

Inc. Village of Floral Park
November 20, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor and Board of Trustees thanked the volunteers who participated in the Floral Park Police Department Active Shooter Training held in September and presented each of them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service to the community.

Mayor read the following explaining what the training entailed:

‘Teaching law enforcement about mass casualty or active shooter events is a very complex task that requires information to be absorbed mentally as well as physically. On the classroom level, officers must understand the ins and outs of past events, motivations and methods of past shooters, as well as the various weapons used. On the physical level, officers must understand and implement proper tactics. They must also gain the ability to negotiate a variety of interactions with the victims as well as bad guys.

In September of this year, Officer Hayes organized six active shooter training sessions for our Police Officers: three at John Lewis Childs School and three at Floral Park-Bellerose School. Over 75 actors, Boy Scouts, Floral Park Fire Department personnel, students and others volunteered 3-4 hours per session as role players.

When under heavy stress, simple, everyday tasks become increasingly difficult to accomplish. However, when skills are practiced under heavy stress, the officer’s chances of succeeding are greatly increased. Having these role players allowed the officers the most realistic training setting as possible. It is one thing for instructors to say or pretend there are 15 screaming people in a room; it is another thing to actually have 15 screaming people in a room. The role players brought an element of stress that cannot be duplicated. When the officers perform under these circumstances, the experiences are most easily remembered for future use.

Training with role players is very difficult to come by and is more valuable than generally understood. When called upon, these role players did not hesitate to give up their time and worked very hard to bring the highest level of training to our Police Officers. We appreciate their time and effort to help train our Police Officers for an event we hope will never take place.’

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that the Locust Avenue road reconstruction project is complete except for a few punch list items. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked Superintendent of Public Works Stephen Siwinski and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane for all their hard work in completing this project.

There is currently a LED street light pilot program going on in the Village. Lights are being changed out in the vicinities of Atlantic and Pansy Avenues and in front of John Lewis Childs School. The LED lights will provide safety benefits as well as a cost benefit as they are less likely to have to be replaced. There is always a constant number of street lights which need to be replaced on a daily basis.

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that there is nothing new to report on Belmont Park. There is a lot of information on the Village website for residents to read. Trustee Fitzgerald said he expects more information about the project by the end of December or in the beginning of the new year.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo commended the Floral Park Fire Department for, once again, taking a strong leadership role in the Nassau County Fire Fighters – Operation Wounded Warrior (NCFF-OWW) program and delivering holiday gifts to those injured men and women in the United States Armed Forces who have courageously served our country. Beginning December 5th, Ex-Chief Joseph O’Grady will be leading caravans of trucks to military installations including Forts Bragg and Belvoir, Camp Lejeune and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. These trucks will be carrying precious, donated gifts for our wounded warriors and their families including phone and gift cards, new clothing items, new toys, baby care items, and other tokens of appreciation. Please check the red, white and blue NCFF-OWW flyer on the Village website for the list of items that may be donated and the November and early December collection dates when donations may be dropped at our Fire Department Headquarters on Vernon Street. Thanks go to Ex-Chief O’Grady, Hook & Ladder Lt. Patricia Luger and Rescue Company member Lynn Wille for their organizational work, NCFF-OWW, the Floral Park and other Fire Departments, and all the hundreds of community members and businesses who make this important mission such an extraordinary success. NCFF-OWW began in 2004 and now includes approximately forty of the seventy-one Fire Departments in Nassau County, a true labor of love.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reminded all to SHOP LOCAL on Small Business Saturday, two days after Thanksgiving on November 24th. Covert Avenue parking meter fees have been waived for the day by the Villages of Floral Park and Stewart Manor in appreciation of our local businesses and shoppers.

All are invited to usher in the holiday season at the Covert Chamber tree lighting on Saturday afternoon, December 1st at 3:30 pm. Enjoy the Sewanhaka High School Band, horse and buggy rides, hot chocolate, soup, cookies, candy canes, wreaths and Santa, all provided by our Covert Chamber businesses. This special holiday event will culminate with a bright and sparkling tree lighting ceremony.

Trustee Pombonyo thanked all for making our Village so unique and special. We are indeed blessed. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Floral Park Library – Trustee Archie T. Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Library will be hosting a Fall Tax Forum with Donald X. Clavin, Hempstead Town Receiver of Taxes, on Monday, November 26th at 7:00 pm. This is a free informational session where answers will be provided to property tax questions and information on how to challenge your assessment. There will also be information on the new property assessment values expected on December 1st and how it will affect our property taxes. Please register online at www.floralparklibrary.org or in person at the Reference Desk.

Police Department – Trustee Archie T. Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that there have been traffic jams at Tulip and Atlantic Avenues. It is called a ‘block the box’ area. We cannot control the traffic on Tulip Avenue; however, the Police have the right to enforce any driver obstructing an intersection. Other ‘block the box’ areas are on Plainfield Avenue at Elizabeth Street and Plainfield Avenue at King Street. Tickets are being issued at all of these areas for drivers blocking the intersection.

The Police Department is conducting truck detail that issues summonses to truck drivers who do not pass a vehicle inspection. Among the things that are checked are emissions, leakages, tires, etc. Forty-eight tickets were issued for violations and 3 trucks were towed that were deemed unsafe to drive.

There has been increased parking enforcement in reaction to the Third Track reconstruction. There have been problems with workers parking in the South Tyson area. Summonses are being issued and a list of license plates are being compiled so that the contractor is aware of the situation.

We have been informed that the Covert Avenue grade crossing construction will start this winter. We will be speaking with the Village of New Hyde Park to coordinate this project.

Elevator work at the LIRR will begin in the Spring of 2019 and bridge work will begin in the Fall of 2019.

Mayor Longobardi reported that the Village petitioned Nassau County to formally declare a ‘block the box’ area at Plainfield and Tulip Avenues. A letter was written by Legislator Richard Nicoletto and Assemblyman Vincent Muscarella to help the Village receive this designation.

Mayor Longobardi thanked Trustee Cheng for all his hard work on this project.

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the last day Centennial Gardens will be open this season is Sunday, November 25th. The Gardens will reopen in April of 2019.

As of today, there are only 200 days until Opening Day at the pool!

The Tiny Town project is progressing well and, hopefully, the grand opening will be in mid-December.

This past weekend there were two very nice events at the Recreation Center. Bill McQuade's name was placed on the Memorial Wall. Family and friends came to honor Bill for his volunteerism. His two sons payed their Dad tribute for being such a great family man and father and praised him for his passion for volunteer work with the Village's sports programs. Thanks to Bill and his family for all they have contributed to our Village.

The second event was sponsored by the Titans and the Andrew Burrous Best Buddy Foundation. It was a Turkey Bowl for children with special needs. Fran Viscovich and Al Cappelli organized a great day, supported by family and volunteers. Santa was picked up at the North Pole by Nassau County Aviation, along with the assistance from our own Floral Park Police Department, and flown into the Recreation Center. It was really special to watch the smiles on the children's faces as they met with Santa. Thank you to the Titans and the Andrew Burrous Best Buddy Foundation for all that they did to put this great event together.

On behalf of my family and myself, Trustee Chiara wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy and don't eat too much!

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi said we had a brief but totally unexpected snow storm this past week. The Mayor thanked the Department of Public Works for all their efforts. DPW crews were out along with the sanding trucks.

On Wednesday, November 21st there will be an Ecumenical Service at St. Elisabeth's Church at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend.

On Friday, November 30th, everyone is invited to attend the annual Jr. Woman's Club Christmas Tree Lighting and the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival at Memorial Park. It is a wonderful way to kick off the holidays.

Mayor Longobardi said on behalf of himself and the Board, thank you to our Village staff and all our volunteers who work tirelessly through the year to make this Village a truly great place to live. From himself and his family, Happy Thanksgiving, and contrary to what Trustee Chiara said, eat all you want!

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

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 8:40 pm.
