

Inc. Village of Floral Park
October 16, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence on the passing of a great friend, life-long resident and long-time member of the Floral Park Fire Department Robert Spillman. Mayor Longobardi offered his condolences to his family and friends. May Bobby rest in peace.

Mayor Longobardi also asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Michael Jakob's mother. Michael is the former President of the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Longobardi offered his sympathy for their loss.

Wellness Education Committee

Before Village Clerk Susan Walsh recited the resolution to make appointments to the newly formed Wellness Education Committee, Mayor Longobardi said that it was decided to form this committee as a result of several untimely deaths in the Village due to drug and substance abuse. Some time ago, Trustee Cheng made passionate comments about how we cannot have these kinds of deaths anymore. Our Police Department and school resource officers John Groshans, Matt Viscusi and Will Doherty have been in our schools teaching students about the perils of drug addiction. We also had a wonderful resident working hard to bring awareness in stopping substance abuse, Elaine Licari. Elaine convinced the Citizens Party to take up this cause. We then decided to form this committee at the behest of Elaine. This has caused us as a Village to look at what we can do to help. We have had conversations with Senator Elaine Phillips as to what she can do to help; and, consequently, her office has offered us a \$5,000.00 grant to start up this committee. Mayor Longobardi thanked everyone for helping to form this committee so that we can provide the resources and help to our residents.

Trustee Cheng said the success of this committee and the endeavors of the Police Department will be measured by the lack of sad news of someone else's untimely death due to substance abuse. We will all be heralding their success.

Chairperson of the Wellness Education Committee, Elaine Licari, said she has learned so much in the last year and a half. She said, without a doubt, our Police Department is at the *top of its game*. Elaine said she has attended many conferences with the best medical people in the field of substance abuse, but our Police Officers are really great. Elaine says she would like to start educating children of substance abuse at a younger age. The key to the success of this committee is better communication. Elaine has reached out to the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce who have graciously committed to donate to the committee and she hopes other organizations will also agree to do so. Elaine said we will not see results tomorrow, but with everyone's help, we can make a difference.

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the installation of lights at Heritage Park has been completed. The Tree Department is currently catching up with tree trimming around the Village. Trustee Fitzgerald reminded residents now that Fall is upon us, please do not rake the falling leaves into the street.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo invited all of our families to “Trick or Treating on Covert Avenue,” Saturday, October 27th from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Trick or treaters should look for the merchants with the blue pumpkins in their windows and stop by for allergy-free treats. This fun-filled Halloween event is sponsored by the Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

With great sadness, Trustee Pombonyo reported that the family of Firefighter Robert R. Spillman and the Floral Park Fire Department announced the passing of this extraordinary man on October 12th.

Firefighter Spillman was a lifelong resident of Floral Park, a veteran of the Korean War, and a sixty-three year member of the Floral Park Fire Department’s Hook and Ladder Company. Throughout his more than six decades with our Department, Firefighter Spillman served with great wisdom, steadfast integrity, and immense dedication. He is respectfully remembered as a leader to so many, a role model for all, and an inspiration to our Village.

We also honor the Spillman family tonight as the Floral Park Fire Department has had a long lasting family tradition, with Firefighter Spillman’s father Jerry serving as Captain of the Alert Company and all eight uncles serving in the Active, Alert and/or Rescue Companies.

Tonight, we offer our deepest sympathy and great appreciation to Firefighter Spillman’s wife of sixty-three years, Anne; his three children and son-in law; his six grandchildren and their spouses; his two great-grandchildren; and the men and women of our Floral Park Fire Department.

As his colleagues lovingly recall, Firefighter Spillman, also known as Bobby, was famous for his ladder climbing racing skills on Long Island and throughout the state. And for decades and in recent weeks, all will now remember Bobby’s famous words, “See you at the top.”

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that there were few updates to report on the Third Track Project. Construction should be starting soon and 22 parking spots will be lost under the viaduct. However, the Village is providing permit parking behind 50 Carnation Avenue by Lily Street. Anyone with a commuter parking permit for under the railroad may park there. And, even though 22 spots have been lost, there will be 38 spots at the 50 Carnation Avenue parking lot.

Please be aware that in order to park there, you must have a permit. Trustee Cheng said he expects to hear more updates on the project later on this week.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara congratulated all the winners and participants of the Jim Krug Tennis Classic. Competition was at a high level and all who participated enjoyed their play. Congratulations to all.

With the completion of the work at the Shelter House, we have begun to use it for meetings with community groups. Please contact Kurt Meyfohrt for its availability at 326-6336.

The Floral Park Lions Club will be holding a coat drive for the second weekend on Saturday, October 20th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Residents are encouraged to help out by dropping off gently used coats for people in need. Thank you to all who have already done so.

Trustee Chiara reported that the Tiny Town reconstruction project started this week and we are anxious for its completion. We will keep residents posted as to its progress.

Starting on November 12th, the park hours will change to 8:00 am to 4:30 pm for the season.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi again expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Bobby Spillman. Mayor Longobardi said he was a wonderful member of the Floral Park Fire Department and community. If you were up at the park, you would probably see Bobby there, maybe refereeing a volleyball game. Mayor Longobardi says he even remembers being Bobby’s paperboy! He was a wonderful man to be around as he always had a happy face and a kind word for everyone. Bobby will be greatly missed.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Felix Procaccia for filming this evening’s meeting and for Kris Brooks from *Newsday* and Anthony Murray for attending.

The Mayor stated the Village Board Meeting would continue in his office with Department Heads after a brief recess and the public is invited to attend.

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 9:05 pm.
