

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK  
Board of Trustees MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:00 pm - Village Hall Courtroom**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89560791681?pwd=MGtFSEEx2Zkw0WTZzbnVIZmxER0xPUT09>  
Meeting ID: 895 6079 1681  
Passcode: 335736  
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Mayor Fitzgerald opened the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 8:00 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Mayor Kevin M. Fitzgerald, Trustees Lynn Pombonyo, Frank Chiara, Jennifer Stewart and Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Deputy Village Clerk Lara Verbanac, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Police Commissioner Steven McAllister, Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane and Village Attorney John Ryan.

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 unanimously, the Board approved the Minutes of Regular Board of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 and Work Session Minutes held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023;

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2023-246 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$ 3,602,034.47
Pool Fund	\$ 955.99
Capital Fund	\$ <u>119,994.00</u>
Grand Total	\$ 3,722,984.46

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. 2023-247 to that application of Floral Park Depository 1929 Realty Partners, LLC for a Special Use Permit to operate a restaurant with drive-thru at 99 Covert Avenue, Floral Park, NY New York, 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 the following resolutions relating to personnel matters:

Resolution No. 2023-248 to approve Beal Reese, as a Motor Equipment Operator Relief, since he has successfully completed his one-year MEO Trainee probation period, at the contractual rate of \$46,953.00;

Resolution No. 2023-249 to approve the carry-over of 2023 vacation days for the following employees:

Kevin Ginnane	3 vacation days
Gerry Bambrick	11.50 vacation days
Kurt Meyfohrt	3 vacation days
Susan Walsh	6 ½ days
Mike Derby	3 vacation days

Resolution No. 2023-250 to authorize hourly increase to Thomas Gill, an all year-round, part-time park attendant, to \$20.00 per hour

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. 2023-251 authorizing the surplus the following vehicles:

- 2003 Dodge Ram 2500 Vin #3D3KU26D43G841930
- 2007 International 7400 Recycling Truck Vin#3HTWGAAT17N463239

The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Chriara 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. 2023-252 whereas it is hereby resolution pursuant to §65-3 of the Code of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park (“Code”) that the property known by the street address “28 Landau Avenue, Floral Park, NY 11001” and identified on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map as Section 32, Block 276, Lot 32-33 is not in compliance with Section 65-2. Hof the Code by reason of rubbish, rubble and discarded material accumulated thereon, Section 65-2. B uncut grass, weeds, brush or any portion of said growth to obtain a height in excess of 12 inches, and Section 65-6 A. the owner, operator or occupant shall...maintain accessory structures and appurtenant equipment in suitable condition and good repair, capable of performing the function for which the same as designed or intended to be used all as specified in the village ordinance Notice of Violation, dated November 13, 2023, issued by the Department of Buildings of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park.

Be it further resolved that the owner of person in control of said premises shall comply with the above-referenced provisions of the Code by removing said rubbish, rubble and discarded material, repairing said accessory structures, and cut the overgrown grass and weeds within seven (7) days of the postmark of the Notice of Adoption of this Resolution to be mailed to said owner or person in control of the subject property. In case of such failure to comply, the owner and/or person in control of the property whereon these violations have occurred is deemed to consent to the right of entry by the Village officials for the sole purpose of inspecting and correcting such violations.

The Board of Trustees authorizes the work to be done and pay the cost thereof out of general funds appropriated by the Board of Trustees for such purpose. The Village shall be reimbursed for the cost of the work performed of the services rendered, as hereinabove provided, by assessment against the lots or parcels of land where such work was performed or services were rendered for so much of the actual or complete costs incurred upon and from each lot or lots by the assessment of all such cost of such removal, including legal fees against the real property affected.

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 unanimously, the Board approved/ratified the request to use public facilities subject to receipt of certificate of insurance and sound device permit fee, if applies, as follows:

- Floral Park Bellerose School request to use Firefighters’ Hall on Friday, April 5, 2024 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm for a post-performance celebration of the Drama Club students;

Trustee Longobardi offered the following resolutions granting the Village approval to sign the presented Agreements or Proposals:

Resolution No. 2023-253 Nassau County Board of Election Polling Place Agreement for use of Reliance Firehouse House for a special election on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 5:00 am through 9:30 pm and authorize Village Clerk to sign said Agreement;

Resolution No. 2023-254 Town of Hempstead and St. Hedwigs Church for the purpose of conducting senior citizen programs at the parish hall on Monday and Wednesday each week from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 and that the Village agrees to pay \$5,890.00 in quarterly installments and authorizes the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said Agreement;

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

See Minutes of 1/2/2024 for the designation of village election polling locations to be held on 3/19/2024 – Resolution No. 2024-04;

**Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald**

**Former Mayor George Farrell**

Prior to the meeting a moment of silence was held for former Mayor George Farrell, along with flags being lowered to half-staff this week in his memory. Mayor Farrell was born in Jackson Heights NY, attended Xavier High School, earned a BS at Fordham and his JD at Brooklyn Law School. He honorably served our country in the US Army from 1952 to 1953 including being deployed to Japan during the Korean War.

In January of 1963 he was appointed to Village Trustee and later served as Mayor from 1963 to 1965. It was during his term that the pool was first built. Then in 1966 he was elected to serve our community in the NY State Assembly which he continued serving as a ranking member until 1974. After leaving the Assembly he co-founded the now prominent Long Island law firm of Farrell Fritz.

Besides his professional career and raising a family, George sat on various non-profit Boards including Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Rockville Center, Chairman of the Board of Winthrop University Hospital and was integrally involved in a public health startup the American Health Initiative.

We honor and thank former Mayor Farrell for his lifelong service to others and hold his family in our prayers.

**NYRA**

This past week NYRA installed the arborvitae along the fence near Mayfair and Hazel Place. I would once again like to thank NYRA for having the fence moved back from its original placement, building a mini-berm which raised the height and planting the arborvitae which will further protect the residents along the border with the parking lot from noise and lights

**Thank You**

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all of my colleagues in the Village along with the many residents that reached out to us this week offering their condolences. Floral Park certainly is a special place and it is residents that make it so

**Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo**

**Police Department**

New York State and the Village of Floral Park have important laws relating to BLOCKING pedestrians and traffic. The first law prohibits BLOCKING THE BOX, which means a driver may not pull into an intersection unless he/she can pass all the way through it. Many of our busiest intersections have very noticeable cross-hatch markings as reminders. Please check out our FPPD's highly popular Facebook page for a very strong message about BLOCKING THE BOX, and the fines and points that result as our FPPD engages in enforcement. BLOCKING THE BOX is dangerous and illegal.

The second law prohibits BLOCKING THE SIDEWALK. Please keep in mind that, when a vehicle is parked in a driveway and extends over the sidewalk, pedestrians, including children walking to and from school, are forced to walk in the street alongside moving vehicles. BLOCKING THE SIDEWALK is also dangerous and illegal.

The third law prohibits BLOCKING THE STREET by double parking. Especially at the holiday season, there are inconsiderate drivers who think that it's okay to double park while they quickly run into a store, or while they wait for relatives and friends to run in for a minute. Not true! On Tulip, Covert and Plainfield Avenues, double parking causes other drivers to dangerously move into the opposite lanes of traffic and congestion in the lanes in which the vehicles are double parked. On Jericho Turnpike, other drivers must quickly change lanes to go around the double parked vehicles, or stop and wait, also causing serious traffic congestion. BLOCKING THE STREET by double parking is also dangerous and illegal.

At the holidays, we enjoy celebrating with families and friends. Please remember that, while we are celebrating, our FPPD is protecting us 24/7. Our day tours of Officers are out working for us on Christmas and New Year's

Day, and our night tours of Officers will be doing the same on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Let's thank our FPPD for their service, especially on the holidays when they work while many of us celebrate.

And, please be respectful, courteous, grateful and safe on the roads throughout this splendid holiday season. Thanks to all of Floral Park's very competent and responsible drivers who make our Village a safe place to live, work and raise our children.

### **Conservation Society**

Winter arrives this week. Enjoy a brisk walk on the path around Centennial Gardens and Bird Sanctuary just before dusk. In the western/northwestern sky, you will see the sun going down through the trees of the Gardens and that Hillcrest area, especially on Raff Avenue and Floral Parkway. The glorious colors of our Floral Park sunsets are not to be missed!

And, in 2024, enjoy monthly views of the Gardens and its colorful trees, bushes, flowers, birds and animals with your 2024 Centennial Gardens and Bird Sanctuary calendar. Get yours by going to [ChristineKozak.com](http://ChristineKozak.com), clicking on Menu, then Store, or by visiting our delightful Swing the Teapot restaurant on Verbena Avenue. Calendar profits go to the Floral Park Conservation Society for Gardens enhancements.

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

Great appreciation goes to our two Chambers of Commerce (Floral Park and Covert Avenue) and our businesses for their gifts of bright and sparkling, Christmassy welcomes to the holiday season. They partnered with the Floral Park Junior Woman's Club, the Villages of Floral Park and Stewart Manor, and Santa Claus for two beautiful tree lighting festivals, to the delight of hundreds of children and families.

Let's keep the spirit and excitement going in our Villages as we SHOP, DINE AND CELEBRATE LOCAL throughout this holiday season.

And, while you're taking in our beautifully decorated businesses, take a walk or ride through our neighborhoods where our children and families are dazzled by the sparkling lights and glistening displays at our Floral Park homes. Thank you, one and all, for making Floral Park the perfect place to spend the holidays.

May Christmas, the holiday season and the New Year bring joy and peace to Floral Park, our Nation and the World.

### **Trustee Frank Chiara**

I wanted to remind all patrons that the Floral Park Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> and also on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>. All of our community events are posted on the library's website at [www.floralparklibrary.org](http://www.floralparklibrary.org). Please check the website for more information.

On behalf of the Library Staff, our Volunteer Firefighters, my Family and myself, I would like to wish all of our residents a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season, and a healthy, safe and happy New Year.

### **Trustee Jennifer Stewart**

#### **DPW**

Department of Public Works crews performed final clean up and collection of leaves on Village roads and parks, as well as the cleanup of storm drains. Stop signs have been installed on Bryant Avenue and Hinsdale Avenue. Please be aware of this traffic change.

Sanitation crews have collected 30 tons of household waste, 10 tons of paper and cardboard, 4 tons of comingle plastics and glass, and 16 tons of bulk rubbish. An amazing 80 beautiful trees have been planted this fall around our Village.

During tonight's Board Meeting, we voted to surplus a 2007 and a 2009 vehicle. This is a testament to the meticulous work our mechanics do to maintain our vehicle fleet.

In an effort to be responsive to residents' needs, we have made changes to the sanitation schedule for the upcoming Holiday weeks. For the weeks of 12/25 and 1/1, all recycling including blue box pick-ups will be collected with paper and cardboard. In other words, whatever day your cardboard gets picked up, you may also put out glass and plastic recycling during those weeks.

Additionally, please see new 2024 sanitation schedules in Village Items and on the Village web site or call DPW at 516-326-6320, this includes Recycling Changes for 2024.

#### **4VS**

Some programing highlights for the week of December 25<sup>th</sup> are:

The Author Corner with Stephanie Larkin, Stephanie presents "You Be the Author" The Five Character Types & Seven Basic Plots, "Inspiring Stories" with Bill Corbett Jr. and "The Center for Science, Teaching & Learning" with Dr. Ray Ann Havasy.

#### **MTA**

A few residents have recently reached out to me with concerns about trains idling along the Hempstead Branch. I have been in contact with the MTA and they have found no irregularities in train schedules and the time they spend idling along the Hempstead branch. With more specific information such as dates and times, we may be able to investigate further. If this is of concern to you, please reach out to me at [jstewart@FPVillage.org](mailto:jstewart@FPVillage.org), or leave a message for me at Village Hall by calling 516-326-6300. In addition, please let the MTA know at [MTA.info](http://MTA.info).

### **Trustee Michael Longobardi**

#### **Building Department**

Plans have been submitted for a proposed pharmaceutical lab located at 100 Jericho Turnpike. A special use permit hearing is tentatively scheduled for the January 16<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Covert Avenue fire property has received site plan approval from Nassau County. The fire building at 266 Jericho Turnpike has been approved to start structural repairs. Floral Park hosted the required IDA public hearing for Centennial Holdings LLC at Village Hall on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the IDA board approved that resolution at their meeting this morning. The Village building permit has also been approved and construction is expected to start in January. Progress continues at the Tulip Avenue Pizza Bar and Hagen Daz locations.

#### **Pool and Recreation**

Our annual Recreation Center tree lighting was Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the multi-purpose rink. It was a great night with many residents and children enjoying the beautiful weather, with no rain, skating on the new multipurpose rink, hot chocolate, music, and of course a visit from Santa. Thank you to Superintendent Kurt Meyfohr and the entire park staff for all their hard work to make this night a fun, enjoyable one for our residents.

There are just a few days left to our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pool registration '12 Days of Christmas sale' which ends this week. You can purchase a Summer 2024 Pool Membership at 2023 prices. It makes a great family gift. These are available at the pool building tomorrow and Thursday from 9 AM to 6:30 PM and Friday from 9 AM-4:30 PM.

And some reminders: The park has started winter hours closings at 4:30 PM each day. Session II winter/spring 2024 registration will open Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the pool building. Senior program registration only will take place on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Open registration for all will be at 7 PM-9 PM that same day. Open registrations will continue each day from 9:30 AM-7:00 PM. Details and applications are available in the lobby at the information table and online at the Village website. Floral Park Little League registration for the 2024 season is now open and runs through January 7<sup>th</sup>. Details are available on the Floral Park Little League website at [www.floralparklittleleague.com](http://www.floralparklittleleague.com). The 2023 leisure passes will expire this month. It is time to renew and get your 2024 leisure pass which is required for our park facilities. However, if you have a *resident* pool pass from 2023, that is also considered your leisure pass and will not expire until June 2024.

#### **Town-Village Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC)**

There is no December meeting; the next meeting will be in January. If you want to make a noise complaint regarding air traffic, you can call 1-800-225-1071. You can also go to the Village website [www.fpvillage.org](http://www.fpvillage.org) which has the links under the TVASNAC noise complaint contact information page on our home page.

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to wish my fellow board members, Village staff and workers and our great residents a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Thank you for all you do and may 2024 be a blessed, healthy, and prosperous year.

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The Mayor re-opened the meeting for public session at 8:20 PM. At 8:29 PM Trustee Pombonyo motioned for the meeting to close, seconded by Trustee Chiara and carried unanimously.

Susan Walsh, Village Clerk