

Inc. Village of Floral Park
April 17, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

Mayor Longobardi called upon outgoing Fire Chief Michael Longobardi to present his annual report to the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Chief Longobardi read his annual report as follows:

‘Mayor Dominick Longobardi, Deputy Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Fire Commissioner and Trustee Dr. Lynn Pombonyo, Trustee Archie Cheng, Trustee Frank Chiara, Members of the Village Administration, Chiefs, Members of the Department, Residents and Guests.

I stand before you tonight relaxed, relieved, and very, very grateful that it is over; of course, I’m talking about tax season but more important I stand before you tonight extremely honored and humbled as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department to give my final report for the year 2017-2018. I am honored and humbled by the trust the amazing, hard-working dedicated men and women of this Department gave me for the past year. They are the most amazing group and I thank you.

This is the status of our department:

Membership:

The Department currently has 182 members consisting of the following:

Active membership is 149 including 110 firefighters and EMS, 25 Ex-Chiefs, 4 Honorary Chiefs, 10 Probationary members.

29 Associate Members
4 Chaplains

This year we swore in 7 new members and had 11 resignations.

Alarms:

It is obvious that the most important thing we do is respond to emergencies to assist those in need of some sort of help or assistance. We respond to many types of incidents including gas leaks, auto accidents, odors, electrical problems, smoke and CO detector activations, EMS calls and fires, just to name a few. Those 182 people I just spoke about handle these alarms with the most amazing professionalism, coupled with the best care and compassion possible. For the year:

EMS calls:	1,025
Fire calls:	231
Auto accidents:	53
Hazmat/Hazmat related:	43

Carbon monoxide alarms/incidents:	37
Mutual aid to other towns:	33
Total calls:	1,422

Another number we look at is total fire loss for the year. This is the estimated damage caused by fire and events that we are called to. This year total fire loss is approximately \$80,000. I am happy to report it is low and I hope it is the result of our aggressive fire prevention education program coupled with the great quick work of our members at calls.

Training:

Responding to calls at all hours of the day and night 24/7/365 is only one aspect of the time and commitment given by our 100% volunteer professionals. From the first day you take your oath to serve, your hands-on training begins and never stops. There is no better example of this than our senior advanced emergency medical technicians who are retired, in their seventies, on top of their game, show no signs of slowing down and are in the process of recertifying as AEMTs.

Probationary firefighters in their first year alone take numerous classes including probationary training and essentials of firefighting at the fire academy along with an in-house training program and several on-line classes for a total of around 120 hours of training. All firefighters participate in monthly in-house drills as well as many, many hours of training at various calls, hands-on drills offered elsewhere and annual department operations training at the fire academy in Bethpage. Department operations are hands-on training in structures simulating house fires, building fires, warehouse fires, commercial structures and apartment towers, just to name a few. On the EMS side, the commitment is just as great if not greater. Our EMTs put in over 120 hours as well as take a NYS test just to get their certification. Each year after, they spend numerous hours at continuing medical education classes as well as regular drills. This year our department hosted an EMT recertification class. All members participate in periodic department drills, drills with other departments, an annual MOBEX drill where we interact with FDNY and an annual battalion drill focused on the First Battalion in Nassau County. This year the department trained on hose handling, ladder operations, propane emergencies, vehicle extrication, safety ropes and PSS training, gas emergencies, hazmat, carbon monoxide response, CPR an AED, firefighter removal, thermal imaging camera, forcible entry, mask confidence, officers training, managing maydays and incident command are just to name a few. This year our members accumulated 5,704.71 man hours on training; a testament to their professionalism and dedication. Thank you to Chief McAllister, Chief Naughton and their committee for all their hard work and dedication to the training program.

Probationary Training:

As I mentioned above, we have our specialized in-house program to train our new members on how Floral Park operates and get them familiar with our equipment. Thank you to Chairman William Hecker and his committee for all their hard work and efforts with our new members. They are currently working with 10 probationary members.

Purchasing:

This year there were 66 purchase orders and 128 vouchers processed. Thank you to Village Administrator/Treasurer Gerry Bambrick and Village Deputy Treasurer Kathleen Mack for all your help and assistance with our purchasing needs.

Medicals and Fit Testing:

Each year our members are required to take an OSHA medical, and interior firefighters are required to be fit tested for their SCBA mask. Thank you to Chief McAllister and William Hecker for overseeing these and ensuring our members are current.

Radios:

Radio communications are an ongoing problem. We constantly strive to find solutions and improve on what is our most important piece of equipment: our ability to communicate. All vehicle and portable radios were tested and updated with the latest frequencies. During testing, three new low band and one high band vehicle radios were installed to replace weak outdated radios and help improve performance. We also updated both antennas on the newly installed repeater at HQ. We purchased and put into service 110 new Unication pagers. This improved our dispatching and ability to receive calls while saving over \$10,000 a year in repair costs of our old outdated pagers. A huge thank you to Chief Dave Maickel for all your hard work, help and support during this process which is ongoing as we now look into new portable radios.

Equipment:

The Department has the following inventory of vehicles:

- 1992 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 1998 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 2002 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper
- 2004 Pierce Hook and Ladder 95" aerial
- 1984 Mack Heavy Rescue Truck
- 2003 Passenger Van
- 2015 Ford F450 Ambulance
- 1931 American LaFrance Antique Pumper
- 2008 Ford Expedition Chief Vehicle
- 2009 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2013 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2016 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2017 Chevy Tahoe Chief Vehicle
- 2009 Ford Expedition Utility Vehicle
- 1982 GMC Truck

Work Orders:

All that equipment is not easy to maintain but needs to be kept in top working order as someone's life may depend on it at any time. This year 69 vehicle work orders and 36 house work orders kept them going. Thank you to Superintendent Steve Siwinski, Deputy Kevin Ginnane and all the Village mechanics for all your hard work and dedication to this.

Pump, Ladder and Hose Testing:

All ladders and hoses were tested as required. Any damaged hose was removed and replaced. All three engines went to the academy for their annual pump test. All equipment is in good working order.

Explorers:

Our explorer program continues to thrive under the leadership of Chief Florio, Ex-Captain Goerke, their advisors and members. At this time, there are 10 active members and five advisors.

Fire Prevention:

Our fire prevention is always ongoing through both inspection and education. Our formal inspection program has our members who have taken and passed the Assistant Fire Inspectors course go business to business and inspect and review what is going on and try to point out hazards to the business owners. This also gives us the opportunity to learn about what goes on in these businesses and pre-plan buildings for that unfortunate event should there be a fire. This information is documented in our red Alert notification system and prints out on reports available to us in the event of a call at these places. This year the department conducted 363 inspections. Thank you to Chief Arrigo and Chief Bennett for all your hard work organizing and overseeing this very important task. The education side involves formal programs as well as every day calls. When we enter a house or business, we are able to look and see if extinguishers and alarms are present, are they up to date and are they being maintained. It is still all too often we enter a home and there are smoke detectors hanging open because the battery went bad and was not replaced or there are no carbon monoxide detectors present. We talk to the home owners about this and stress the safety issues and need for immediate replacement. We also conduct firehouse tours and welcome groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and also visit groups in town. We show them the equipment and how we operate as well as provide handouts. This year, we coordinated seven separate tours between schools and various community organizations. Thank you to Chief Saville for all your efforts to make this a success.

And now I would ask for a moment to address some other items:

When I started five years ago on the Staff, many Chiefs who have been here before me came up and wished me luck and suggested I set an agenda and goals, which I had already done for myself. It goes quick so make it happen. Yes, it does go quick as now many are asking, "So did you accomplish what you set out to do? Did you accomplish what you wanted?" Well among

the list of things I did or accomplished with the assistance of other members working together includes:

- Upgrading our communications equipment including new pagers and new repeaters with new antennas;
- Introducing a new updated Probationary training program;
- Upgrade the Chiefs office and expand the command center capabilities adding new larger monitors on the truck floor/office with expanded red Alert information screens
- Purchasing a new Department Van and converting the current van to a safety response vehicle loaded with additional equipment and giving our safety committee a better role in fire scene operations;
- Upgrades to our failing bottle station;
- Representing our Department on the Floral Park-Bellerose school safety committee and giving us a role in the safety of all our children in the Village while at school
- Assisting Active Company at reaching a final agreement for the expansion of the Active Firehouse and ordering the new truck;
- Establishing a regular segment on 4VS focused on the Fire Department history and educating our residents on what we do;
- Upgraded the budget and financial recording keeping of the office;
- And so much more as well as many things that are still in process like the upgrade to the supply garage, clean out and upgrade of Reliance attic for some much needed storage and beginning plans to hopefully renovate Firefighters' Hall for our 125th anniversary. And my added notoriety around town as I walk in stores on Tulip Avenue and hearing "Hey you're the Chief at 54 – what's going on there?"

However, while some see these as accomplishments, I see it as simply doing things to make us better. The original plan you enter this office with never happens as you adapt and deal with what comes along. In the end, accomplishments are simply doing the job. There is only one goal that counts in my mind: did I do a good job, make the members proud and leave the Department in better shape than when I started. I hope everyone was proud of their Chief this year. I hope the Department is better off than they were when I started and I hope I have made advancements for the betterment of everyone. If I have done that, then yes, I have accomplished everything I set out to do.

None of this happens without many people involved and I would like to take a moment to thank some people.

Mayor Longobardi - Wow – we never expected this in a million years. It was an honor to serve as your First Chief with you as Mayor. You are an amazing brother and great Mayor (no bias there). Thank you for all your help and guidance on municipal operations and for all your support. With all the respect and love that comes with this, I will be returning in a few minutes to totally ignoring you again.

Board of Trustees: Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support our agenda and goals and make us the best we can be for the residents we serve. All the conversations and

analysis and coming to the scene during emergencies to be there and support us are greatly appreciated.

Commissioner McAllister: It has been a pleasure working with you and developing a more interactive role between the Police and Fire Departments. We are the front line of safety and protection for the residents and I could not picture a better team. Thank you to all your officers and staff for a great job and their support for us.

To Gerry Bambrick, Susan Walsh, Sue Kerner, Lauren Killigrew and the entire staff at Village Hall: Thank you for all your hard work and help. You make the day-to-day things happen and it is very much appreciated. To Kathleen Mack, purchasing was one of my main functions for four years. Thank you for all your help and hard work. And, yes, I will still be doing purchasing.

To John Ryan: From the quick one minute questions to sit-down meetings in your office, your analysis and guidance is greatly appreciated.

To Chief O'Grady and Chief Wakely: Thank you for all your hard work in the office and keeping red Alert up to date.

To Chief D'Amore, Chief Bennett, Chief Naughton and Chief Florio: Thank you for all your guidance and showing me the ropes as I made my way up the line to Chief. It was a pleasure working with you.

To my Staff: Chief Maickel, Chief Arrigo, Chief McAllister and Chief Saville. What can I say? What a great year it has been. I cannot thank you enough for all you did this year and the accomplishments we made along the way. Your dedication, hard work and support is very much appreciated not to mention the great laughs we had as well. I wish you all much success going forward and I'm here to help. Chief Dodson, welcome aboard and good luck. You have a great group here.

At this time I want to thank my family ...

Lastly but very important are the amazing members of the Floral Park Fire Department, my brothers and sisters, many of whom are in this room right now. Please take a moment and thank them for all they do. None of anything that has been mentioned here can be accomplished and done without their hard work and efforts. Their endless dedication and determination to be the best shows in everything they do whether it's a full blown fire or helping a person in need of aid or assistance or coming together in the face of our worst tragedies like the line-of-duty death of FDNY Lt. Michael Davidson and performing selflessly without hesitation and with the most amazing compassion. (Chief Longobardi read a letter which he just received sent to the Floral Park Fire Department from New York City Fire Chief Daniel A. Nigro thanking them for the outstanding service they provided to the family of Lt. Michael Davidson and the entire New York City Fire Department as they laid to rest their fallen hero.) A year ago I spoke of being one team and what an amazing team this department is. You are an amazing group of men and women and it is such an honor to stand as Chief at the scene and watch you work. Thank you for all you do and always stay safe.

It has truly been an amazing ride and to answer the question, yes, I would do it again.

Mayor Longobardi, Board of Trustees, as my final duty, it is my Honor to introduce an amazing group of dedicated gentlemen, the newly elected Chief's Staff of the Floral Park Fire Department for the 2018-2019 year:

- 4th Assistant Chief James Dodson from Alert Engine Co. #1;
- 3rd Assistant Chief Michael Saville from Hook and Ladder Company #2
- 2nd Assistant Chief Patrick McAllister from Active Engine Co. #3
- 1st Assistant Chief Salvatore Arrigo from Rescue Company #1
- Chief of Department Chief David Maickel from Reliance Engine Co. #2.

Mayor Longobardi, I now respectfully request to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Longobardi
Chief of Department'

Mayor Longobardi thanked Chief Longobardi for everything and said he would regrettably accept his resignation.

Fire Commissioner – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo made the following remarks:

‘Good evening. Tonight is a significant night for our Floral Park Fire Department as we swear in and congratulate our 2018-19 Chief staff including Chief David Maickel, Assistant Chief Sal Arrigo, Assistant Chief Patrick McAllister, Assistant Chief Michael Saville, and Assistant Chief James Dodson. We wish these accomplished firefighters success in their new leadership roles.

Also of great importance tonight is acknowledging the extraordinary contributions of Chief of Department Michael Longobardi to our Floral Park Fire Department and Village. Chief Longobardi joined the Department in August of 1990, almost twenty-eight years ago. Throughout his fire department career, Chief Longobardi has been a highly active member of Alert Engine Company #1 as a firefighter, 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, and EMT. Chief Longobardi joined the Chief staff as 4th Assistant Chief in 2013 and progressed on that path until one year ago when he took the Oath of Office for Chief of Department.

Through his long and distinguished career in the Fire Department, Chief Longobardi's leadership has extended to all areas of firefighting and rescue operations. Chief Longobardi's role has often gone beyond leading the Department at fire and rescue calls to making “personal sacrifices of time, effort and caring” (in the words of Ex-Chief Joseph O’Grady). In the critical area of

rescue, our Floral Park residents frequently experience ongoing, serious medical problems that go beyond the scope of Fire Department response services. Chief Longobardi has joined with other Department members to collaborate with the patients' families and numerous agencies to secure the needed medical and social services care that will benefit those residents on a long-term basis. In the area of fire and smoke-related emergencies, home and business owners have praised Chief Longobardi and our Department for going above and beyond handling their emergencies to providing them with guidance in getting their homes and businesses secured and repaired, and preventing future fire-related problems. Firefighter safety has continued to be a priority for Chief Longobardi and his staff as they have worked to replace the Department's aging pagers with newer, more reliable equipment and now are doing the same with the all-important radios that our firefighters wear into burning buildings. Chief Longobardi and his staff were successful in securing a new bottle filling station compressor, increasing speed and efficiency in filling the SCBA bottles with the air needed as our firefighters engage in dangerous calls where fire, smoke and toxins are present. Recently, Chief Longobardi worked tirelessly with the Active Company and Village government to replace a twenty-five year old pumper truck with one with up-to-date firefighting features and to plan the necessary interior firehouse renovations to accommodate the truck. And Floral Park will never forget the visibility, attentiveness and care displayed by Chief Longobardi and the entire Department as we mourned the tragic passing of FDNY Lt. Michael Davidson and supported his family, the FDNY, and firefighters from everywhere.

The Village of Floral Park will long be indebted to Chief Longobardi for his significant expertise, steadfast dedication, and tireless service 24/7/365 to our Fire Department and all of us in Floral Park. Tonight, we salute Chief Longobardi and his family including his parents, Louise and Dominick, who raised their family here in Floral Park; his children Andrea and Michael; his siblings the Mayor and sister Gina; and their families. Special appreciation also goes to Patty who has given unending love and support to Chief Longobardi and the entire FPPD family.

So, Chief Longobardi, Mike, may God bless you always as you continue serving our Village as Ex-Chief of the Fire Department, and honor us all as a Village leader, caring neighbor, and good friend. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.'

Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald thanked Chief Longobardi for all the hard work he has done for the residents 24/7/365. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty and that he knows what it means to be a Christian. Thank you Chief.

Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi began his speech by relaying a story about how, many years ago, while sharing Thanksgiving dinner at his mother and father's house and surrounded by his extended family, they all began talking about recently joining the Floral Park Fire Department. They were all so enthusiastic about becoming firefighters. Two of the cousins went on to become Chief of the Department, their dedication for the Fire Department never wavering. Mayor Longobardi said he sees that kind of dedication in the room tonight. Our firefighters are members of the

Department because of their dedication to the safety of their neighbors and friends. Thinking about his brother and what he has done all these years and how much he cares, Mayor Longobardi said Mike always aspired to become Chief of the Department. Mayor Longobardi said it was such a coincidence that both he and Mike would become Mayor and Chief at the same time, and that swearing in Mike last year as Chief of the Department was one of the proudest moments of his life. He thanked Mike for being by his side during his first year as Mayor. Floral Park's emergency services go above and beyond and that is why people want to live in Floral Park. On behalf of himself and his family, Mayor Longobardi said he cannot thank Chief Longobardi enough for all he has done as an outstanding leader of the community. The Mayor said Mike is the only Chief he will ever say this to – he loves him and thanks him from the bottom of his heart.

Board Reports:

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that with regard to the ongoing development at Belmont Park, last Thursday, April 12th, the Village submitted over 250 questions to the Empire State Development (ESD). That document, along with a letter written by outside counsel, Beveridge & Diamond, were mailed to the ESD. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the Belmont Task Force, the Mayor and Board of Trustees, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick and residents for their important input. As a reminder to residents, there will be a question and answer session on Tuesday, April 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Elmont Library Theater. The format is yet to be determined. Residents are urged to attend to education themselves as we go forward with the development of Belmont Park.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported that as the Fire Department transitions to its new Chief of Department and changes in other leadership roles, the Department's extensive training program continues with Company drills this week and four Thursday evenings of hands-on firefighting practice for the entire Department at the Nassau County Fire Services Academy in Bethpage in May. Further details to follow.

Library – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said the St. Francis Hospital Health Van will be parked outside the Library on Wednesday, April 18th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm offering free health screenings including blood pressure check, simple blood test for cholesterol and diabetes screening. The service is free to people over the age of 18 and no appointment is necessary.

On Wednesday, April 25th, the Town of Hempstead Passport Van will be at the Library. Please bring your original birth certificate with a raised seal and previous passport with you.

Third Track Task Force – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng said there are a lot of things happening with the Third Track, much of which we have not been made aware of. The Architectural Review Board will be reviewing the renderings of the sound attenuation wall and the building contractors of the wall will be making a presentation at the ARB meeting on Wednesday, April 25th at the Village Hall Courtroom. There are ongoing talks with the owners of the Men on the Move to use their property to store vehicles and equipment. The Village is currently looking at fencing for the areas of Terrace and Plainfield and Fuller and Roscoe as a larger abutment is being built and the areas must be fenced off for safety. Permits have not yet been sent in but they are expected this week.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara said he would like to let all residents know that the Recreation Center is now open daily from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, weather permitting. Superintendent of Recreation Kurt Meyfohrt and his team did a fantastic job with the ball fields; even with all the bad weather, the fields look great and were ready for play this past weekend.

The Little League is having its Little League Parade and Festival on Saturday, April 21st. The parade will step off at 9:15 am in front of Village Hall and march through the Village to the Recreation Center. It is always a good time and a nice way to start the season.

The summer booklet will be out shortly. It will have all the offered summer programs with dates and times to register. Please keep an eye out for it.

June 9th is the opening date for the pool to open. We are looking forward to another great season at the pool.

Centennial Gardens is also open daily from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm, weather permitting.

The Tiny Town project is moving along and is now out to bid.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longbardi

Mayor Longbardi echoed the sentiments of Trustee Fitzgerald in thanking everyone who worked so hard regarding the submission of questions to the Empire State Development for Belmont Park. We have a copy of the questions and we will use them as we go forward. Mayor Longbardi urged residents to attend the important question and answer session on Tuesday, April 24th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Elmont Library Theater.

Mayor Longbardi thanked Felix Procaccia for filming this evening's meeting.