

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK**  
**Board of Trustees Minutes**  
**October 18, 2022 - 8:00 PM**  
**Village Hall Courtroom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86882876389?pwd=VIM1dGh2TXBnT2xrb0ZKU92WXIyZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 8287 6389, Passcode: 995359; Dial: +1 646 931 3860 US; Meeting ID: 868 8287 6389, Passcode: 995359.

Mayor Fitzgerald opened the regular meeting at 8 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fitzgerald requested a moment of silence to remember resident, Delanie Fekert who recently passed away in the prime of her life and to remember the Fekert family who are such an integral part of our Village.

Present were Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister, Library Director Patricia Eren, Library Board President John Breheny and Village Attorney John Ryan. DPW Superintendent Kevin Ginnane was excused.

Before the start of the regular meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald announced that the Board was recognizing and honoring Library employee, Jane Zuckerman for her 25 years of service to the Village with the New York Conference of Mayors Service Award Certificate.

Immediately following the presentation, Mayor Fitzgerald opened the regular meeting. He announced that prior to moving the agenda, the residents have the opportunity to make comments or ask questions on items that are on the agenda only. There being none, Mayor Fitzgerald then moved the agenda.

On motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Regular Board of Trustees' Minutes and Public Hearing Minutes – Local Law #3 of 2022, both held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2022-189 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$1,220,731.17
Pool Fund	\$ 8,884.75
Capital Fund	<u>\$1,107,444.95</u>
Total	\$2,337,060.87

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

On motion by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Longobardi and carried, the Board approved/ratified the requests to use public facilities subject to receipt of certificate of insurance and CDC and Department of Health Guidelines as follows:

- i. Floral Park Junior Woman's Club to use Memorial Park on Friday, December 2, 2022 to hold their annual Christmas Tree Lighting event at 6:00 pm in coordination with the FP Chamber of Commerce's Winter Festival;
- ii. Floral Park Chamber of Commerce to use Memorial Park on Friday, December 2, 2022 to hold the annual Winter Festival from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in conjunction with the Floral Park Junior Woman's Club's Christmas Tree Lighting and that permission is granted to sell food and mulled cider during the festival;
- iii. Floral Park American Legion Post #334 to hold its Veterans' Day March ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2022 beginning at the Atlantic Avenue extension along Tulip Avenue to Memorial Park;
- iv. Village of Floral Park to use Firefighters' Hall for a memorial gathering on Saturday, October 15, 2022 commencing at 11:00 am subject to receipt of certificate of insurance and payment of all personnel expenses incurred; and
- v. Floral Park Library to use the Recreation Center's parking lot opposite the tennis courts on Thursday, December 7, 2022 for a bus pick up/drop off for the trip to the Botanical Gardens.

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2022-190 to approve the purchase of Toro Infield Pro (field conditioner) in the amount of \$28,875.03 for the Recreation Center under New York State contract and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo	- Aye
Trustee Chiara	- Aye
Trustee Stewart	- Aye
Trustee Longobardi	- Aye
Mayor Fitzgerald	- Aye

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2022-191 to adopt a resolution to amend the hours to park on Aspen Street at Raff and Landau Avenues under Section 96-88 Schedule XVI: Parking Prohibited Certain Hours - in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 96-20 wherein no person shall park a vehicle between the hours listed below:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Hours/Day</u>	<u>Location</u>
Aspen Street	North	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon/ School days	80' East of Raff Ave
Aspen Street	South	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon/ School days	20' West of Landau Ave
Aspen Street	South	8:00 a.m. to 12 noon/ School days	60' East of Raff Ave

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chiara and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
 Trustee Chiara - Aye  
 Trustee Stewart - Aye  
 Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
 Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2022-192 to authorize Change Order Nos. 1 - 3 for Palace Electric Contractors for the Recreation Center electric field upgrades:

Change Order #1 - \$12,720.00 for upgrade at the blockhouse at Recreation Center;  
 Change Order #2 - \$ 8,102.00 for replacement of existing electrical service, new panels& new cabinet; and  
 Change Order #3 - \$ 5,624.96 for grounding of wires required by code.  
 Total CO's \$13,726.96 less \$5,000.00 contract allowance thereby having a balance of \$8,726.96 required for additional funding.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
 Trustee Chiara - Aye  
 Trustee Stewart - Aye  
 Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
 Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2022-193 to authorize refund requests to the following individuals:

- i. N. DiStefano in the amount of \$75.00 (block party & sound device fees) due to cancelling the block party on Oak Street; and
- ii. J. Patel in the amount of \$50.00 for an overpayment of building department permit fee.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Longobardi and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
 Trustee Chiara - Aye  
 Trustee Stewart - Aye  
 Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
 Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2022-194 to adopt a resolution wherein the Village Election will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 between the hours of 12 noon and 9:00 pm with the following offices to be filled for the following terms:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Mayor	Two (2) years
Trustee	Two (2) years
Trustee	Two (2) years
Village Justice	Four (4) years

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
 Trustee Chiara - Aye  
 Trustee Stewart - Aye  
 Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
 Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2022-195 to authorize the request from the Floral Park and Covert Avenue Chambers of Commerce to waive meter fees all day in the business districts throughout the Village on Small Business Saturday to be held on Saturday, November 26, 2022.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chiara and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye

Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2022-196 to authorize the payment of termination pay for retired Police Officer Robert Hayes who retired on August 29, 2022 as outlined on the Police Officer Termination Pay Calculation dated October 14, 2022 and in accordance with the PBA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Stewart and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2022-197 to approve the retention of Islandwide Engineering and Land Surveying for professional services for various drainage, reconstruction of curbing and handicap ramps and repairs to asphalt (to alleviate flooding) projects village wide as outlined in the proposal and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said proposal.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Longobardi and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2022-198 to approve Brendan Shanahan as a new member of the Floral Park Volunteer Fire Department having received arson clearances from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, background checks from the Floral Park Police Department, and medical clearances from Dr. Cogan.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Pombonyo and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

Trustee Pombonyo offered Resolution No. 2022-199 to authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign an Agreement with Altice wherein Altice is granted permission to install equipment on Pool/Garage Road for a one-time payment of \$5,000.00 under the direction of Superintendent of Buildings.

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chiara and adopted on roll call as follows:

Trustee Pombonyo - Aye  
Trustee Chiara - Aye  
Trustee Stewart - Aye  
Trustee Longobardi - Aye  
Mayor Fitzgerald - Aye

### **Trustee Lynn Pombonyo**

#### **Fire Department**

October is Fire Prevention Month and our Floral Park Fire Department continues to focus on education. At the October 11th Floral Park-Bellerose Board of Education meeting, Chief of Department James Dodson spoke to the FPBSD Board, staff and residents about important fire prevention and safety measures. These included awareness of the flammable materials in homes and cars that burn very quickly, making an immediate escape from a burning structure critical to survival; keeping doors closed to insure that, should a fire occur, it will be contained; placing laptop computers on solid surfaces, allowing them to vent the heat, while placing them on beds or upholstery may prevent that from happening, instead, causing the heat to build up inside the machine; making sure that working, up-to-date smoke/carbon monoxide detectors are placed strategically throughout homes and businesses; and many more. Chief Dodson was thanked for his service and timely, important advice to all.

In October, FPFDD also observed one of New York State's required fire drills and evacuations in each of our four Village schools. After all our students exited the buildings quickly and safely, FPFDD members met with them, announced the fire prevention poster contest winners, and discussed this year's theme, escape planning from a house fire.

On Sunday, October 16th, Assistant Chief Eric O'Connor led fellow firefighters and rescue company members in Open House activities to promote greater awareness of fire safety and FFPD operations. Many families attended the Open House and toured our fire engines, ambulance and a police car. They practiced escaping from smoke in a fire department smoke house and using a fire hose to put water on a designated target; watched as our firefighters extinguished two car fires, then extricated trapped "passengers" in a car, with Rescue's EMTs offering medical assistance; and many other informative, interesting scenarios. All the while, Trustee and Former Chief Mike Longobardi and his FFPD colleagues recruited community members who are interested in the fire service. That volunteer service is crucial in our Village, and we will continue to recruit vigorously. A highlight was a delicious barbecue, enjoyed by all. Thanks to our Chiefs and FFPD for educating us in addition to protecting us.

Go to [fpw.org](http://fpw.org) for more fire safety information, and remember the 2022 theme: **Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape.**

### **Department of Public Works**

As the cold weather sets in, hot patching and certain road repairs are coming to an end.

Leaf crews are going throughout our neighborhoods collecting leaves on Village roads. All are reminded that leaves raked on private property should not be pushed into the streets. Rather, place them in clear plastic bags and put them out on the curb on your Sanitation Department yard waste day (which is the collection day opposite your recycling day). Professional landscapers, who remove leaves from our Village private properties, must take them away.

Fall is tree planting season so, in the coming weeks, new trees will be planted on the roads that have been reconstructed. There will also be Village wide tree planting at the curb lines. If you'd like a new tree, please call DPW at 516-326-6320.

### **Chambers of Commerce and Our Businesses**

Thanks to all for coming out to enjoy this past Saturday's Covert Chamber of Commerce Street Fair. Hundreds, and maybe more, spent a perfect autumn day visiting our businesses, spending time with family and friends, and SHOPPING AND DINING LOCAL. Thanks goes to our high energy Covert Chamber leadership: Rene Jorglewich, Cathy Grasman, Magdalena Chen, Nancy Millus and Anne Musso; the Village Hall staffs of Floral Park and Stewart Manor; the VFP and VSM DPWs; and the VFP and Nassau County Police Departments for making our long-awaited street fair happen again in a really big way.

For our business people in Floral Park and Stewart Manor, the next Covert Avenue Chamber meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 25th (check [covertavenuechamber.org](http://covertavenuechamber.org) for the details). The Floral Park Chamber will network at a breakfast meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, 8am at the Bridge Community Church on Harvard Street.

And, for our children, the Covert Chamber is hosting its annual Treat Trail on Saturday, October 29th from 11am to 1pm. Follow the blue pumpkins on the Covert Avenue store windows, and get your allergy free treats. Then, when you complete your Treat Trail, see the Centennial Gardens invitation below...

### **Conservation Society and Centennial Gardens**

...Our Floral Park Conservation Society invites all to Centennial Gardens for the always enchanting and popular Fairie Forest Festival from 1 to 4pm on the 29th. Follow the fairie trail, be amazed by all the magical stories, and collect fairie tokens. Refreshments at the end of the fairie trail. Be sure to wear your wings and costumes!

### **AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)**

Thanks to Floral Park Library Director Pat Eren, the adult programs' Ellen O'Brien, and the Friends of the Library's very own Maria Tetro for their upbeat presentation about our library and its hundreds of exciting features for adults and children. If your organization is interested in this wonderful library talk, please contact our Floral Park Library to find out how you can make this happen.

### **Floral Park-Bellerose School District Applause**

This is School Board Recognition Week in New York State. Our Village Board was proud to honor our School Board members, President Kierez, Vice President O'Donohue, and Trustees Trentacoste, Culotta and Peltonen, with a Proclamation commending them for their dedicated service to our children and significant contributions to our communities. We wish our School Board continued success and great joy in guiding our students as they create their futures.

### **Trustee Frank Chiara**

### **CREW**

On Tuesday 10/18/2022, Deputy Mayor Pombonyo, members of CREW (Coalition of Recourses for Education and Wellness) and myself attended a Seesaw program presented by the Sewanhaka High School District at Sewanhaka high school. The program offered a panel discussion on Raising Resilient and Responsible Teens for parents and guardians of the school district children.

The panel was put together and coordinated by Mr. John Kenny, Director of Alternative Education and consisted of a school psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, school counselor, parent volunteer and a very impressive student from the class of 2022. The panelists all presented themselves well on the topic of how to raise resilient and responsible teens. They spoke of some of the difficulties of being a parent and how a parent can model resilient behavior to their children. They offered suggestions on the use of cell phones and caution about some of the questionable websites that the teens maybe accessing. The panelists reflected on their own life experiences which made a connection with the audience. They were very informative and made sure that the parents were made aware of all the services available to their children.

We are very fortunate to have such highly qualified professionals and more importantly very caring individuals in all our schools that are educating and caring for our children. Thank you to Mr. Kenny and all the panelists for this very informative program.

### **New Residents Committee**

I would like to send my compliments to the Covert Street fair organizers, the Street Fair turned out really nice, was well organized and was very enjoyable. The Covert Chamber and all who participated, including our DPW workers and our Police, did a fantastic job. The sunny skies contributed to the great day on Covert Avenue. Everyone that attended appeared to be having a lot of fun. It was a really fun event.

I would also like to THANK members of the New Residents Committee for staffing a table at the fair, offering a welcome and information on the Village to all who stopped by. Thank you to Anne Musso, Darlene Lanza, Lisa and Betsy Boutis for spending the day welcoming our residents.

### **Trustee Jennifer Stewart**

Good evening everyone, thank you for coming out tonight.

Thank you to the Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce for a wonderful street fair. It was so fun to see so many residents enjoying all the street fair had to offer. Thank you to FPPD and DPW for their hard work and for coordinating their efforts with their Nassau County counterparts.

Thank you to Probational Firefighter Brendan Shanahan. Brendan is the second generation in his family to volunteer for the FPPD and we are grateful to him for volunteering to serve our community. Stay safe.

### **Recreation Center**

Earlier in the evening the Board approved the purchase of a field conditioner. This is an important tool that the Recreation staff uses to keep the fields in game ready condition.

As our fall sports continue, they do so mindful of the disruptions that may occur as we expect groundbreaking on the new multi-purpose rink in the coming weeks, thank you to all managers, coaches, parents, and players for your flexibility during this process. Superintendent Kurt Meyfohr and his crew painted pickleball lines on volleyball court B to allow for additional play there during the rink construction. Please keep in mind that outside of scheduled hockey games, the recreation center closes at dusk.

Unfortunately, the elevator in the Recreation/Pool building is not operational right now. Our elevator company has been in and is now waiting for a part, the hope is it will be fully repaired by the end of the week. Please keep that in mind if you are attending any meetings or events in the Recreation building.

### **LIRR/MTA**

At this time, the LIRR and 3TC are adamant that they must have a vehicular gate at the Tunnel Street location where there previously was only a pedestrian gate. The Village continues to campaign for restoration of Tunnel Street to the way it was prior to construction. Please continue to log your concerns, comments, and questions at [MTA.org](http://MTA.org), let the MTA/LIRR know your concerns about the vehicle gate and any other concerns you have, especially regarding safety.

### **Trustee Michael Longobardi**

#### **Floral Park Library**

The Library has launched its new homepage for the website. The page provides easy to read links to many services provided by the library including the online database, links to museum passes, library catalog, newsletter and much more. Visit the website to see the new layout and all the library has to offer. Please click the link to sign up for library updates and receive emails about events and activities.

Construction upgrades are set to begin shortly on the library. These include the new ADA ramp and front entrances as well as a new roof. The library director and board are making plans to minimize any inconveniences during these projects. Please pay attention to signs and directions during that time as we work to upgrade access to the library.

Some upcoming events include Halloween Craft time, haunted theaters of Broadway stories, Halloween Storytime for 3 and 4 year olds, and Monday Movie Matinee: Death on the Nile. October 26th is trivia night; tickets are available and must be purchased ahead of time. Details for these and many other events are listed on the library website:

[WWW.FloralParkLibrary.org](http://WWW.FloralParkLibrary.org).

#### **Four Village Studio 4VS**

“Sandy: 10 Years after!” is 30 minutes of photos and videos that captured local damage and cleanup days after the storm highlighting all the hard work by our various village departments as well as our residents to restore our great village. It will debut Monday October 24th at 9pm.

The studio currently has openings for High School students residing within the four-village area to join the volunteer staff. Students age 15 or older can join the staff and learn how the studio operates while getting real hands-on experience as well as learn about a possible career in production. No experience necessary. Please call 516-326-1150 or email the studio if interested.

As always, please visit [www.4vs.org](http://www.4vs.org) for the complete list of shows, dates, and times.

**Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald**

Thank you to the Covert Avenue Chamber of Commerce for hosting a wonderful Street Fair this past Saturday. It was well attended and special thanks goes to everyone in the Chamber, the Village staff and DPW, and the Police Department for all of their efforts organizing the Street Fair – it is not an easy feat. I would like to acknowledge all of the efforts of both the Covert Avenue and Floral Park Chambers of Commerce for their contributions to making the Village, its businesses and surrounding communities so strong and vibrant. Thank you for all that you do. We look forward to the Floral Park Chamber’s Tree Lighting and Winter Festival coming up in December.

The Village is still in discussions with the MTA/LIRR/3TC regarding the Tunnel Street gate plus a list of items related to the completion of the railroad projects in Floral Park. As I mentioned previously, Trustee Stewart and Village Administrator Bambrick are monitoring everything closely and are in daily contact regarding details to ensure that the commitments made to the Village are concluded positively.

I would like to commend Deputy Mayor Pombonyo and Trustee Frank Chiara for all that they do for the Coalition of Resources for Education and Wellness Committee (CREW). CREW is dedicated to coordinating village resources by and among the schools, police, and village departments focused on providing support and opportunities to the youth in our community. This committee may go “under the radar”, however, its mission and work are vital to our families and our kids. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Thank you to Felix Procacci, “Just the Facts Media” and Brandon Duffy from Blank Slate Media for attending the meeting tonight.

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The Mayor re-opened the meeting for public session at 8:40 pm. At 8:45 pm Trustee Pombonyo motioned to go into Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Chiara and carried unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session.

Present were Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Mike Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Village Attorney John Ryan, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus and Commissioner Stephen McAllister.

The Board discussed police and building department personnel and litigation matters. Trustee Stewart motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Longobardi and carried unanimously. No action was taken.

The meeting ended at 11:25 pm.

Susan Walsh  
Village Clerk