

WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, December 2, 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, December 2, 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
Superintendent of Buildings Stephen Fellman

The following topics were discussed:

- Tonight's public hearings/hearings to be announced
- Fire Department:
 - Discussed various procedures
 - Reported Farmingdale Fire Department accident on Thanksgiving Day during a mutual aid call with the South Farmingdale Fire District.
- Building Department:
 - 7-11 and Sunoco – ZBA approved plans and the Board approved a Special Use Permit. Construction drawings received, permit has been issued.
 - 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. Public hearing for special use permit scheduled for January 6th, 2025.
 - The Nutty Irishman & 317, dumpster constructed, needs second dumpster guard and container.
 - National Grid grant for street trees and planter boxes has been submitted – approximately \$10,000, awaiting response.
 - Toretta Estates - three building applications for remaining lots went to the Planning Board, minutes received and are being reviewed. Building permits to be issued soon.
 - Bodega on Conklin St. signage reviewed, remedy proposed.

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- 217 Main Street to be renamed L.I. McGrath's - will be an Irish pub. Working with the Building Department for a Special Use Permit, hearing to be held this evening. Temporary C/O issued November 14.
- The Pour Authority (lease executed) will be moving into space adjacent to 335 Main Street (application anticipated).
- The Board reiterated that the Building Department needs to follow up on window signage on Main Street and the Downtown Business District for percentage of coverage of storefront windows, ATM signs, digital and rolling message signs, signage not approved by the Planning Board and "open" signs. Illuminated/framed "open" signs are permitted, an example of one was indicated. Continuing.
- Need to review Special Use Permit and fees, hearing scheduled for tonight.
- A seafood restaurant will be moving into the former Creations Pizza location.
- Enterprise Rental Car location is under construction and moving well - ongoing.
- The Board pointed to a serious water issue coming from a neighbor impacting a retaining wall and rear yard of 5 Puritan Lane. Needs investigation:
 - Rerouting of a leader from the roof to the opposite direction was recommended after meeting with the homeowner at 20 Quaker Lane. This should remedy the water intrusion issue.
 - At 5 Puritan Lane, a professionally engineered redesign of the retaining wall was recommended as the wall that failed was poorly constructed.
- Footings have been poured for 215 Prospect Street. Next steps – foundation walls to be poured and site backfilled.
- Discussed issues with 191 Melville Road and 326 Staples Street.
- Need to follow up regarding signage at Palmers Shopping Center no applications/permits.
- Need to check Barnyard for seating amount.
- 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).
- Need to evaluate lighting at the Melville Road/Secatogue Avenue intersection (Superintendent Patanjo).
- Check Parking Lot 3 Blue Spruce trees to provide electric for holiday decorations – will be solar powered.
- Altice/LIRR plan for North Main Street meeting on Wed., November 20 resulted in the 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 to begin on November 29th.
- Electrified parking meters are being reinstalled Monday, November 18 with some remaining to be converted by McKay Meters.
- Discussed Linwood Phase 1 start date – Dec. 5 or Dec. 6. Phase 2 pricing will be available for the next meeting.
- Discussed new floor scrubber for the Fire Department and DPW, to be operated by DPW.
- Need set up for Art Crawl on Dec. 8.
- From Ken Tortoso – DPW weekly work assignments:
 - Leaf crews are out per the map.
 - Setting up for the holiday season with Trustee Parisi.
 - Watering is still ongoing.
- Water Department:
 - Sampling and testing of Well 1-3 of AOP/GAC installation by Philip Ross continues with well now fully operational.

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- 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 to re-commence on or about 11/6/24 – 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.
- 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.
- Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel reported that water revenue is up and that more customers are using auto-pay.
- Lead and Copper letters have been sent to residents with galvanized services.
- Need report from NCDOH on recommendations.
- Staff following up on completion status at Well 1-3 for WIIA grant payment.
- From John Falbo:
 - Well 1-3 at GAC building is near completion with electric.
 - Drainage at Eastern Parkway was upgraded.

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- Backup interconnects at Staples St. with So. Farmingdale, Bethpage and SWCA have all been tested for the year. Upgrades at Staples St. and Melville Rd. interconnects were successful.
- Emergency generator at Ridge Road was tested. Booster AND valve controls were tested off of generator and proven to work. This means our backup to first back up to Well 1-3 works if needed. We will exercise completely until work is complete.
- Our office at Village Hall mailed out letters to customers with galvanized lines that need to be replaced.
- Mark outs for water mains and service in Linwood and Thomas Powell were completed for upcoming drainage work.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - Two pub crawls were reported for Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.
 - Set up for Art Crawl on Dec. 8.
- A \$1,000 reduction in the cost of new electric charging stations that will be installed in Parking Lot 3 was reported.
- Deputy Clerk Ruckdeschel has applied for 2024/2025 CHIPS funding.
- The Village Green tree lighting will be held on Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Gerngras Park tree lighting will be held on Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m.
- The medical plans will have minimal increases in 2025.

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- NC Police/BSO reported to Mayor Ekstrand that Thanksgiving Eve went very well and that there were large crowds. “No Parking on the East Side of Main Street” worked well for Uber, Lyft and taxi pick up and drop off.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brian P. Harty, Village Clerk-Treasurer