

**WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, April 14, 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, April 14, 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 opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO EXCEED NYS TAX CAP** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-12)**, to open the hearing.

The following public comments were made:

- Two residents expressed concern and opposition about exceeding the tax cap.
- One resident asked if there were multiple year fiscal plans.

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

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-13)**, to close the hearing.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Mayor Ekstrand, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-14)**, to exceed the New York State Tax cap in fiscal year 2025/2026.

This approval is granted by a vote as follows:

Mayor Ralph Ekstrand	aye
Deputy Mayor William Barrett	nay
Trustee Cheryl Parisi	nay
Trustee Walter Priestley	aye
Trustee Craig Rosasco	aye

**PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025/2026 BUDGET** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

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**RESOLVED (#2025-04-15)**, to open the hearing.

A general discussion was held and a compromise was reached to provide for a budget that took into account short, mid-term and long term fiscal considerations for both the General Fund and the Water Fund, with the final budget having a 3.27% tax increase in the General Fund and an 8% increase in the Water Fund.

There being no public comment, upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-16)**, to close the hearing.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-17)**, to delete \$51,500 from the proposed budget from four identified budget lines.

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

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-18)**, to approve an increase in the metered parking rate in the downtown area from 50 cents per hour to 75 cents per hour, resulting in a budget increase revenue of \$132,000.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Priestley and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was unanimously,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-19)**, to adopt the 2025-2026 Budget:

**2025/2026 Budget Resolution**

**RESOLVED**, to adopt the 2025/2026 Budget as presented with a net budget of \$4,776,337 with the following appropriations: Unrestricted surplus to be appropriated of \$275,000 and Reserve for Debt to be appropriated of \$70,000. The total tax levy of \$4,431,337 is an increase of 3.27% The New York State Tax Cap allowable limit for the 2025/2026 Budget is calculated in the amount 1.79%, our budget exceeds this amount by 1.48%.

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**FURTHER RESOLVED**, to certify the tax shares or base proportion percentages as follows: Homestead 65.8928% and Non-homestead of 34.1072% and the tax levy breakdown as: Homestead \$2,919,932 and Non-homestead of \$1,511,405. Corresponding tax rates are \$2.295677/1,000 in assessed value for Homestead and \$4.401775/1,000 in assessed value for Non-homestead.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, to adopt the 2025/2026 Water Budget as presented with a total appropriated budget of \$3,288,490 and a net budget of \$674,690 with the following appropriations: Unrestricted surplus to be appropriated of \$400,000 and Reserve for Debt to be appropriated of \$274,690.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW FOR SALARY INCREASES** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-20)**, to **table the hearing** to Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to adopt a local law for salary increases for the Board of Trustees and the Mayor, where the Board of Trustees shall be paid \$20,000 annually with the Deputy Mayor being paid an additional \$1,000 annually to \$21,000 and the Mayor \$45,000 annually.

**TREE REMOVAL** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-21)**, to approve the removal of two trees at the Powell House at the request of a resident whose home was severely damaged by a tree from the Powell House crashing into their home prior to Village ownership.

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

**RESOLVED (#2025-04-22)**, to approve the hiring of Susan Capuano as a Part-Time Parking Meter Attendant at a salary of \$18.00 per hour, increasing to \$19.00 per hour after 6 months and \$20.00 per hour after 1 year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer