations Pizza location, following up on special use permit.
- Barnyard needs a Special Use Permit.
- Enterprise Rental Car location is open and operating with C/O issued.
- 20 Quaker Lane – moving leader to control rainwater flow.
- Footings have been poured for 215 Prospect Street. Foundation completed and has also been waterproofed and backfilled.
- Review Casa Stellina for compliance and expansion. Need to file to legalize, architect is working on plans.
- Additional quotes needed for outfitting Building Department vehicles.
- Building Dept. handled an excessive noise complaint regarding L. I. McGrath's.
- L. I. McGrath's requested use of the street during Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. The Board said they could have entertainment in the rear so as not to impact rush hour traffic.
- Highway Department:
  - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.

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- Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations
- New DPW Yoakum St. Park is completed (berm behind park needs completion/spring 2025).
- Need to evaluate lighting at the Melville Road/Secatogue Avenue intersection (Superintendent Patanjo).
- Altice/LIRR plan for North Main Street - decision to tunnel under the tracks to accommodate Altice. Altice to submit plans to LIRR.
- Review County easement at Thomas Powell Blvd. for payment (Village Attorney DeBellis).
- Work with Hello Alert for cameras for the downtown business district including parking lots and additionally the LIRR parking lots.
- Follow up with H2M regarding Linwood - ongoing. Phase One completed. Phase Two started 1/6/25 and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete.
- LIRR pot belly stove was refurbished by Doug Ketchum of the Highway Department, to be installed in the Farmingdale Train Station.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
- Crews came in to salt the Village on the morning of December 21<sup>st</sup>. Castro was also called in for Main Street, ended up with almost 2 inches.
- Crews also salted the Village and Main Street on Christmas Eve.
- Crews helped out with the annual ball drop on New Year's Eve.
- Water Department:
  - Sampling and testing of Well 1-3 of AOP/GAC installation by Philip Ross continues with well now fully operational.
  - New steel building to cover the GAC tanks at Well 1-3 - construction has been completed. Additional testing costs for newly monitored contaminants at approximately \$16,000 per well.
  - Plant 2 construction – underway/ongoing.
  - Master schedule is being worked on by PRI through completion for all wells, expected to be 5/1/25.
  - PWGC following up on required testing to secure funding from legal settlements and potential federal and county funding. Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel helped finalize all submissions.

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- A grant of \$1 million has been committed through County Legislator John Ferretti to offset costs of the new water treatment systems. A payment of \$500,000 was received.
- Congressman Thomas Suozzi has informed the Village that a \$1.1 million commitment has been requested in the 2025/2026 Federal Budget. Not a reimbursement grant.
- Evaluation of ground tank roof and structure for repairs and/or replacement is underway by D&B.
- D&B is providing analysis for antennae replacement on elevated tank by AT&T.
- Lead and Copper letters have been sent to residents with galvanized services.
- Water main break at the corner of Park Ave. and Jefferson Rd. was fixed by Merrick Utilities on Christmas Eve.
- From John Falbo:
  - There was a water main break on Christmas Eve. 12 inch transmission line was repaired by Merrick Utilities. Valve turning for shut off of the main was done by the Village of Farmingdale with assistance from South Farmingdale. Pressure in Village was sustained by VOF by running well at time of repair.
  - Working closely with Roadwork Ahead on the Linwood project to relocate services if needed.
  - Samples for month and quarter were completed.
  - Valves for Ridge Road were completed...12 inch and 8 inch.
- Code Department:
  - Weekly inspections of meters are done to check for any malfunctions (i.e. coins jammed in credit card slot).
  - Electrification of all parking meters is underway.
  - Sign posts and signage needs to be placed on Main Street. New signage to be installed by DPW.

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- Noise issues on Main Street will be addressed as noted by code officers. If complaints are received, please forward to appropriate code or building department for resolution.
- Code observing landscaper regarding leaf removal and permit compliance.
- All holiday events went well.
- Code handled an excessive noise complaint regarding the Tap Room.
- Civic Plus is in the process of formulating a proposal for a new website.
- Contacted Prime Valet Services to provide a plan for valet services in the downtown area.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned to the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer