

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, March 24, 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 24, 2025.

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
Village Attorney Claudio DeBellis

Mayor Ekstrand advised the Board that the Village will be receiving a grant of \$4.5 million from the State of New York from the New York Forward grant program to construct a theatre in the Village.

2023/2024 JUSTICE COURT AUDIT REPORTS – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

RESOLVED (#2025-03-28), to accept the 2023/2024 Justice Court audit reports as submitted by Nawrocki Smith LLP.

Resolution to approve an agreement with the Copaigue Fire District for the Copaigue FD to provide mechanical services on fire apparatus at the rate of \$105.00 per hour during normal business hours and \$157.50 for overtime work. **Tabled for contract revisions.**

NEW HIRE – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

RESOLVED (#2025-03-29), to hire Joseph E. Richardson as a Part-Time Building Inspector at a rate of \$75.00 per hour.

The following topics were discussed:

- Discussed 2025/2026 budget: The budget, as presented, is 5.76% over the NYS Tax Cap of 1.79% in the General Fund and an 8% increase in water rates. The discussion reviewed both short and long term financing issues along with state mandates for water filtration.
- Fire Department
- Building Department:

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- 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.
- 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.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY INSPECTION FEE– Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

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RESOLVED (#2025-03-30), to approve public assembly inspection fee of \$250.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Building Department (continued):
 - The Board requested clarification from the Building Superintendent on bodega signage and Casa Stellina plans.
- 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).
 - 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.
 - Request to remove all concrete planters from Main Street.
 - Review Secatogue Ave. & Melville Rd. lighting.
 - A general discussion about CHIPS funding amounts and when they would be available from the state took place.

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- Five 14 foot tall trees are needed for 5 Corners Park.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
- DPW crews assisted the Water Department with a service leak at 345 Staples Street.
- DPW crews repaired the temporary road patch in front of 345 Staples Street.
- Amityville DPW assisted us with the boom truck to remove Christmas lights on the Village Green tree and Gergras Park tree.
- Crews still repairing potholes around the Village.
- DPW crews have been cleaning out the Thomas Powell House property.
- Crews helped with the St. Patrick's Day parade.
- Stapleton was in removing dead trees.
- Crews have been cleaning up the DPW yard from all the construction.
- Crews will be going out soon to power wash the walkways on Main Street.
- Island Energy replaced the a/c unit on the roof of Fire Headquarters.
- Sweeper has been out in all zones.
- 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.
 - 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.

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- 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.
- Philip Ross Industries reported that all wells will be operating for the summer season.
- The Board was informed that the Federal Grant in the amount exceeding \$1.1 million has been withdrawn and that the total amount to come from the State of New York through the WIIA grant program is capped at \$4.6 million. The Village has received the \$1 million committed through the offices of Nassau County Legislator John Ferretti.
- From John Falbo:
- Project at Well 2-2 and 2-3 assisting with construction and set up of well house and pumps everyday. At least 50% of our workload is with valve turning and info and spot cleanups for work being done by PRI. We are in the homestretch with the project.
- Watermain break at 360 Staples St. Our Water Department needed assistance from Merrick Utilities (2 of their laborers). My crew did most of the work. They needed more experience in critical area of 8 inch watermain break.
- Constant maintenance of Well 1-3 in order to keep solo well working.
- Weekly sampling

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- Met with South Farmingdale Water and did a full walkthrough of water operations.
- 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.
 - Paid parking in the LIRR lot is 90% through pay-by-phone and 50% in the downtown lots through pay-by-phone.
- The rededication of Main Street in memory of NCPD Officer Richard Rose will take place on May 1, 2025 at noon.
- Discussed potential revaluation of assessed value of all properties in the Village.
- Discussed naming the southeast corner of Main Street and South Front Street as “Collins Corner” honoring Tim Collins.

NON-RESIDENT LIRR PARKING FEE– Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

RESOLVED (#2025-03-31), to raise the non-resident LIRR parking fee to \$500.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- The Board was informed that the applicant for cell service in Marquis Plaza Shopping Center has requested adjournment to June 2, 2025 at 8:00 p.m. The Board is in agreement and will reset the hearing at the BOT meeting on April 7.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer