

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

Board of Trustees Minutes

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 - 8 PM

Village Hall Courtroom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85972152800?pwd=ODBDMGk0Z1Bud0xrZFBDV1NsMFZmZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 7215 2800; Passcode: 034681. Dial-in: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 859 7215 2800; Passcode: 034681.

Mayor Fitzgerald opened the regular meeting at 8 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. 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.

Present were Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerard Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, DPW Superintendent Kevin Ginnane, Police Commissioner Stephen McAllister and Village Attorney John Ryan. Deputy Village Clerk Rosaleen Shea attended remotely.

On motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried, the Board approved the Regular Board of Trustees' Minutes held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2022-228 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$3,681,639.80
Pool Fund	\$ 2,820.00
Capital Fund	<u>\$ 408,814.46</u>
Total	\$4,093,274.26

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.) Four Village Studio to use the courtroom, mayor's office, and judge's chambers on Thursday, January 19, 2023 (in lieu of 1/12/23) from 6:30 pm to 10 pm to hold the annual staff meeting and presentation of staffs' awards;
- ii.) FP Historical Society to use the Recreation Center's Tulip Room and small meeting room for their regular meetings and their board meetings in 2023 as follows:
  - Regular Meetings all Sundays:
    - February 5, March 5, April 16, (1:30pm – 4:30pm)
    - September 10, October 1 and November 12 (1:30pm – 4pm).
  - Board meeting dates all Mondays from 2pm – 3pm:
    - January 23, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, August 28, September 25, October 23, and November 27.

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2022-229 ratifying the increase in parking permit fees effective January 1, 2023 as follows:

**Creedmoor Spur Truck Parking Permit Fees: Section**

- Regular size box trucks - \$1500.00 annually (was \$1200)
- Oversize trucks - \$3000.00 annually (was \$1500)

**Commuter parking:**

- Under the Railroad - Section 96-46.1- \$100.00 annually (resident only)
- Creedmoor Spur - **Resident or Non-Resident**
  - 1. Daytime 6 am to 8 pm \$400.00) annually/\$200.00 ½ year (was \$375)
  - 2. 24 Hour Parking \$500.00 annually/\$250.00 ½ year (was \$450)

**Resident only Parking:**

**24 Hour Parking - Holland Ave** Section 96-59.3 (north of Firehouse – 11 spaces) - \$500.00 annually/\$250.00 ½ year (was \$450)

**OVERNIGHT PARKING LOTS** – 8 pm to 8 am \$350.00 annually (was \$300)

Tyson Parking Field (ifo RiteAid)	Spooner Field
Holland Avenue (ifo Firehouse)	Magnolia Ave

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. 2022-230 to increase the all-night parking violation (3:00 am to 5:00 am) to \$100.00 in accordance to Article V, Section 96-34(a) effective January 1, 2023.

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. 2022-231 to authorize the following personnel to carry over 2022 vacation days due to unforeseen circumstances and will be used before March 31, 2023.

Paul Damkohler 5 vacation days  
Susan Walsh 5 vacation days  
Gerry Bambrick 8 vacation days  
Darlene Lanza 1 vacation day  
Kurt Meyfohrt 6 vacation days  
Lenny Green 1.5 vacation days  
Jessica Rossi 2.5 vacation days  
Steve Arnone 1 vacation day  
Rosaleen Shea 7 vacation days

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. 2022-232 to accept donation for the renovation of infield of Field #2 at the Recreation Center from Floral Park Little League as proposed in the LandTek Group’s proposal in the amount of \$33,744.00 subject to the review of the Supt of Recreation and Supt of Buildings;

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. 2022-233 to authorize budget transfers for the public works department as follows:

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
\$46,000	001.5110.0458 Sidewalk-Resident	001.8560.0440 Trees-Planting
\$20,000	001.5110.0402 Road Material	001.5110.0460 Repairs to Truck
\$ 5,000	001.1620.0406 Buildings-Supplies	001.1640.0406 Central Garage-Supplies

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. 2022-234 to accept the letter of retirement from Michael Lally, employee in the public works department, after 15 years of service with the Village effective Friday, January 6, 2023.

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. 2022-235 to accept the letter of resignation from John Florio, Jr, employee in the public works department, effective Friday, December 16, 2022 and authorize the payment of his earned accruals as follows:

2 Personal Days @ daily rate of \$195.06 =	\$ 390.12
1 Floating Holiday @ daily rate of \$195.06 =	\$ 195.06
60% of 32 Sick days = 19.20 days @ daily rate \$195.06 =	<u>\$3,745.15</u>
Total payment:	\$4,330.33

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. 2022-236 to determine that special use permit application of Harrison Cucina, 86 South Tyson LLC/Vincent DiRico – The Harrison to modify restaurant special use as to allow live music is a Type II action as that term is defined in SEQRA and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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. 2022-237 to approve the refund request for plumbing permit application to Holzhauer Plumbing and Heating for property at 181 Willow Street in the amount of \$65.00 since it was paid two times in error.

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. 2022-238 to approve the proposal of Islandwide Engineering & Land Surveying for their professional engineering services in obtaining reduced pressure zone permits for various locations throughout the village (named in the proposal) which includes the preparation, submission and revisions of permit applications to the Water Authority of Western Nassau County in the lump sum amount of \$23,000.00 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said proposal;

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. 2022-239 to authorize the Village to enter into a contract with Roadwork Ahead, Inc. to remove and replace concrete handicap ramp, sidewalk, curbing and gutter replacements on Carnation Avenue at Locust Street on Carnation Avenue and to perform pavement overlay and install ADA compliant curb cuts on certain blocks east and west of Locust Street on Carnation Avenue, which contract is piggybacked off the Village of Farmingdale Contract in an amount of \$164,460 all in accordance with prior Resolution No. 2020-231 wherein funding for this project is provided pursuant to New York State Department of Transportation/OSC Contract #DO40201 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract.

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. 2022-240 to authorize the Village to enter into a contract with Roadwork Ahead, Inc. to repair drainage on Tulip Avenue at Orchid Street to include install of catch basin, remove and replace concrete sidewalk, curb and gutters and pavement repair which contract is piggybacked off the Village of Farmingdale Contract in an amount of \$26,170.00 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said contract.

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. 2022-241 to authorize the Village to enter into a contract with Roadwork Ahead, Inc. to repair drainage at 75 Holland Avenue to install catch basin, remove and replace concrete sidewalk, curb & driveway apron, and pavement repair which contract is piggybacked off the Village of Farmingdale Contract in an amount of \$19,580.00 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. 2022-242 to approve the proposal of NV5 for architectural/engineering services for the Floral Park Library Accessible Main Entrance Ramp in an amount of \$9,600.00 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said proposal

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. 2022-243 to approve the settlement of CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement covering period from June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2024 and authorize the Mayor and Village Administrator to sign said 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 Lynn Pombonyo**

#### **Fire Department Rescue/Ambulance Services: Updates and Proposal**

We want to begin by thanking our Firefighters and Rescue EMTs for their extraordinary voluntary service to our Village. In the case of our Rescue Company, they respond with great expertise and care to all types of illness and injuries at all hours of the day and night, throughout the year. We are truly grateful.

Our Rescue Company is led by Chief Daniel Bennett and Captain (and former Chief of Department) Sal Arrigo. As Mayor Fitzgerald stated at our November 15th Village Board of Trustees meeting and following, Chief of Department Dodson, the Assistant Chiefs, as well as a number (not all) of our Rescue Company members are telling us that supplementary rescue and ambulance services are needed to ensure the immediate availability and presence of emergency medical staff in an emergency situation.

The reasons for this recommended addition of supplementary services include:

1. The Chiefs have advised us and we have observed that there are occasions when it takes fifteen to thirty minutes for an ambulance to arrive at a rescue call, whether it be Floral Park's ambulance (first due), a Nassau County ambulance which would be called next (second due), or when a mutual aid ambulance from another community such as New Hyde Park is then called in. In many cases, this occurs because Floral Park's ambulance, a County ambulance, or a mutual aid ambulance may be busy on a prior call or delayed getting a patient from a prior call into the hospital emergency room, or sufficient EMTs are simply not available to cover rescue calls at those times.
2. At the November meeting of the First Battalion Chiefs Association, which includes President Michael Longobardi (Trustee and former Chief of Department), Delegate Frank Wakely, Jr. (former Chief of Department) and our current Chief and Assistant Chiefs, Nassau County ambulance staffing was discussed. It has been difficult for ambulance staffing levels to keep up with the increasing demands for service. Therefore, those ambulances are less available to the local communities. This is further complicated by long wait times that ambulance crews and patients experience outside the hospital emergency rooms, at times, an hour or more. When that happens, the County ambulances remain unavailable for subsequent rescue calls.
3. On most occasions, when a County ambulance is deployed to Floral Park, a Floral Park police officer is required to drive the ambulance to the hospital, thus taking that police officer off patrol duty. A second police officer is sometimes needed to travel to the hospital to return the first officer to Floral Park, taking that officer off patrol duty as well. This is a serious issue for us.

For these reasons, our Chiefs have looked into Northwell and NYU Langone for supplementary services. After presentations by both, the Chiefs are recommending NYU Langone whose proposal includes the following:

1. NYU Langone would assign an ambulance with an EMT and Paramedic (for cardiac and other serious emergencies) to be staged in Floral Park, location to be determined.
2. This NYU Langone ambulance would be first due on all medical emergency calls, with our Floral Park Rescue ambulance designated second due. This would alleviate the high number of responses currently being asked of our Rescue Company.
3. Nassau County and mutual aid ambulances could also be called in when necessary.
4. NYU Langone is a paid ambulance service, as is Nassau County. As with other medical services, billing would be processed through patients' health insurance.
5. The Village would be asked to sign a one year contract, if it is decided to move forward with NYU Langone.

As Mayor Fitzgerald has said, there are no decisions yet, no Village Board approval thus far, and no contract has been signed. The Village Board continues to seek information and input regarding solutions to this serious issue, and appreciates the work done by the Floral Park Fire Department leadership and the valuable insights provided by our Rescue Company.

**The public is invited to the Tuesday, January 3rd Village Board meeting, 8pm at Village Hall. The NYU Langone ambulance team will be there to present an overview of their services, listen to comments, and respond to questions. The Floral Park Fire Department's Chief and Assistant Chiefs will also be speaking.**

### **Department of Public Works**

We'll begin with a wonderful story for the holidays. Several weeks ago, a cat who lives on Cypress Street got stuck way up high in a tree, possibly for several days. DPW Superintendent Kevin Ginnane and Supervisor Kevin Pearsall came to the rescue, and used a ladder to retrieve the cat and bring him/her back safely to his/her family. All are home again, happy and warm, thanks to DPW.

Our winter prep continues with pot hole repairs, tree planting, and salt trucks and snowplows ready to go for the first storm. New trees are still available for planting along your curb line. If you'd like your own new tree, please contact DPW at 516-326-6320.

Celebrate the New Year with our new recycling program. Separate your newspapers, paper and cardboard from your glass, plastic and metal. Newspapers, paper and cardboard will continue to be collected on your regular recycling day. Starting in 2023, glass, plastic and metal will be collected throughout the Village every Wednesday, along with special collections which will continue on Wednesdays. Separation of these items will result in more efficient and effective recycling in 2023.

### **Conservation Society (FPCS)**

FPCS 2023 calendars, featuring the exquisite flowers, plants, bushes, trees and birds of our award-winning Centennial Gardens, are now available. As always, Christine Kozak Photography has captured the bright, colorful and unique nature present in our Gardens and is providing us with visual reminders of what a special place it is.

You may purchase your calendar at Swing the Teapot or visit the Floral Park Centennial Gardens facebook page, then click on the calendar to preview it and order yours online. Proceeds will go to Gardens enhancements.

So, until reopening day in early April, enjoy the ever-changing Gardens scenes on your calendar. Thanks to the FPCS volunteers and Christine Kozak for this lovely Gardens keepsake (and maybe, holiday or New Year's gift).

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

From all and to all at our Chambers of Commerce and businesses, Happy Holidays. Enjoy SHOPPING AND DINING LOCAL during our Floral Park and Stewart Manor holiday season.

### **Holiday Wishes!**

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year as we celebrate with family and friends. May the holiday season bring joy and peace to one and all!

### **Trustee Frank Chiara**

From our Police Department, our Building Department, and from my family, we would like to wish all of our residents a Happy Hannukah, a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Healthy New Year! Stay safe, enjoy the holiday season and we are all looking forward to a great new year. Thank you.

### **Trustee Jennifer Stewart**

### **Recreation Center**

The multi-purpose rink is really coming along nicely. A new project to beautify the recreation center has begun. The walkway surrounding the perimeter of the Rec center is getting a facelift, including a widening of the path along Pool and Garage Road to the pool.

Many residents took advantage of the 12 Days of Christmas for Pool 2023 memberships, we have extended the sale until 12/31, call the pool for hours. Tonight, we accepted a gift from the Floral Park Little League to renovate Field 2 for play. We are looking forward to working with Little League to improve the field.

### **LIRR/MTA/3TC**

We continue to work with the MTA regarding the gate at Tunnel Street as well as other safety concerns along their property. I urge you to log into [MTA.org](http://MTA.org) or please email them at [communityoutreach@lirrexpansion.com](mailto:communityoutreach@lirrexpansion.com) and leave a comment. You may also call the MTA at 516-203-4955, especially if you have called the Village to report a concern, let the MTA know as well.

Please consider joining your civic association as one of your New Year's resolutions. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

### **Trustee Michael Longobardi**

### **Floral Park Library**

Construction is ongoing at the main entrance. Reminder temporary entrance and book drop are in the back of the building on the Tulip Ave side. Thank you for your patience during this time. The Library will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 2022 and January 1, 2023 for Christmas and New Year's.

The Friends of the Library Book club meeting is rescheduled to Monday, January 9, 2023, the second Monday due to the Holiday on the first Monday.

All activities and times are listed on the library website: [www.floralparklibrary.org](http://www.floralparklibrary.org). You can also register on the website to receive regular emails on Library updates and events.

#### **Four Village Studio (4VS)**

Reminder 4VS runs a scrolling billboard to display local events and/or meetings sponsored by community organizations, schools, government, and Four Village Studio. It is on air all the time except when a program is running. The billboard is a great way to promote your events and activities. To submit your announcement, please go to the website, click the billboard tab at the top of the page and follow the instructions. All announcements are subject to the rules and regulations of the studio.

Productions for 2022 ended about the same as 2021. They are trending upward the second half of the year and an increase is expected for 2023. To see a list of our shows, please visit [www.4vs.org](http://www.4vs.org) or watch your local provider station.

On behalf of my entire family, we would like to wish all our residents a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!

#### **Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald**

To follow along with Dr. Pombonyo's statement with regards to the ambulance; a lot of factors have gone into getting us to this point right now which Deputy Mayor Pombonyo laid out. Inclusive of this is the overall decrease in volunteerism and lack of interest in a lot of Fire Departments not only in Floral Park but around the country, volunteerism is on the decline unfortunately. Also, training time to get up to speed to become a certified AMT to EMT, is what I understand, has expanded dramatically over the years taking up more and more time. Now, we do look forward to discussing this at our next board meeting with NYU. We hope to have FAQs ready prior to the meeting to get an understanding of what it could be and what it isn't, and we'll go forward from there. It will not be voted on at that meeting, rather it will be discussion only to further understand any proposal. At the next meeting, all comments, ideas, thoughts and questions will be under consideration before any decisions are made.

On behalf of the entire Board, I'd like to thank everyone in the Village, whether it's the staff here at Village Hall, all our employees, our volunteers - thank you for making 2022 a wonderful year. A lot of hard work goes into this Village, day in, day out, 24/7. I know there are many people in this room and on zoom that make that happen - so personally I thank you for everything you do in our Village for our residents. Just one missing link in the chain hurts. We are a tight knit chain that gets so much done for our residents. I know many people appreciate it. We on the Board are lucky enough to sit up here and see it all first-hand and some residents may not see it first-hand like we do. It is a lot - a lot - of work to make it truly a wonderful place to live, work and especially raise a family. I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Hannukah, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may 2023 be even better than 2022.

Thank you to Felix Procacci of 'Just the Facts Media' and to Brandon Duffy, Blank Slate Media for attending tonight and for covering the entire year. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm

Susan Walsh  
Village Clerk