

## **WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Monday, June 24, 2024**

### **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, June 24, 2024.

**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

The following topics were discussed:

- Linwood Avenue: Ongoing

**OUTDOOR DINING – THE VILLAGER** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-06-25)**, to approve an Outdoor Dining permit for The Villager (306 Main St.).

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Fire Department
- Building Department:
  - Blue and Gold Development at 1 Conklin Street is now under construction, going well.
  - 7-11 and Sunoco – awaiting construction drawings in order to issue building permit. Special Use Permit was extended but was not paid, Howard Avertine (attorney for the applicant) is following up.
  - The Sterling Green project is proceeding. Sterling Green is nearing completion with applications for a lottery that will take place on July 9. Occupancy will begin in August. No issues with the project moving to completion.
  - The Robby Lee/Carlyle project is also proceeding and is nearing completion. No issues with the project.
  - Dish Network building permit issued with installation to start in July.

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- Waiting for Verizon submission of an application to install communication equipment on the clock tower at Palmer's Shopping Center.
- Lotus Garden C/O is approved and is now open.
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car – Special Use Permit has been approved. The palm tree shop that is on the property was given a temporary month lease by the property owner, will be gone by the end of June.
- 502 Main Street (across from law offices) - Discussed proposed changes and met with the Planning Board/ARB.
- Zuzu is nearing completion and will open soon.
- Discussed waste stream with the ownership of the Nutty Irishman and 317 – very high estimate for new dumpster, need to discuss options – needs follow up.
- The Villager – status on rear enclosure, will wait until autumn of 2024 for application submission.
- Need to apply for National Grid grant for street trees and planter boxes. Trees selected, delivered and await installation.
- D&B has contract to identify ownership of pipe infrastructure connecting to catch basins.
- Toretta Estates has submitted requests for three building permits to complete the subdivision, need to go to the Planning Board.
- Two lot subdivision on Staples Street – building permits have been issued, work is underway.
- Two lot sub-division on Melville Rd. needs to go to the NCPC. Public hearing to be announced in July for an August hearing.
- Application for a Caribbean fusion restaurant in the former Grecian Grill.
- Potential application for warehouse distribution & retail of baked goods from 621 Fulton Street.
- The Dark Horse needs to clean up their rear yard.
- Highway Department:
  - Lot maintenance and routine maintenance of Main St.
  - Routine garbage pickup in parks and dog stations

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- Main St. poles for FFD traffic light installed. Superintendent Patanjo is obtaining quotes and delivery schedule for traffic lights.
- Plan for new DPW pocket park was approved by the Board and is under construction. The gazebo is in and stored at the vendor's facility.
- Village Green Gazebo brick wall needs repointing.
- Need to evaluate lighting at the Melville Road/Secatogue Avenue intersection.
- Rte. 109 – replace one no parking sign by Hearthstone, sign ordered.
- It was discussed to evaluate removal of parking on the east side of Main Street between Conklin St. and South Front St. in order to widen sidewalks and improve traffic flow.
- GFI units for holiday lighting to be supplied by the Town of Oyster Bay.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
- Due to the dry and hot weather conditions, we have 2 water trucks out 5 days a week, including giving extra watering to the hanging flowers in all of our parking fields.
- Heads Up Irrigation was in again for an issue in parking field #2, all repaired.
- Someone went behind the waterfalls and destroyed all the PVC inlet water feeds. John Langon was able to remake all the manifolds in house at a great cost savings to the Village. We will reconnect everything next week.
- Tree pots will be going out next week on the south side of Main St.
- DPW crews will be getting the new plantings for Main St. on June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- DPW crews will be going to Farmingdale High School and Farmingdale Library to pick up all the music equipment for the Village Pops.
- Keeping all crews hydrated during the heat with water and Gatorade.
- Water Department:
  - All communication going well with the new contract with the South Farmingdale Water District. Geary is on board until mid-July.
  - Sampling and testing of Well 1-3 of AOP/GAC installation by Philip Ross is in process, Trojan to calibrate the AOP to reflect contaminant level. SCADA

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system to be set to reflect the AOP contaminant level, all need to meet health department requirements.

- New steel building to cover the GAC tanks at Well 1-3 is on site, awaiting foundation construction. Health Department has added requirements for lighting and heating of this building. Need to get information about testing costs.
- \$3,000,000 has been awarded to the Village in Gov. Hochul's budget for Improvements WIIA grant, Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel submitted for reimbursement in the amount of \$2,250,000. The remaining 25% to be requested when the job is completed. \$4,624,000 in funding has been committed for Phase 2 project at Ridge Road from the New York State WIIA funding for the new GAC installation. PWGC is working on Phase 3 project and will handle the application and narrative for this grant.
- Plant 2 construction currently on hold. Pipe installation to connect into the system with cut ins to main trunk lines to be done as arranged by PRI when Well 1-3 is fully operational and with peak pumping season coming this task will be done when peak season is over (agreed to with PRI).
- 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 last week.
- A grant of \$9.6 million has been applied for through Senator Chuck Schumer to offset capital cost of treatment systems.
- A grant of \$1 million has been committed through County Legislator John Ferretti to offset costs of the new water treatment systems. The contract was signed, Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel is following up on grant requirements for reimbursement.
- A grant request of \$5 million was applied for through the office of Congressman Thomas Suozzi and has been submitted by the Congressman to the House Appropriations Committee.
- From John Falbo:
- Lead and Copper survey is complete, results turned over to Bob Holzmacher.
- Summer pumpage Well start times continue to be monitored by John Falbo on multiple overnights, in order to meet daily peak demands due to sprinkler

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usage and homeowners filling pools. This will continue until Well 1-3 is in service.

- Well 1-3 sampling is continuing.
- Meeting with Dish Network regarding work to be done on the cell tower. Work will start in mid-July and end in August.
- Speaking with South Farmingdale Water Dept. on a daily basis to keep them informed.
- Code Department:
  - Weekly inspections of meters are done to check for any malfunctions (i.e. coins jammed in credit card slot).
  - Section 375 of the NYS VTL indicates that flyers placed on cards is illegal.
  - Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel reported that electrification of all parking meters is underway.
  - Sign posts and new signage needs to be placed on Main Street.
  - Noise issues will be addressed as noted by code officers. If complaints are received, please forward to appropriate code or building department.
- Make Uber parking/pickup on Main St. after 10:00 p.m. for implementation summer 2024. All signage (received) and brackets have been ordered for Main Street.
- The Johnson Controls presentation from the last work session was discussed with only the North LIRR parking lot as a potential for solar panel/electric generation. Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel suggested that the \$50,000 grant from NYSERDA for solar panels be applied to charging stations was agreed to by NYSERDA.

**RESERVE TRANSFERS/ADJUSTMENTS** – Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Barrett and seconded by Trustee Parisi, it was **RESOLVED (#2025-06-26)**,

- To transfer \$68,360 from the Unrestricted Fund Balance to the Reserve for Special Use/Incentive Bonus for the payments made in 2023/2024 as of May 31, 2024.
- To authorize expenditures from the Parking Lots Improvements Reserve in the amount of \$69,381.

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**PARKING SPACES IN LOADING ZONES** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Parisi and seconded by Trustee Rosasco, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-06-27)**, to approve the elimination of parking spaces in the loading zone in Lot 1.

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

**RESOLVED (#2025-06-28)**, to approve use of the Village Courtroom for an annual education event by Energeia Partnership of Molloy University on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**STERLING GREEN PAYMENT SCHEDULE** – Upon a motion made by Trustee Rosasco and seconded by Trustee Priestley, it was,

**RESOLVED (#2025-06-29)**, to approve payment schedule for Sterling Green in the total amount of \$137,310 from schedule to run from July 2024 to May 2025.

The discussion continued on the following topics:

- Informed the Board regarding a call from AECOM Engineering to survey the North LIRR lot for the MTA for potential housing use.
- Discussed Mayor Ekstrand and staff meetings with the NCPD 8<sup>th</sup> Precinct regarding summer activities and other issues.
- Trustee Parisi is arranging photos of former Deputy Mayor Patricia Christiansen and former Mayor Butch Starkie.
- Trustee Parisi is organizing painting and re-carpeting of Village Hall.
- Trustee Parisi requested that Castro Landscaping review potential plantings to screen the Jefferson Road sump.
- Village Attorney DeBellis will look into the status of potential settlements to benefit the Water Department.

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