

Inc. Village of Floral Park
October 2, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of Frances Tomecki, mother of Former Trustee Mary-Grace Tomecki, and offered his condolences to the family for their loss.

Prior to the start of the Board Meeting, Mayor Longobardi presented Lucille Zimmer with a Certificate of Appreciation as she is stepping down as the President of the Beautification Committee. Over 30 years ago, largely due to her passion for gardening, Lucille saw the opportunity to beautify certain areas of the Village with flowers; hence, the Floral Park Beautification Committee was formed with Lucille and a couple of volunteers. Today, the committee is a dependable, hardworking group of gardening enthusiasts who volunteer their time to enhance the Floral Park landscape. The success of the Beautification Committee is due in no small part to the dedication and commitment of its leader – Lucille Zimmer. It is with deep appreciation that Mayor Longobardi presented Lucille with a certificate and a lovely, and appropriate, bouquet of flowers.

Before the last resolution on the agenda was acted upon, Mayor Longobardi explained the negotiation process in settling the PBA contract. He thanked the members of the PBA, especially Police Officer Robert Pedley, for negotiating the new police contract. Negotiations were going on for a long time and members of the PBA worked tirelessly with the Village Board. Mayor Longobardi also thanked the Board, especially Trustee Cheng and Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick and Village Clerk Susan Walsh. Mayor Longobardi remarked that we are very lucky to have such a wonderful police force. They do such a great job protecting our families and our businesses. Each member of the department takes a lot of time and effort to learn and train to make sure our residents are properly taken care of. To the members of the Police Department who will be retiring, Mayor Longobardi thanked each one of them for their long and dedicated careers serving the residents of our Village. This Village is what it is largely due to our wonderful Police Department.

Mayor Longobardi read the following:

‘Tonight the Village is approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the PBA which provides for a revised collective bargaining agreement with our police and which also includes a Retirement Incentive package for PBA members with over twenty years of service with the Department.

The Retirement Incentive Package and the Agreement provides for the retirement of at least four of the most senior, and consequently, four of the most highly paid members of the Department. Although the Village will be losing many years of valuable experience that these officers possess, the Village will be able to hire officers at a much lower rate of compensation. Even considering the monetary payout aspect to the retirement incentive, the Village will be able to realize significant savings over several years due to the retirement incentive package.

The Memorandum of Agreement also provides for increases to the base salaries and compensation to the members of the Department that are, by and large, consistent with other negotiated contracts and Arbitration Awards in Nassau County.

Significantly, the Memorandum of Agreement provides for changes in the collective bargaining agreement as to how other aspects of the PBA members' compensation packages are calculated going forward. Specifically, the Memorandum of Agreement changes the collective bargaining agreement to curtail the rate of growth in the final sick leave payout benefit and final termination pay benefit that have been part of the PBA members' compensation package in their collective bargaining agreement for a long as anyone can remember. We believe these changes will result in significant savings to taxpayers for years to come.

These aspects of the Memorandum of Agreement are also another first for Floral Park. In 2013, the Village of Floral Park was the first municipality in Nassau County to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with its PBA that provided for PBA members to pay a portion of their health insurance costs.

Similarly, this Memorandum of Agreement approved tonight is a first. It is the first police contract that we are aware of that begins to provide a means to curtail the large police retirement payouts that you may have read so much about in the papers.

Most importantly, we believe on the whole that the Memorandum of Agreement we approve tonight strikes an acceptable balance between our objectives of providing a compensation package for our police that ensures we are able to attract and retain an exceptionally qualified police force to serve the residents of Floral Park, while, at the same time, trying to do so as cost effectively as we can under present circumstances and within the laws within which the Village is required to operate.'

Mayor Longobardi again thanked the PBA and Police Officer Bob Pedley for helping to negotiate this contract and for maintaining a good working relationship.

Trustee Fitzgerald echoed the sentiments of Mayor Longobardi. Trustee Fitzgerald said he was attracted to Floral Park because it had its own police department so that he knew his family would be safe. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked them for everything they do day in and day out, 365 days a year.

Trustee Pombonyo extended her appreciation to the Floral Park Police Department. Trustee Pombonyo said that her family lived in Floral Park for a long time and, in 1978, when they experienced a family tragedy, the first person she encountered here was a Floral Park Police Officer who was taking care of her family member. Trustee Pombonyo thanked every member of the department for his/her continued service.

Village Clerk Susan Walsh then read the following resolution which the Mayor and Board of Trustees voted on as follows:

Trustee Fitzgerald offered a Resolution approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign the settlement of Floral Park's PBA contract covering the period from June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2022 as defined in the Memorandum of Agreement conditional upon the receipt of an irrevocable letter of retirement from a minimum of four police officers submitted to Mayor Dominick Longobardi and the Board of Trustees with retirement date effective November 1, 2018. It is understood and agreed that each police officer that submits an irrevocable letter of retirement will receive an incentive award of \$1,750.00 per year of service with the Village of Floral Park. Such incentive will be paid after said retirement date and confirmation from the New York State Police & Fire Retirement System. Additionally, if the minimum of four police officers is not attained as described above, the Memorandum of Agreement is null and void.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call.

Mayor Longobardi read a proclamation declaring the month of October as 'Distracted Driving Awareness Month'. The Floral Park Police Department and the Floral Park Chamber of Commerce have joined together to help educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving which could help save someone's life. Mayor Longobardi thanked both the Police Department and the Chamber for joining forces in this initiative and for making Floral Park a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Department of Public Works – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that on October 15th sod will be put down on Locust Street.

Heritage Park is currently receiving a face lift. The park is currently dug up and new lights are being installed.

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reminded residents to attend the public informational meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:30 pm at the Recreation/Pool Building regarding the re-development of Belmont Park.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reported on our Fire Department's steady rate of calls over the past several days. During the three-day period from Saturday, September 29th through Monday, October 1st, there were approximately nineteen calls for help. This included a significant car fire on Saturday followed by an odor of natural gas in another area of the Village that occurred only twenty-five minutes apart. On Monday night, a serious rescue call was followed by a heavy smoke condition in a multi-family residence, again across town, occurring only thirty-five minutes later. We thank all of our volunteer Chiefs, firefighters, Rescue Squad members and the Police Department for responding to our calls for help, especially when the calls are only minutes apart and occur during the weekends.

October is Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme is: LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. BE AWARE – FIRE CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE. The National Fire Protection Association, at www.nfpa.org, is a highly comprehensive, informative website. The Association's LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN theme provides reminders to LOOK for places fire could start, with cooking causing an average of 47% of all home fires each year; LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm, with smoke alarms cutting one's risk of dying in a fire in half; and LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

Check www.nfpa.org for many more, important fire prevention and safety reminders.

Fire Prevention Month in Floral Park will also include firehouse tours for school groups, organizations and all others interested; fire drills, conducted with our Fire and Police Departments, in our Floral Park schools; and assistance to business owners in preventing fires and enhancing building safety.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo thanked all who attended the Covert Chamber's street fair on Saturday September 22nd. A beautiful day, a big turnout, and a fun-filled time for all!

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that this past weekend there were two very enjoyable and successful events at the Recreation Center.

The beginning of the Screaming Eagles Hockey season was celebrated with participants being treated to pizza, giveaways and 3-on-3 play. Mayor Longobardi was in the rink to drop the first puck to launch the season.

Liz's Day was a great success. The morning started with Former Mayor Tom Hayden and George Rettinger's names being placed on the Recreation Memorial Wall in recognition of their contributions to our youth programs and to our Village. Family and friends were on hand to celebrate their accomplishments. With the fantastic weather, Liz's Day celebrated its 20th year. There was lots of entertainment, raffles, food and beverages which helped raise a large amount of money; contributing to over \$1 million for the last 20 years, all going to cancer research. The volunteers worked extremely hard putting this event together and they should be very proud of the results. Trustee Chiara thanked the hard-working Recreation staff for all they did to make this event successful. Thanks to all. It was a great day at the Recreation Center for a very worthwhile cause!

Trustee Chiara reported that Fall baseball, soccer and Youth Council touch football are all ready to start their seasons or have already begun play. Twenty-one Season I recreation programs have all started, as well as 20 monthly meetings at our Recreation/ Pool Building.

The Lions Club is hosting a coat drive scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 13th and 14th and Saturday, October 20th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm under the Arts & Crafts Shelter at the Recreation Center. This drive will assist local individuals who are in need. Please help out by dropping off gently used coats.

Trustee Chiara said that Tiny Town is set to break ground on October 15th. We are anxious and excited to see the completed work.

Trustee Chiara thanked the Floral Park Police Department for all the great things they do in the Village and wished the men retiring from the department all the best. Trustee Chiara thanked them for their long and distinguished service to the Village.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi thanked the entire Village staff for all the work they did this past weekend. Liz's Day is one of the biggest event each year in the Village. Much time and effort goes into planning and executing this event. It is a very important event that is near and dear to many people's hearts. It is our family coming together to do something good.

Mayor Longobardi reminded residents that an information meeting is being held on October 3rd at 7:30 pm at the Recreation/Pool Building by the Belmont Task Force and the Board of Trustees to discuss the re-development of Belmont Park. Everyone is invited to attend. Please come early as we are anticipating a large crowd.

Mayor Longobardi said that the Floral Park Fire Department Alert Engine Company is hosting 'Comedy Night' on Saturday, November 3rd. All are invited to attend. The cost is \$50 per person.

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.
