

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, March 17, 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, March 17, 2025.

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

**Absent:** Deputy Mayor William Barrett

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

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-16)**, to convene the Board of Assessment Review.

**PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PETITIONS** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-17)**, to deny all the property tax complaint petitions except for the following adjustments:

- Lower the assessed value of 154 Prospect Street from \$663,570 to \$625,800
- Lower the assessed value of 39 Doud Street from \$857,620 to \$820,000
- Lower the assessed value of 100 Rose Street from \$653,400 to \$597,800
- Lower the assessed value of 106 Staples street from \$633,040 to \$563,000

**ADJOURN THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**– Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-18)**, to adjourn the Board of Assessment Review.

**FD FITNESS PROVIDER** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

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**RESOLVED (#2025-03-19)**, to approve Blink Fitness as the designated fitness provider for the Farmingdale Fire Department at a cost of \$240 for 45 members at a cost of \$10,800.

**TAX CERTIORARI** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-20)**, to approve Tax Certiorari settlement Re: 511 Fulton Street Holding Corporation Sec 48, Blk. 98, Lot 346: Premises 511 Fulton Street (Omega Gas Station), for tax years 2018/19 through and including 2024/2025 for a refund of \$10,000 with a reduction in assessed value to \$600,000. If assessment remains at the reduced value for tax years 2025/26 through and including 2027/28, no Article 7 proceedings will be filed.

**GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-21)**, to approve a request from the Spanish Charismatic Renewal Group from St. Kilian's to have a walk commemorating the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 18, 2025 (Good Friday) from 12:00 Noon until approximately 3:00 p.m. The walk will begin at the cafeteria of St. Kilian School and proceed south onto Rose Street, then left on Richard Street, then left on Cherry Street, and left on Wesche Drive, ending at the school cafeteria.

**USE OF FACILITIES – SHARON/AYOUB WEDDING** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-22)**, to approve a request from Erin Sharon & Justin Ayoub for a wedding ceremony at the 5 Corners Park Gazebo on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 20-25 people are expected to attend.

**USE OF FACILITIES – JIMENEZ/HERNANDEZ WEDDING** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-22)**, to approve a request from Adalgisa Jimenez & Rafael Hernandez for a wedding ceremony at the Village Green or Courtroom on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Approximately 10 people are expected to attend.

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**ST. KILIAN PARISH PARKING LOT** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-23)**, to approve a request from St. Kilian Parish to ticket vehicles illegally parked in handicap spaces in the parish's parking lot on Conklin Street, across from the church.

**FARMERS MARKET 2025** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-24)**, to approve a request from Schneider's Farm for the use of the Village Green for their Farmer's Market on Sundays starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and running through November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

**VILLAGE PROPERTY TRANSFER** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-25)**, to approve the transfer of Village property to 345 Staples Street as identified in attached survey enabling collection of taxes on said parcel. Village Attorney DeBellis to follow up with letter to applicant at 345 Staples Street.

The following topics were discussed:

- Discussed dates for PO Richard Rose sign dedication: May 1 or May 22 are preferred by a majority of the Board.
- Discuss 368 Melville Road subdivision: Agreed to by the Board with conditions as presented: 7' basement ceilings, \$10,000 parkland fee, no exterior stairway entrance to basement, 4 parking spaces for each home and buildout 4 bedrooms per plan, houses approximately 2500 sq. ft. Village Attorney DeBellis to follow up with applicant's attorney to complete subdivision.
- Fire Department
- Building Department:
  - 7-11 and Sunoco – Permit has been issued, waiting for permit to be picked up. Spoke to attorney, awaiting response for start date – mark outs for demo are underway.
  - Verizon resubmission of plans to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer's Shopping Center was received and is being reviewed. Hearing rescheduled to April 7.

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- Bodega on Conklin St. signage reviewed, remedy proposed.
- The Pour Authority 335 Main Street - application received, will have 114 seats. Need Special Use Permit, denial letter issued. Permit issued for interior build-out.
- A seafood restaurant, Captain Ihab, will be moving into 193 Main Street, following up on special use permit – nothing filed.
- Barnyard needs a Special Use Permit.
- 20 Quaker Lane – moving leader to control rainwater flow, needs to move the roof gutter to connect to the drywell. Notice of violation sent.
- Review Casa Stellina for compliance and expansion. They need to file to legalize, architect is sending a full hard copy of plans/building expansion. Building Dept. should receive the week of March 3.
- Proposed subdivision at 368 Melville Road. Presented the possibility of a circular driveway for the home located in the Village along with payment of the Parkland requirement and ensure that parking requirements are met in both jurisdictions. A public hearing is required along with Planning Board/ARB review. Meeting scheduled with applicant for clarifications.
- Special Use Permits need follow up & completion.
- Vintage is being taken over by a new tenant, need to follow up with new owner for Special Use Permit.
- The barbershop next to Mer's Pub needs to go to the Planning Board for a new barber pole.
- Preliminary meeting was held with JPD/owners of Synergy Gym property for an upgrade.
- Highway Department:
  - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
  - 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).

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- Altice/LIRR plan for North Main Street - decision to tunnel under the tracks to accommodate Altice. Altice to submit plans to LIRR.
- Follow up with H2M regarding Linwood - ongoing. Phase One completed. Phase Two was also completed.
- LIRR pot belly stove was refurbished by Doug Ketchum of the Highway Department, to be installed in the Farmingdale Train Station.
- Main Street needs to be swept and pails on Main Street and Village Green need to be emptied when Rosie is on vacation.
- 5 maple trees will be added to 5 Corners Park in the spring of 2025 with one additional maple being removed.
- National Grid \$9200 grant in process.
- Discussed establishing 2 year cycle for drain cleaning/maintenance.
- Looking at Planters Parking Catalogue for installation on the Village Green.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
- DPW crews getting ready for the St. Patrick Day parade on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – barricades/trailer stage.
- Stapleton was in 3 dead trees on staples St. and one tree at 5 Corners Park.
- Island Energy replacing the FD rooftop AC unit on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- DPW crews have started cleaning up around the Thomas Powell House property.
- Town of Oyster Bay lighting has been in repairing streetlights.
- Shop crews have started prepping and servicing our landscaping equipment in preparation for spring.
- DPW crews have been out repairing potholes around the Village.
- The 2 new building/code cars are out getting outfitted, should be back next week.
- DPW crews have been out in the municipal lot and railroad lots cleaning debris.
- Fleet maintenance crew has been busy servicing DPW/fire vehicles.
- Water Department:

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- 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.
- 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 secured in the 2025/2026 Federal Budget. Not a reimbursement grant. The Village has requested to repurpose this grant toward the installation of a new ground tank.
- 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 along with CMS.
- Lead and Copper letters have been sent to residents with galvanized services.
- Requirements contract bids have been awarded for Distribution, Well Maintenance and Electrical needs.
- It was reported that the \$1.1 million grant from Senator Schumer and Congressman Suozzi has been withdrawn as a result of the recent continuing resolution and the cuts in Federal spending on discretionary items.
- From John Falbo:
- Project at Well 2-2 and 2-3 has taken up most of our time.
- We completed our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter samples for Well 1-3 and both tanks.

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- 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 new signage are being installed by DPW.
  - 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 reviewing Main Street security for events with NCPD.
  - Ticketing in CVS shopping center in fire lanes and handicapped spaces to commence.
  - Set meeting with FBS to discuss contract.
- Discussed tentative budget and tax cap exceedance, along with major expense issues and state mandates along with major expense issues and state mandates as well as possible BOT salary increases.
- Discussed Federal Medical Leave Act and implications to collective bargaining agreement.
- Village Attorney DeBellis is following up on incentive payments on the Carlyle project.
- Village Attorney DeBellis to draft a new local law to amend the code to allow for 27' wide driveways.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING – TAX CAP** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-26)**, to set a public hearing for exceeding the New York State Tax Cap on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING – BOT SALARY INCREASES** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-03-27)**, to set a public hearing for salary increases for the Mayor and Board of Trustees on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer