

Inc. Village of Floral Park
February 5, 2019
Board of Trustees Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Longobardi asked for a moment of silence in memory of two people who recently passed away: Bernice Hayes, a wonderful lady who was involved in so many things in our community for many, many years. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

There was also a moment of silence for one of our DPW Supervisors who just recently retired, Russell Mazzola. During his many years working for the Village, Russ could be found trimming trees or maintaining one of our many parks. He was well liked by all his co-workers and our residents and will be deeply missed by all of us.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Hayes and Mazzola families and wish them peace at this very difficult time.

Mayor Longobardi swore in our latest promoted Police Sergeant, Brian Naughton. In attendance were his wife, children and family members and many members of the Fire and Police Departments. Congratulations Sergeant Naughton!

Belmont Park – Trustee Kevin Fitzgerald

Trustee Fitzgerald reported that yesterday the ESD extended the deadline for comments to the DEIS from February 11th to March 1st at 5:00 pm. We thank the ESD for this additional time to comment as the documents and issues are quite lengthy.

During the past week, the Village sent letters to the Nassau County Executive, the Nassau County Planning Commission, the Town of Hempstead Supervisor and the Board. The context of the letters is requesting each body to undertake a full and independent traffic study of the impacts that the project will bring to the local communities. Additionally, the letter describes portions of the Urban Development Corp Act (which the ESD operates under) that allows the aforementioned governmental bodies to review and potentially reject the General Project Plan.

On Thursday, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick attended the Nassau County Planning Commission meeting to further alert them of the issues surrounding the project and their ability to accept or reject the General Project Plan. Separately, as we speak, two members of the Belmont Task Force are at the Town of Hempstead Board Meeting at which they intend on speaking and alerting the Town Board of the same. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked them for their attendance.

Trustee Fitzgerald said that on Saturday, he, Mayor Dominick Longobardi and Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick met with State Senator Anna Kaplan to discuss and educate the newly elected Senator of Floral Park's concerns with the now expanded scope of the project. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the Senator for taking time to meet with us. We feel she now has a

full understanding of how and why this project as it is currently proposed will be of significant detriment to Floral Park and our neighbors.

Additionally, the Nassau County Village Officials Association issued a statement on the Belmont re-development which states in part *‘that any approval be conditional on and require that the current railroad station be transformed into a full-service station and that the developer bear and pay all costs associated with the upgrade to the station.’* Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the officers and Executive Board for issuing the statement.

Lastly, Trustee Fitzgerald said we are still receiving letters signed by our residents that will be presented to the ESD and elected officials. To date, we have received 2,053 letters. Trustee Fitzgerald thanked the residents that have signed and extended a special thank you to the residents who have been proactively collecting the letters.

Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo reminds all in Floral Park that, during the partial closures on Covert Avenue, all of the wonderful stores, restaurants, professional offices and other establishments will be open for business. Remember, SHOP LOCAL during the third track construction!

Fire Department – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo welcomed 4th Assistant Fire Chief Jep Dodson and Former Fire Chief Michael Longobardi to the Board Meeting. Trustee Pombonyo reported that the Floral Park Fire Department is proud to announce that the new Active truck #127 is now in service. It replaces the previous 27-year old Active truck and has features recommended by the National Fire Protection Association that promote safety, improved performance and efficiency. Included are a five-inch, front suction nozzle that accommodates the newer hydrants, pushing water onto the fires more quickly; a 24-foot ladder (instead of the older 20-foot length) that meets the new NFPA standards and enables a firefighter to climb higher with more stability; a 28-inch deep ledge (instead of 18 inches) off the back of the truck that enables the firefighter to safely pull hose off a lower hose bed; and a crew compartment that accommodates eight firefighters and their bunker gear and larger equipment plus a driver and an officer. When you see the new Active truck at the Atlantic Avenue Firehouse or around our Village, please look for all the new firefighting and safety features, and thank our Fire Department for 125 years of valuable service to our Village.

Floral Park Post Office – Trustee Lynn Pombonyo

Trustee Pombonyo thanked Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and her staff for their work with the federal government in getting the exterior of Floral Park’s Post Office painted last year. The appearance of this important building that leads the way into our Village has improved significantly. Rep. Rice’s office is now working with our Village officials to replace the aging, malfunctioning elevator lift which provides access between the front entrance and the post office counter services a level higher. As the lift is replaced, customers needing assistance may call the

post office number, 516-437-6621, or ring the outside doorbell and a postal employee will be available for those customers.

Library – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Library will be hosting two adult programs: On Monday, February 11th at 7:00 pm, Donald X. Clavin will discuss ‘How to Challenge your Tax Assessment’; and on Wednesday, February 20th at 10:00 am, AARP will host a ‘Defensive Driving Class’. For more information and additional events at the Library, please go to their website at www.floralparklibrary.org.

Police Department – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that the Police Department will be interviewing more candidates in order to hire two additional police officers. This should complete the staff changes at the Police Department.

Third Track Project – Trustee Archie Cheng

Trustee Cheng reported that starting on February 6th and ending on February 12th, Covert Avenue, north of the main line between 1st and 2nd Avenues in New Hyde Park, will be temporarily closed. This is only a temporary closure. The longer closure is scheduled to begin March 31st and continue for an estimated four to six months. The Police Department is currently observing traffic patterns in that area to establish a plan to divert traffic that will inconvenience motorists as little as possible.

The construction on the west side of South Tyson Avenue is almost complete and the sidewalk is open. The east side of South Tyson Avenue is now closed to pedestrians who will have to use the sidewalk on the west side. Additional crossing guards and 3TC flagmen will be in this area to insure the safety of pedestrians and motorists.

Recreation Center - Trustee Frank Chiara

Trustee Chiara reported that all of our Recreation Session 2 Programs have kicked off this week. Preparations are underway for the Summer of 2019 Recreation and Pool Session. Both committees met last week to discuss the upcoming season and ways to enhance the guest experience at our facilities.

The Pool Committee has announced that membership rates will remain the same as last year – no increases! For the first time this year, we will be offering a payment plan for memberships to assist our members by spreading out the payments over a 2 or 3-month period. Details will be posted shortly. Credit cards were added as a method of payment last year and will continue to be available this year. Continuing discussions are taking place for ways to encourage membership, entertainment and shared ideas on how to have another great season.

For the Recreation Center, all of our popular activities will continue this year. Baseball, basketball, volleyball, tennis and pickleball leagues are getting together to discuss the upcoming season. They are eager for the start and will be ready for the 2019 season. Thank you to all the volunteers on these committees and to all of our volunteers who work so hard and give up so much of their time to help organize all of the activities at the Recreation Center and the pool.

Trustee Chiara reported that the final walk through for Tiny Town took place and he was very happy to report that there are very few issues that have to be addressed. The Grand Opening will be announced very shortly. We have been and will continue to meet with neighbors of Tiny Town to address their concerns. Working together, Trustee Chiara said he is confident we can come to reasonable solutions to all their issues.

The 22nd Annual Bird Count to help collect data and spot birds will take place at Centennial Gardens on Friday, February 15th from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Saturday, February 16th from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm and Sunday, February 17th from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Dress warmly, bring your binoculars and help collect data!

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dominick Longobardi

Mayor Longobardi said his meeting with State Senator Anna Kaplan regarding Belmont was productive and that the Senator spent a lot of time discussing the impact that this project will have on Floral Park and surrounding neighborhoods including increased traffic, security issues and the overdevelopment of the property. Mayor Longobardi feels that Senator Kaplan now has a good grasp of what the problems are. Also discussed with the Senator was the Third Track Project.

Mayor Longobardi reported that Governor Cuomo is eliminating aid to local municipalities. Floral Park currently receives \$270,866.00. The elimination of this money represents just under a 1% tax increase to our residents. We are currently under a 2% tax cap and the Governor wants to take away 1% of our revenue. We are working with all our representatives to get this funding restored. Revenue from the State of New York has fallen off over the years and there will be more cuts made. We may be asking residents for their help again to tell our elected officials in New York State that we do not want our funding cut. Every dollar we receive is important for the maintenance of our Village as we always try to make every dollar count.

The Village Board Meeting will continue in the Mayor's 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 9:25 pm.
