

May 27, 2015

At the Floral Park Village Board's regular meeting on **Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 8 pm**, the Village Board will discuss upcoming road repair projects. The Village Board will also discuss the Village's financing plans for a 5-year road program.

The harshness of the last few winters has certainly taken their toll on the Village roads. Like every municipality around us, the Village of Floral Park has sought to address our aging roads while at the same time trying to maintain a cap on spending and address other structural needs of the Village's infrastructure. But please be assured that the Village Government is keenly aware of the need to address the condition of our Village roads.

We began putting in place our multi-year plan to address our roads last year. As stated in last year's *Village Item's* dedicated to the budget, we stated that we were including in the 2014-2015 fiscal year's budget an increase for road repairs equaling one-half percent (0.5%) of the entire budget. That increase helped the Village address a few reconstructions projects this past year and increase the amount of maintenance we have done on our roads. However, as we acknowledged last year, our roads are a problem we will not be able to tackle all at once, but will need to work towards resolving over several years.

In the Village Budget for 2015-2016 that was just passed, we were able to not only stay within the New York State mandated tax cap, but we were also able to once again increase our road repair budget by nearly an additional one-quarter of a percent (0.25%) of the overall budget. Our goal is to increase the amount we spend on roads by incremental amounts over the next several years. In this way, we can address this clear need without unduly burdening the Village taxpayer. Moreover, this increased funding for roads will enable the Village to increase the rate by which we reconstruct roads because we will now be able to finance more road reconstruction projects.

In the coming year, we project that we will be able to spend over \$2 million on road reconstruction projects in the Village. The funding for these projects will come from several different sources. These funding sources consist of: our increased road repair budget; financing we will be able to put in place based on our increased road repair budget; funds available from New York State through the CHIPS program; and funds from the Office of Community Development through Nassau County.

Another aspect of our Road Program is the selection of the roads to be reconstructed. Over the last several months, we have also been working with our outside engineers to determine which roads were most in need of reconstruction. We have again retained the services of Dvirka & Bartilucci as our engineer for drainage and road design. They, along with DPW Superintendent Steve Siwinski, RA and our DPW supervisors, have done an assessment of the roads and have made recommendations as to those roads most in need of remediation

We will discuss our Road Program and our goals for the future regarding our roads at our next regular meeting of the Village Board on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 8 pm. I encourage you to attend this meeting.