

Inc. Village of Floral Park
December 18, 2018
Board of Trustees Meeting

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi said that this was a very special night. We are installing a new Police Officer, a Police Officer is being promoted to Sergeant and two Sergeants are being promoted to Lieutenant. Thanks to all our hard working Police Officers, Floral Park has one of the greatest police forces in the nation. Mayor Longobardi thanked the entire department for their hard work and congratulated our new member and newly promoted officers for achieving their new positions.

Mayor Longobardi swore in Anthony Siragusa as Floral Park's newest Police Officer; Michael Vigorito was sworn in as Police Sergeant; and Thomas McCarthy and William Doherty were sworn in as Lieutenants. Congratulations to all!

Mayor Longobardi recognized some familiar faces in the audience including Former Mayor Phil Guarneri, Former Trustee Tom DeMaria, Village Justice Doug Hayden, Former Police Commissioner Mike Reid, Former Lieutenant Mike Suppe, Former Sergeant Ron Gagliano and current PBA President Bob Pedley. Mayor Longobardi thanked all of them for showing their support to our newly installed Officers.

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo welcomed and acknowledged Fire Chief Dave Maickel, First Assistant Fire Chief Sal Arrigo and Ex-Fire Chief Mike Longobardi who were present in the audience. Trustee Pombonyo thanked them for their extraordinary service and dedication to our Village.

Trustee Pombonyo reported that the Floral Park Fire Department remains very concerned about the scope of the proposed redevelopment at Belmont Park which, as now planned, will worsen traffic congestion on our main thoroughfares and jeopardize quick emergency response times. Ex-Chief Michael Longobardi is the Fire Department liaison to the Village's Belmont Task Force. All will continue to monitor the redevelopment planning and prepare statements for the January public hearings about the serious, negative impact this redevelopment plan will have on our local fire and emergency services, especially with concurrent issues arising from the LIRR third track construction.

But, for today, our Fire Department wishes all our families, schools, houses of worship, and businesses a joyous, peaceful and safe holiday season.

Holiday Wishes – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Thanks to all in Floral Park for making this such a beautiful holiday season. Our neighborhoods sparkle and shine with bright lights, colorful decorations, and festive displays. It's a magical time to be here, especially for our children. May the holiday season bring us all joy and peace.

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that we have a tighter timeline for the Third Track Project. Work has started on the South Tyson viaduct. This work will continue until July of next year. The work on the retaining wall and the Linden Avenue Tunnel will start in February, 2019 and is scheduled to last approximately 11 months. Covert Avenue will be completely shut down north of Stewart Avenue starting in March 2019. Traffic plans are being studied. There most likely will be a public hearing on this so that we can get the input of residents. In Fall 2019, the Plainfield Avenue underpass construction work is scheduled to begin and will take approximately eight months. Finally, the elevator work at the RR station will commence in February, 2019 and be completed towards the end of 2019. If all goes well, it is possible the project will be completed in 1 ½ years.

Library – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng noted that the Library will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and will reopen on December 26th.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Trustee Cheng wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Recreation Center – Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that the Recreation Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, December 21st at 7:30 pm. Gates open at 7:00 pm and there will be free skating, cookies, hot chocolate and a visit from the main guest of honor, Santa Claus! All are welcome to attend.

Trustee Chiara wished everyone Happy Holidays and a very Merry Christmas. May the New Year bring us all health and happiness throughout the New Year.

Belmont Park – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi reported that for the past year and half, the Village Board along with the Belmont Task Force has been meticulously following what is now officially called the Belmont Park Redevelopment Civic and Land Use Improvement Project. At the onset of the project, an arena, although it would not have been our first choice of what we would have liked to see there, seemed to potentially be something that may work based on original project outlines. Over the past year, after meetings with the ESD and NY Arena Partners, the project has now grown in scope to a point that where the concerns and impacts to our Village are of grave concern. To that end we are asking all concerned residents for their assistance in the coming months. We would like you to either send in written comments or more importantly, and probably more impactful, please attend and express your concerns at one of the upcoming public hearings. As there are many concerns and issues, the Belmont Task Force is planning an information session to be held on Thursday, January 3 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall.

Mayor Longobardi thanked the four civic associations for issuing their Statement of Shared Concerns.

On behalf of his family and the entire Village Board, Mayor Longobardi wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay healthy and enjoy your families during this time.

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald said that last week, he and Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick and West End Vice President Kevin Flood attended the ESD Board meeting. Prior to the ESD Board approving the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, they had the opportunity to address the ESD Board. Among the comments mentioned were the incremental scope or scope creep of the project, how the overall project does not fit into the character of our suburban neighborhood, along with the proximity of the now-to-be parking lots to our homes and schools. Trustee Fitzgerald also asked the ESD Board to attend the public hearing in person so that they would be able to hear and see the passion and concern our residents have for Floral Park as opposed to potentially reading the comments. Kevin Flood's closing comments that day were especially poignant with regards to how special the Floral Park community is.

It is imperative that all residents educate themselves on the project and its impacts. Some of the topics to be covered at the January 3rd Information Session will be:

- Transportation - the ESD recognized there are significant challenges with regards to traffic;
- Infrastructure;
- Parking lot impacts which include the North Lot (attached to Floral Park-Bellerose School) along with the now recently included East Lot (which is the infield of the practice track);
- Impact of mall in addition to arena;
- Safety/security;
- Impact on daily lives.

Additionally, Trustee Fitzgerald urged all residents to review the DEIS which can be found at the Village website to formulate their comments which they can express by attending one of the three public hearings being held at the Elmont Public Library scheduled on:

- Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 4:00 pm
- Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6:00pm

If you are unable to attend, comments can be submitted in writing by February 11, 2019. Details on how to submit comments in writing can be found on the ESD's website. The Village will be submitting substantial comments not only at the public hearing but in writing. Additionally, as previously mentioned, the Village has hired NV5, an engineering firm, to perform a professional review of the traffic impacts as reported in the DEIS. Additionally, we continue to retain the environmental law firm Beverage and Diamond.

Trustee Fitzgerald wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

On motion by Trustee Fitzgerald, seconded by Trustee Pombonyo, and carried unanimously, Mayor Longobardi recessed the meeting at 8:30 pm.
