

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK
Board of Trustees Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:00 pm - Village Hall Courtroom

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659728618?pwd=WGFKVnArTVpjMlVCQ2NjU2hUIY4QT09>
Meeting ID: 836 5972 8618 Passcode: 509993; Dial-in 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 836 5972 8618
Passcode: 509993.

At 7:15 pm, before the start of the Board of Trustees meeting, Village Auditor Frank Faber, CPA reviewed and discussed the draft Fiscal Year Ending 2022 Financial Statement with Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Deputy Treasurer Steve Arnone and Village Attorney John Ryan. The review ended at 7:45 pm.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park, as Board of Canvassers, met prior to the regular meeting to canvass the returns of the Inspectors of Election and to certify the results of the Village Election duly held in said Village on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 between the hours of 12 noon and 9pm. The certified results are attached and filed in the office of the Village Clerk.

At 8 pm, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees began. Mayor Fitzgerald 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, the Board approved the Minutes held on March 7, 2023 for the following: 1) Public Hearing Minutes - 320 Jericho Turnpike; 2) Public Hearing Minutes - 143 Tulip Avenue; and 3) Regular Board of Trustees Minutes.

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-56 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$ 1,305,397.90
Pool Fund	\$ 1,627.93
Capital Fund	<u>11,406.66</u>
Grand total	\$ 1,318,432.49

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. My First School to use the parking field across from Recreation Center for its annual Truck Day on Friday, May 5, 2023 (RD 5/8/23) from 10am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 2pm;
- ii. My First School to use the Recreation Center for the annual Field and Family Fun Day on Friday, June 2, 2023 (RD 6/5/23) from 1pm to 3pm;
- iii. John Lewis Childs PTA to use the Recreation Center for their annual walking trip 'Spirit Day' on Tuesday, 5/23/23 & Wednesday, 5/24/23 (RD 5/25 & 5/26) from 8:30am to 2pm;
- iv. Floral Park Sports Association to use the multi-purpose hockey rink at Recreation Center starting in September, 2023 through February, 2024 subject to the review and approval of Supt. of Recreation;
- v. Floral Park Conservation Society to use Centennial Gardens for their annual Garden Party fundraiser on Friday, June 23, 2023 (RD 6/24) from early evening to dusk;
- vi. Our Lady of Victory School to use the Recreation Center for its annual school's Field Day on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 (RD 5/31) for the entire day; and
- vii. Floral Park-Bellerose School District to use Centennial Gardens for the sixth-grade classes to have their end of the year picnic on June 16, 2023 from 11am to 1pm.

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2023-57 to accept the letter of resignation from Michael Gould, Motor Equipment Operator in Public Works Department, effective March 15, 2023 and authorize the payment of his earned accruals in accordance with CSEA contract as follows: Sick Time Accrual: 376 hours or 47 days x 60% equals 225.60 hours or 28.20 days @ his current daily rate of \$200.73 totals \$ \$5,660.59.

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. 2023-58 to authorize the promotion of Edwin Guerrero, currently an Auto-Mechanic in public works department, to the position of Senior Auto Mechanic at the contractual rate of \$68,712.00 (Gr 22 Step 1) subject to the approval of NC Civil Service Commission.

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 Stewart offered Resolution No. 2023-59 to introduce proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 to authorize the Village Board, if necessary, to override the tax cap imposed by the State of New York, which is presently 2.12% for Floral Park.

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. 2023-60 to determine that proposed Local Law #1 of 2023 authorizing the Village Board, if necessary, to override the tax cap imposed by the State of New York, which is presently 2.12% for Floral Park, is an unlisted action and will not have a significant effect on the environment as that term is defined in SEQRA.

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. 2023-61 to approve Robert Merino as a new member of the Floral Park Volunteer Fire Department since he received medical clearance and background checks by the Floral Park Police Department.

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

On motion by Trustee Chiara, seconded by Trustee Stewart, and carried, the Board approved the following three applicants for 2023 licenses for 'Triple A Taxi' drivers since all three applicants have cleared background checks by the Floral Park Police Department: Jory Sherwood, Guillermo Escobar & James Katan.

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2023-62 to approve the following two drivers for Mr. Softee's ice cream vendor's license since both applicants have cleared background checks by the Floral Park Police Department: Ange Marly Lubin-Richardson and Rey-Anthony Richardson.

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. 2023-63 to authorize the tax certiorari settlement of 250 Jericho Realty LLC f/ka/a NGB Management Corp. for real property located at 250 Jericho Turnpike known as Section 32, Block 68 and Lots 19 and 26 in the amount of \$80,000.00 covering tax years 2015/16 through 2022/23 inclusive with no reduction in the assessment:

WHEREAS, there are writs of certiorari pending in the Supreme Court of Nassau County against the Village of Floral Park ("The Village"), with respect to real property located at 250 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park (250 Jericho Realty LLC f/ka/a NGB Management Corp.), identified as Section 32, Block 68, Lots 19 and 26 for tax years 2015/16 through 2022/23; and
WHEREAS, RYAN, BRENNAN & DONNELLY LLP, Village Attorneys, have negotiated a settlement of subject case; and
WHEREAS, the Village believes it is in the best interests to settle the outstanding writs upon the terms and conditions negotiated by the Village Attorneys to the Village.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that RYAN, BRENNAN & DONNELLY LLP, Village Attorneys,
be and hereby are authorized to settle subject case for a lump sum of \$80,000.00, payable within ninety (90) days of Service of Notice of the Entry of judgment no reduction in the assessment. Under this settlement, Petitioner agrees to discontinue all pending proceedings for tax years 2015/16 through 2022/23 inclusive.

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. 2023-64 to authorize Change Order #1 dated 3/17/2023 to Aventura Construction Corp. in the amount of \$6,200.00 for the Library ADA Entrance Ramp Project as described and authorize Village Administrator to sign said change order.

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. 2023-65 to authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign an Agreement with National Grid wherein as part of National Grid's 2022 Gas Main Replacement Project, National Grid will provide an amount of \$33,936.00 for road restoration of Harvard, Lexington, and Nassau Streets.

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. 2023-66 to amend Paragraph 7 of the Decision and Resolution, dated March 16, 2022 and filed March 17, 2022 (under Resolution No. 2022-045) granting a Special Use Permit for a catering hall at the premises located on the southeast corner of Jericho Turnpike and South Tyson Avenue and known as 166-170 Jericho Turnpike, Section 32, block 60 and Lots 263-266 on the Land and Tax Map of Nassau County (the Premises) be and the same hereby is amended so as to provide: "The maximum occupancy of the premises shall not exceed 98 persons at any time."

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 2023-67 to rescind Resolution 2023-28 relating to purchase of Flowbird Munimeter Kiosks in the amount of \$46,548.10 and to authorize the purchases from DEVO & Associates for two (2) Flowbird Munimeter Kiosks for Carlton Parking field in the amount of \$20,821.95, one (1) Flowbird Munimeter Kiosk for Spooner Parking field in the amount of \$8,723.890 and five(5) Flowbird Munimeter Kiosks for the Creedmoor Spur parking field in the amount of \$43,618.10 in the total amount of \$73,163.95.

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 Lynn Pombonyo

Congratulations to my colleagues, Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Trustee Frank Chiara and Village Justice Douglas Hayden, on your re-elections to Floral Park's Village government. It is an honor to continue working with you on our Village team. And special thanks to the many residents who came out to vote on Election Day!

Fire Department

Our Fire Department remained very busy during the month of February with a total of ninety-nine calls, eleven mutual aid calls to other communities, and seventy ambulance calls including both the NYU Langone ambulance and Floral Park Rescue (who is second due, but responds to the motor vehicle accidents, fire-related incidents, and mutual aid calls). A number of ambulance calls involve carbon monoxide detectors that have been activated, in some cases indicating very high levels of CO in the homes resulting in the need for medical care for the residents. As we turned our clocks ahead for Daylight Savings time on March 12th, that was also the time to change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Keep your home safe for you and your family!

This coming Sunday, March 26th, our Fire Department will be honoring departed members including Honorary Chief Donald Gorman who passed away in 2022 after serving our Village for over fifty years. Two wreaths will be placed at the Fireman's Memorial at headquarters at 8:45am. At 9:30am, the Department will march into St. Hedwig's Church for a Mass to honor all our Department's extraordinary volunteers, then the vehicles will be blessed. This will truly be a special day.

And, as April approaches, our Fire Department and Companies will be voting on their Chiefs and Officers, and rotating their positions for the coming year.

Department of Public Works

Our DPW continues to work with National Grid on gas line replacements. So far, numerous streets in Hillcrest and South Side have been completed. As each area is completed, National Grid is required to repave the damaged sections of each street, which would leave a patchwork of asphalt. Our DPW Superintendent, Kevin Ginnane, had an ingenious idea to have National Grid forego the patchwork repaving and pay the Village of Floral Park those costs. The Village then uses these funds to do the milling and repaving of every entire, affected street so that all will be totally repaved. This has been completed in Hillcrest and will be done in the Floral Parkway, Birch and Cypress areas next, to be followed by Harvard, Lexington and Nassau Streets. So far, the Village has received \$362,000 for the first two projects. Tonight, the Board approved a \$33,900 National Grid payment to the Village to go towards the repavement of Harvard, Lexington and Nassau.

Gas line replacement has begun on Verbena Avenue between Carnation and Rose, and Carnation Avenue between Violet and Verbena. Gas service to the homes will begin next week, with completion in one to two months. It is expected that National Grid payments to support this road restoration work will continue. Thank you Superintendent Ginnane for your cost-saving initiatives to advance our roadway improvements.

Chambers of Commerce and Our Businesses

After an exciting Grand Reopening of the K.Hunter Boutique on Covert Avenue, a large crowd of business owners, residents, fans and elected officials (including our entire Village Board and Town, County and National friends) gathered for the Grand Opening of the new Cara Mia Restaurant on Tulip Avenue. Both the Floral Park and Covert Avenue Chambers of Commerce joined in the festive celebration to welcome this popular Queens Village restaurant to our Village. Enjoy DINING LOCAL!

Conservation Society (FPCS)

Very soon, we will all be enjoying a new artistic creation at Centennial Gardens. Following the death of a tree just inside the Floral Parkway entrance, our Tree Department removed all but about twelve feet of the trunk. This trunk will now be transformed into a wood sculpture depicting all the special features of the Gardens. Master Woodcarver Gregg Klewicki of East Meadow will surprise Gardens fans with his fascinating artistic

work starting this week. Appreciation goes to FPCS for sponsoring this newest Gardens gem and funding it with proceeds from their fundraising activities. Come and take a peek at the Floral Parkway entrance.

And, finally, Winter has passed and the Gardens will reopen on Saturday, April 1st. Also arriving on that day will be the Easter Bunny for photos. Families may come between 10am and noon, and bring your own cell phones or cameras. Special Easter bag surprises are in store. Ten days and counting until Spring in the Gardens returns!

Trustee Frank Chiara

Congratulations to the Mayor (Kevin Fitzgerald), Trustee Lynn Pombonyo, Justice Doug Hayden on their reelection yesterday. I look forward to continue serving with you. Thank you to everyone who came out to vote for us.

Police Department

Periodically, the Floral Park Police Department conducts truck safety inspections on trucks coming through our community. Our Police Officers, who are specially trained to perform these inspections, look for any safety violations that may prevent these vehicles from being safely driven on our streets. Last week, our Police Officers performed 14 inspections on trucks driving through. A total of 47 summonses were issued, 6 trucks were placed out of service, 2 were towed, 1 was impounded and one driver was not allowed to continue to drive.

These safety inspections send a strong message throughout the truck driver community that the Floral Park Police Department will continue to perform these inspections. Any unsafe trucks will be addressed to ensure the safety of our residents. Thank you to Commissioner McAllister and his Officers for their continued efforts to keep our streets and community safe.

Building Department

Our Building Department continues to assist and monitor both major projects in the Village. The Covert Avenue Project has resubmitted the necessary paperwork to Nassau County and is waiting for approval to move forward. The Centennial Hall Project has submitted all their paperwork to the Building Department and is ready to submit the needed paperwork to Nassau County for approval. We are looking forward to both projects getting underway.

Trustee Jennifer Stewart

Recreation Center

It's Spring and I am happy to announce that the Floral Park Little League Parade is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023.

The Floral Park Pool registration is now open. This year, the Pool will open on Saturday, June 3, 2023 for a full 3 months this summer. We hope that residents of all ages enjoy all the pool has to offer. Thank you to the Pool Committee and staff that help make it the best pool on Long Island.

MTA/LIRR

Meetings were held last week with the MTA to discuss the Tunnel Street Gate – Legislator John Giuffre offered as a mitigation alternative a Nassau County easement Right of Way for access on the New Hyde Park side. Floral Park is adamantly opposed to the Tunnel Street Gate as this was not part of the original plan design and the MTA promised to return the tunnel to its pedestrian only status. The MTA says that they need it for switch and emergency purposes. Please continue to call the MTA directly at 516-203-4955 or contact them online at contact.mta.info/customer-feedback to voice your concerns.

The weekend work in Garden City for the Cherry Valley overpass has been disruptive to Floral Park residents and we have been addressing that as well. It is not fair and we are advocating on your behalf to have this completed ASAP.

Thank you.

Trustee Michael Longobardi

Floral Park Library

New LED lighting in the library is moving along nicely and is a great improvement over the old lighting. The library also has a new security camera system. The new front ramp is almost complete with the railings being installed this week. The walkway connecting Tulip Ave to Caroline Place in front of the ramp is in and the overall project is looking great. Once completed the landscaping will be planted and everything is expected to be ready for the April kickoff to the library's 100th anniversary year.

AARP tax assistance is available every Tuesday 10am to 3pm. Please contact the library for details to schedule a time. The next meeting of the Friends of the FP Library Book Club is Monday, April 3 at 10:15am. Tuesday, April 4 at 7pm, Kris Thomas returns for part 2 of his iPhone series with a presentation on how to use your iPhone camera. The library has events and classes for all ages including everything from sewing and cooking

to games and art activities. Please check the library website, WWW.FloralParkLibrary.org for a complete list of events and dates.

Four Village Studio - 4VS

The *4VS Flashback 25!* is running all year. This is ongoing all year looking back at the first 25 years of the studio. Next week the flashback show covers events during Mayor Tweedy's years in office. *Sandy:10 years After* airs again next week as well. To see a current list of the flashbacks plus all our shows, please visit www.4vs.org or watch your local provider station.

4VS has student opportunities and is currently recruiting four-village area high school student volunteers 15 years of age and older as well as college student volunteers who are interested in learning television production. For details or to schedule an informational meeting, call 516-326-1150 or email 4VS@4VS.org.

Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald

Thank you to all of the residents for voting in yesterday's Village Election. Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Pombonyo and Frank Chiara for being re-elected as Trustees and to Doug Hayden for being re-elected as Village Justice. The swearing-in will take place at the Annual Reorganization Meeting scheduled on Monday, April 3, 2023.

As an update from our last meeting, Governor Hochul's Housing Compact plan to increase the housing stock by 3% near MTA transit hubs in NYS which includes the Floral Park and Bellerose train station, is still in the Budget as of today. A week ago, Friday, I had a conference with RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal from the Governor's office. Based upon Building Superintendent Marcus' and Administrator Gerry Bambrick's research on this issue, I took the opportunity to present that the Village of Floral Park is already zoned to meet the requirements of the Governor's proposed housing plan without a need to expand multi-family zoning to our areas currently zoned for single family residential properties. I also advised her that the Village of Floral Park is already among the top 100 most densely populated cities and villages in the United States.

We will continue to be on top of this important issue.

Thank you to Felix Procacci, Just the Facts Media and Brandon Duffy, Blank Slate Media for attending tonight's meeting on zoom.

Finally, thank you to Village Clerk and Chief Election Officer, Susan Walsh and Deputy Village Clerk, Rosaleen Shea for their efforts in running the Village Election.

Thank you.

The Mayor re-opened the meeting for public session at 8:40 pm.

Present were Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Village Attorney John Ryan, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane and Commissioner Stephen McAllister. At 8:50 pm Trustee Pombonyo motioned to go into Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Chiara and carried unanimously, the Board went into Executive Session. The Board discussed police 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 11:26 pm.

Susan Walsh, Village Clerk