

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK
Board of Trustees Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:00 pm
Village Hall Courtroom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85601361954?pwd=QlpWQ2VoTEk3ZFpubGo3UFJpd2NjUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 0136 1954

Passcode: 259296

Dial +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Before the start of the regular Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:00 pm, Village Auditor Frank Faber presented an overview of the 2022/2023 fiscal year Financial Statements to the Village Board.

In attendance were Mayor Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo, Trustee Frank Chiara, Trustee Jennifer Stewart, Trustee Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator/Treasurer Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Village Attorney John Ryan, Deputy Treasurer Steve Arnone, Deputy Administrator Darlene Lanza and Supt. of Public Works Joseph O'Grady.

Questions were asked and answered. It was requested to have the previous years unassigned fund balance included for trending purposes only.

The meeting ended at 7:45 pm

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, Village Attorney John Ryan, Superintendent of Buildings Renee Marcus, Police Commissioner Steven McAllister and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works Joe O'Grady. Superintendent of Public Works Kevin Ginnane was excused.

The Village Board heard outgoing **Fire Chief Brian Hammerman's Annual Final Report** as follows:

Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald, Deputy Mayor Dr. Lynn Pombonyo, Trustee and Fire Commissioner Frank Chiara, Trustee Jennifer Stewart, Trustee Michael Longobardi, Chiefs, Officers, members of the department and guests.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this village as the Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department. I want to thank the department for all of the support given to me and the staff over the last five years and especially this past year. To my staff or should I say team, Bill, Eric, Gil and Sal thank you for everything that you do and your commitment and hard work, you guys made my year as Chief a good one. I wish you all the best going forward.

Membership

The department is comprised of 158 members with 127 Active members which includes Active, Ex-Chiefs, Honorary Chiefs and Probationary members.

Alarms

For the calendar year 2023 the department responded to a total of 1389 alarms. The breakdown is as follows: 818 EMS calls handled by NYU Langone, 201 EMS calls handled by the Floral Park Rescue Company, 158 Automatic Alarms, 46 Carbon Monoxide Alarms, 64 Mutual Aid call to other districts, 39 Natural Gas Leaks, 34 Auto Accidents with injuries and 7 fires including 2 significant and 5 minor.

Emergency Operation Command (EOC)

I would like to thank Ex-Chief Chuck Zuba and Ex-Chief Ken Fairben for all of their hard work and dedication maintaining the EOC during storms and other significant events.

Training

The department as a whole spent 2,456 hours on training. The training was performed either at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy or here in Floral Park. The training sum of the following areas. Department Operations, Essentials of Firefighting, Officer Training, Primary Courses, Fireground Communications, Building Construction, Hazmat Awareness, Assistant Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor 1, Thermal Imaging live fire training, Mayday Operations, Engine and Truck Operations and EMS Operations. I am happy to report that our new training facility was installed and opened this year for our department to utilize. This

facility will be of value for all members new and seasoned for years to come. The acquisition of this facility took a few years to bring to fruition. Special thanks Ex-Chief Mike Saville, Chief O'Connor and the entire Chief staff for the last five years and thank you also to the village board for supporting these efforts. The department also held a large-scale drill in conjunction with the LIRR, 1st Battalion Departments, Firecom, our Explorers and multiple EMS units. The scenario was a train into a car on the tracks with numerous victims. This was a big undertaking and together, the drill was planned, carried out and completed with great commitment and coordination that was impressive to all. Thanks to Chief O'Connor and the training committee and to everyone that participated.

Probationary Training

We have 8 Firematic and 3 EMS probies who either are receiving or have completed our inhouse training with our training committee. Thanks to Lt. Pat Conway and his committee.

Pump/Ladder/Hose Testing

Units 125,126 and 127 have all passed their annual pump test and all ladders and hose have been tested and certified. Thanks to Chief Luger for overseeing these tasks to completion.

PSS/Escapes Ropes-Five new members have completed and passed their initial training at our new facility. Thanks to Patty Luger and her committee.

Work Orders

34 vehicle and 12 house work orders were submitted.

Fire Prevention

Once again the department conducted its school inspections and poster contest. Several firehouse tours were held for various community groups. Thank you to Chief Lauria and the many volunteers who helped out.

Explorers

There are currently 15 members in our Explorer Post. They have participated in many areas of training such as CPR, Stop the Bleed, hands on firefighting at the Nassau County Fire Academy and others. They also have assisted our department in different activities throughout the year. They are a great bunch of young people. Thanks to Ex-Captain Larry Goerke and Ex- Chief John Florio Sr. and their committee.

Purchasing

34 purchase orders and 86 vouchers were processed. Thanks to Chief Luger who diligently worked on this throughout the year.

Medicals/Fit Testing

All department members have completed their annual medicals. The department also was fit tested with their assigned SCBA "Scott" masks. Special thanks to Chief Luger and LT. Dave Sparrow and the committee.

By-Laws

There were a few by-law changes that were approved this year regarding our Chief Staff and Officer driving qualifications to run for officer. Thanks to Jim Tangredi and his committee for their hard work and considerations in getting this done.

Parades

The department marched in our annual Memorial Day Parade which included our Color Guard, Band and a full complement of trucks. This event is always a favorite and leading the way was a great experience. Thanks to Chief Lauria, Ed Murray, the band and everyone that participated.

Radios

The department has obtained new high-band pagers which have been assigned to all members. We will officially be off Low-Band notifications as of May 1st.

Social Events

This year our ramp party was a great success and a good time was had by all. It is a well-deserved activity for our members and their families. I always say we get paid in good times.

Equipment

The departments fleet of vehicles consists of the following: 2019 Ferrara Igniter Pumper, 2002 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper, 1998 Spartan Saulsbury Pumper, Our NEW 1997 LTI 93' Mid Mount Aerial Platform, 1984 Mack Heavy Rescue Truck, 2015 Ford 450 Ambulance, 2023 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs vehicle, 2021 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs vehicle, two 2019 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs vehicles, 2017 Chevy Tahoe Chiefs vehicle, 2018 Ford Transit Passenger Van, 2003 Chevy Express Safety Van and a 1931 American LaFrance Antique.

Firehouse Improvements

Upgrades to computer systems and wi-fi were completed in all firehouses.

Service Award

I would like to especially thank the Village Board for supporting an increase to our service award and putting the proposition on the ballot which was then approved by a public vote. Our members appreciate the support of the board and the residents that supported us, thank you!

Over the last five years the department was met with a lot of challenges, some of these challenges were dealing with the Covid Pandemic, several substantial fires including the "Covert Avenue Fire", the transition to a BLS medical service and the addition of NYU Langone who was brought in to assist in dealing with our Ambulance Calls, a second hand ladder truck was purchased along with a few Chief vehicles, production of a new 126 pumper is being completed as we speak, we are hoping to see it delivered sometime this summer, all department records were computerized, kiosks were installed to account for member responses on calls and activities, we transitioned from "Red Alert" software service to "FRS" (which is just being competed), service award increases were approved, a committee was formed to continue to work with our service award going forward, Wi-fi has been upgraded in all of our fire houses and the initial stage of obtaining a new ladder truck is under way and all this while seeing a declining membership and spending countless hours trying to figure out a way to gain new members. These items coupled with the day to day calls, training, meetings and other activities make volunteering a serious undertaking.

I would like to thank Ex-Chief Patrick McAllister, Ex-Chief Michael Saville, Ex-Chief James Dodson and Ex-Chief Daniel Bennett together with Chief William Lauria, Chief Eric O'Connor, Chief Gil Luger, and of course my Chief when I joined the staff and now the Chief of Department Salvatore Arrigo. It has been like a roller coaster with ups and downs that stops once a year to let someone out and another on. Together, everyone stayed focused on making positive changes to this department and for our residents. With all seriousness involved we had a lot of fun and this is the only way to get through this, Thanks Guys! I wish incoming Chief Frederick Sangen the best of luck and leave him in good hands.

In closing I would like to thank the Village Board, the executive staff, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh (congratulations on your retirement), John Ryan our Village Attorney, Renee Marcus our Superintendent of Buildings, Darlene Lanza (congratulations on your well-deserved promotion), Lara and Steve. The Village Department of Public works Kevin G., Kevin P., Jimmy, Steve, Sal and all others for everything you do keeping our trucks running and our firehouses in good working order as well as helping us for all of our special events held throughout the year. You were always there for us and I personally thank all for your help throughout these past five years. Thank You to Police Commissioner Steve McAllister and the entire police department. Your support and professionalism has been appreciated and admired.

I would like to give special thanks to Assistant Secretary Frank Wakely, Department Secretary Joe O'Grady and Department Treasurer Carol Ragona. You did a tremendous job at a time where a lot of changes were taking place. Thank you so much for everything that you have done.

I welcome Patricia Luger to the office staff as our new Department Secretary. Thank you and good luck!

Before I get to my family, I would like to thank Captain Scott Ianello, Lt. Felix Ison and Lt. Salvatore Viola and the entire Reliance Engine Company (my extended family) for giving me the unwavering support that I needed to do this job. You guys (and girl) are the best!

I have saved the best for last, yes, my family. I thank my mom for her support, I think she will miss the car. My kids, Brian, Olivia and Jack, you were always there to support me, watching the food on the stove when I ran out, grabbing the dogs leashes when I ran out, finishing the laundry when I ran out (do you see a pattern?) and of course putting off conversations that I abruptly ended when I ran out only to return home when you were sleeping. My wife Maria. Well, we are not divorced, I left you sitting in almost every restaurant here in Floral Park to order the food, eat the food, pay for the food and yes, walk home with the food so I could eat when I got home.

Thanks for putting up with me for the last five years, I Thank You and I Love You! That's why we are going on vacation tomorrow morning. You deserve it!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the incoming Chiefs staff of the Floral Park Fire Department for 2024-25:

- From the Reliance Engine Company- Fourth Assistant Chief Frederick Sangen
- From the Alert Engine Company-Third Assistant Chief William Lauria
- From the Hook and Ladder Company-Second Assistant Chief Eric O'Connor
- From the Active Engine Company-First Assistant Chief Gil Luger

- From the Rescue Company-Chief of Department Salvatore Arrigo

Mayor Fitzgerald, I now ask to be relieved of my duties as Chief of the Floral Park Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hamerman
Chief of Department

Mayor Fitzgerald and the Board of Trustees offered their remarks to Chief Hamerman thanking him for his years of service, especially for the last five years in the capacity of Chief. They recognized the benefits his leadership, mentorship and guidance brought to the Floral Park Fire Department.

Immediately after the Swearing-In of the Fire Chiefs, the regular meeting started at 8:38 pm.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Mayor Fitzgerald announced the retirement of Village Clerk Susan Walsh. On behalf of the current and previous Board Members he thanked her for her time, energy, and commitment that she has devoted to the Village and the class she brought to every event held at the Village during her tenure. Wishing her good luck in retirement and expressing gratitude for her service, she was presented with a large bouquet of flowers.

Trustees expressed their Congratulations to Susan Walsh:

Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo

Susan, you are a Floral Park treasure. You know all there is to know about Floral Park, yet you are always learning more. You can do it all, and you make it all better with your expert knowledge and skills, and your extraordinary creative talents. All of this, combined with your love of Floral Park and your calling, makes our Village sparkle and shine. You have sprinkled your magic all around Floral Park for a lifetime. Susan, you are a bright star that makes us all better and will make Floral Park a great place to live, work and raise a family forever. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May God bless you always.

Trustee Frank Chiara

Thank you for always being there for the Residents of our Village, The Board and in particular for me. I know that I can be tardy in my email responses, but you have always been very understanding and gracious on asking me to get it done. You have also always assisted and helped me out in any way possible. I thank you for being you. One of the most fortunate parts of being a Trustee is building relationships with many really nice individuals. I want to thank you for being at the top of that list for me! Our residents, the Board and our entire community cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for this Village. Thank you and enjoy your retirement!

Trustee Jennifer Stewart

I have thought a lot about what I might say tonight to Susan Walsh on her retirement. My grandmother always told us not to say good-bye, but so long. Good bye is permanent and so long is temporary. I want to thank you for all you did for me when I came on board as a new trustee, you have been kind, patient, and a wealth of knowledge that you are always willing to share. So, tonight, I say so long and I will see you soon.

Trustee Michael Longobardi

Being the last Trustee to comment, there isn't much more that has not already been said so Ditto. Thank you, Susan for all your years of service to our great Village, all your hard work and dedication. You have taught me so much about the day to day working of the Village beginning with my years on the Chiefs staff in the Fire Department. When a few years later, I walked in as a new Trustee, you picked up where you left off showing me the ropes. Your tireless dedication to our Village and residents is second to none. You are part of why this Village continues to be a great place to live. I appreciate all your help and support along the way. Enjoy your much earned and well-deserved retirement. Start with a nice long vacation.

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, he asked Village Clerk to move the agenda as follows:

On motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following minutes:

- Re-Organization Meeting, held on Monday, April 1, 2024
- Blu Taxi Franchise Special Use Hearing, held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- Regular Board of Trustees Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- Local Law # 1 of 2024 Public Hearing, held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- Budget Hearing for 2024/25 Fiscal Year, held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Trustee Chiara offered Resolution No. 2024-71 to approve the Schedule of Accounts Payable as follows:

General Fund	\$ 876,958.21
Pool Fund	\$ 140.00
Capital Fund	\$ 160,772.83
Grand Total	\$ 1,037,871.04

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 the use of public facilities subject to receipt of certificate of insurance and sound device permit, if applies as presented below:

- Floral Park American Legion Post 334 to have their annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27, 2024 with their usual parade route and ending at Memorial Park where the memorial services will be held;
- Floral Park Bellerose Association of Girl Scouts to use Firefighters Hall on Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 6 pm to 9 pm to hold an Award Ceremony;
- Floral Park Knights age group 13-15 baseball league request to use Recreation Center baseball fields from April 12, 2024 through November 15, 2024 subject to coordination of Supt. of Recreation.
- OLV Mock Trial Club request to use the Village Courtroom on Thursdays May 16th and 23rd from 3PM to 4 PM.

Trustee Longobardi moved Resolution No. 2024-72 that the Incorporated Village of Floral Park consider adoption of proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2024 entitled: “A Local Law amending § 81-8 of the Code of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park”; that the Incorporated Village of Floral Park designate itself as lead agency for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York; and that a public hearing be held in the Incorporated Village of Floral Park at the Village Hall, One Floral Boulevard, Floral Park 11001 on the 21st day of May, 2024 at 8:00 o'clock in the evening of that day, at which time all interested persons shall be heard on the enactment of the proposed local law, and that the Village Clerk give notice of such hearing by publication thereof in The New Hyde Park Herald - Courier and by posting such notice on the bulletin board maintained by her for such purpose for at least five days prior to the date of the hearing.

The foregoing motion 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. 2024-73 to determine that proposed Local Law #2 of 2024 amending Section 81-8 of the Code regulating the chaining of bicycles on public property is an unlisted action as that term is defined in SEQRA and will not have a significant effect on the environment;

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 moved Resolution No. 2024-74 moved that the Incorporated Village of Floral Park consider adoption of proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2024 entitled: “A Local Law amending § 99-21.2 of the Code of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park to prohibit transient rentals of residential pools and yards”; that the Incorporated Village of Floral Park designate itself as lead agency for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York; and that a public hearing be held in the Incorporated Village of Floral Park at the Village Hall, One Floral Boulevard, Floral Park 11001 on the 21st day of May, 2024 at 8:00 o'clock in the evening of that day, at which time all interested persons shall be heard on the enactment of the proposed local law, and that the Village Clerk give notice of such hearing by publication thereof in The New Hyde Park Herald - Courier and by posting such notice on the bulletin board maintained by her for such purpose for at least five days prior to the date of the hearing.

The foregoing motion 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. 2024-75 to determine that proposed Local Law #3 of 2024 amending Section 99-21.2 of the code to prohibit transient rentals of residential pools and backyards is an unlisted 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. 2024-76 to adopt Local Law #1 of 2024 which authorizes the Village to override the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law Section 3-c which this year is 2.45% for fiscal year commencing 2024.

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. 2024-77 to adopt the 2024/25 Tentative Budget as presented at the Budget Public Hearing held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024;

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. 2024-78 to proclaim and designate April 26, 2024 as Arbor Day. The Village of Floral Park takes great pride in its rich forestry program and beautiful tree canopy throughout the Village and in its active Shade Tree Board and Department. Floral Park has earned the designation of Tree City USA for 27 consecutive years, and the Village has planted a 6-inch caliper October Glory Tree (Red Maple) in Veterans Memorial Park in addition to DPW planting over 300 new trees throughout the village during 2023.

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. 2024-79 to determine the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$330,000 for the construction of a concrete walkway connecting Tulip Ave and the Spur Lot is a Type II action as that term is defined in SEQRA 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. 2024-80 to authorize the issuance of bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$330,000 to finance the construction of a concrete walkway connecting Tulip Ave to the Spur Parking Lot.

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 the following resolutions authorizing the Village to enter into the following Agreements / Contracts:

- a. Resolution No. 2024-81 to award the Tulip Avenue Pedestrian Walkway Bid to the lowest bidder, Roadwork Ahead, in the base bid amount of \$127,220 and Alternates #2, and #3 for the total award of \$177,745 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said Contract;
- b. Resolution No. 2024-82 to approve the Host Community Benefits Agreement between the Village of Floral Park and The Hillcrest of Floral Park, LLC owner of property located 41-61 Covert Avenue, also known as Section 32, Block 270, Lots 164, 166, 170, 167D, 167E, 168A, 168B, 162, 165, 161, 160, and 163 whereas the Hillcrest of Floral Park, LLC intends to construct, furnish, equip, and operate a 2-story plus cellar over parking mixed-used building with 12 residential apartments over approximately 6 retail units agrees to make certain payments to the Village in the amounts and in the manner provided in a Host Community Benefits Agreement; and authorize the Mayor to execute the Host Community Benefits Agreement on behalf of the Village of Floral Park;
- c. Resolution No. 2024-83 to approve the proposal of Commercial Clearwater Company for their pool startup services and annual service contract in the amount of \$6,800.00 and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said proposal;
- d. Resolution No. 2024-84 to approve the Intermunicipal Cooperative Shared Service Agreement for Recycling Services between the Village of New Hyde Park and the Village of Floral Park for use of Mayflower Yard and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said agreement;
- e. Resolution No. 2024-85 to ratify the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Village of Floral Park CSEA Supervisors Unit for a term of three years from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2027;
- f. Resolution No. 2024-86 to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement for Gasoline Services between the Village of Ocean Beach and the Village of Floral Park and authorize the Mayor or Village Administrator to sign said agreement;

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 a motion by Trustee Chiara, seconded by Trustee Stewart and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following block party application in accordance with Section 32-12D of the Village Code and if applies, a certificate of insurance and sound device permit fee:

On	Between	Date
Raff Ave	Willow and Carnation	Saturday 5/18/24 (RD: 5/19/24)

Trustee Stewart offered Resolution No. 2024-87 to adopt the presented personnel actions:

- a. Authorize to hire Eric Moskowitz as part-time parking meter enforcement in the police department at the contractual hourly rate of \$18.05 subject to medical/drug/alcohol screenings and Nassau County Civil Service Commission approval;
- b. Authorize to hire Sarah Molnar as a part-time school crossing guard in the police department at the contractual hourly rate of \$18.05 subject to medical/drug/alcohol screenings and Nassau County Civil Service Commission approval;
- c. Authorize to hire Marissa Linsalata as full-time laborer in the public works department at the contractual rate of \$40,245.00 subject to medical/drug/alcohol screenings and Nassau County Civil Service Commission approval;
- d. Authorize to hire Gregg Hazell as full-time motor equipment operator in the public works department at the contractual rate of \$46,953.00 subject to medical/drug/alcohol screenings and Nassau County Civil Service Commission approval;

- e. Accept the letter of retirement from Karyne Calamari, office clerk, in the justice court office after 21 years of service effective April 27, 2024;
- f. Accept the letter of retirement from Susan Walsh, Village Clerk after 24 ½ years of service with the Village effective April 27, 2024;
- g. Appoint Joseph O’Grady, currently the Deputy Superintendent of Public Works, to fill the unexpired term of Village Clerk at the annual rate of pay of \$95,000.00 effective April 27, 2024;
- h. Appoint Julie Choy, as an Account Clerk in the Accounting Department, provisionally at the contractual rate \$46,953.00 subject to medical/drug alcohol screenings and the approval of Nassau County Civil Service Commission;

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

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

Trustee Longobardi offered Resolution No. 2024-88 to permit restaurants and/or food use businesses to lease public parking spaces and/or limited sidewalk spaces for outdoor dining upon such terms and conditions established by the Building Department from May 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

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 the following resolutions authorizing tax certiorari settlements:

- a) Resolution No. 2024-89 to approve the tax certiorari settlement of Frosinone Development Corp. for property located at 25-23 Covert Avenue known as Section 32, Block 269 and Lots 32-36; 37-42 in the lump sum amount of \$36,000.00 for tax years 2012/2013 through 2019/20 and agree that the assessment will be reduced to \$120,000 for 2019/2020;
- b) Resolution No. 2024-90 to approve the tax certiorari settlement of Holland Realty Corp for property located at 227 Jericho Turnpike known as Section 8 Block 59 and Lots 146 & 151 in the lump sum amount of \$33,000 for tax years 2012/13 through 2018/19 and agree to reduce the assessed valuation to \$75,000 for tax years 2019/20 through 2021/22 and to amend the property tax bill for said years to reflect said reduction in assessment and to issue a refund for overpayment of original tax bill, if any;
- c) Resolution No. 2024-91 to approve the tax certiorari settlement of MSD LLC for property located at 171 Tulip Avenue known as Section 32, Block 118 and Lot 411 in the lump sum amount of \$70,000 for tax years 2010/11 through 2019/20 tax years and agree to reduce the assessment to \$100,000 for tax year of 2019/20;

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. 2024-92 to authorize the payment of \$4,434.40 to the New Hyde Park Fire District for the reimbursement of foam supplies used at the fire located at 266 Jericho Turnpike on April 18, 2023.

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. 2024-93 to authorize the following budget transfers for Public Works & the Recreation Department.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Amount	From		To		Amount
\$2,450.00	5650.0200	Equipment	7110.0450	Building Repairs	\$2,450.00
\$15,000	8560.0435	Contracted Services	5182.0417	Street Lighting	\$15,000
\$3,000.00	5110.0200	Equipment	5182.0417	Street Lighting	\$3,000.00
\$3,000.00	1620.0406	Building Supplies	1640.0406	Supplies Garage	\$3,000.00
\$35,000.00	5110.0458	Road Material & Repairs	5110.0402	Road Materials and Repairs	\$35,000.00
\$3,000.00	8560.0406	Tree Supplies	8540.043	Professional Services	\$3,000.00
\$61,450.00	Total		Total		\$61,450.00

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Amount	From		To		Amount
\$89,000.00	7310.0001.0000	General Fund Youth Personal Services	7410.0001.0000	General Fund-Culture & Rec Personal Services	\$89,000.00
\$1,200.00	7140.0401.0000	Gasoline and Oil	7140.0406.0000	Supplies	\$3,500.00
\$2,800.00	7140.0401.0000	Paint Supplies	7140.0415.0000	Special Activities	\$2,000.00
\$13,122.00	7140.0416.0000	Electricity and Gas	7140.0427.0000	Referee / Instructors	\$9,750.00
\$2,000.00	7140.0455.0000	Repairs to Equipment	7140.435.0000	Contractual Expense	\$410.00
\$850.00	7140.0480.0000	Conference and Association	7140.0440.0000	Planting and Spraying	\$465.00
\$363.00	7140.0460.0000	Repairs to Truck	714.0451.0000	Field Maintenance	\$750.00
			7140.0419.0000	Water	\$2,221.00
			7140.0405.0000	Gardens	\$1,229.00
\$20,335.00	Total		Total		\$20,325.00

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

Deputy Mayor Lynn Pombonyo

Police Department

Our Police Department continues its excellent policing, and service to our schools and community.

On a Friday night in early April, an individual barricaded himself in a building on Jericho Turnpike in Bellerose Terrace. The Nassau County Police quickly took control of the situation with many of its resources including special operations and the County helicopter. NCPD continuously contained the situation at the Bellerose Terrace location.

Throughout the evening, our up-to-date FPPD radio system enabled our Police leadership and Officers to remain in contact with NCPD and monitor that Department's communications, as Lieutenant William Doherty remained in direct contact with his NCPD counterpart.

Simultaneously, special events involving many of our students and families were taking place at the Floral Park-Bellerose School and Village Hall. Although the NCPD activities remained contained, FPPD patrols, working with Sergeant Brian Naughton, monitored the school area and tunnel, as well as Village Hall.

The night ended safely as NCPD captured and arrested the perpetrator, and all remained safe throughout. We thank Commissioner Stephen McAllister, Lieutenant Doherty, and our Officers for their vigilance and ongoing, precise communications with NCPD, the Floral Park-Bellerose School District Administration, and the Village Board.

Other recent policing activities have included the FPPD Motor Carrier (or truck) Detail. March's morning of truck inspections along Plainfield Avenue were conducted by Sergeant Naughton and Officer Christie Softy. A total of six inspections was conducted, and 46 VTL violations were issued. Two vehicles were towed for safety violations (improper load securement, tire violations and unsecured hazardous materials). A third truck was impounded because the registration was expired, the driver had a revoked license, and the truck had two unsafe tires. Throughout the inspections, the Officers reported that many local residents expressed great appreciation for their presence in the area and for FPPD's attention to the truck traffic on Plainfield Avenue.

On a recent Superintendent's Conference Day in the Floral Park-Bellerose Schools, two of our American College of Surgeons/Stop the Bleed instructors, FPPD Lieutenant Doherty and Detective Christopher Timm, conducted the program for over fifty School District employees. Teacher aids, clerical, custodial and cafeteria staff, and bus drivers participated in this life-saving Stop the Bleed training.

On Saturday, April 27th, the FPPD will once again sponsor the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Between 10 AM and 2 PM, you are encouraged to drop off your unused and expired prescription drugs at FPPD Headquarters (at the corner of Village Hall). A Police Officer and Floral Park Lions Club representatives will be there to assist you and distribute helpful wellness materials. It is dangerous to keep unused prescription drugs in your home. Please keep your family and friends safe by participating in Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27th.

Conservation Society and Centennial Gardens

For the third consecutive year, Floral Park's Centennial Gardens and Bird Sanctuary has been nominated as the Best Public Garden of Nassau County (now for 2024) by Blank Slate Media and our Herald Courier newspaper. Our Centennial Gardens has won this prestigious award in 2022 and 2023.

Let's do it again in 2024 by going to: theisland360.com/contest2024. At the Best of Nassau County site, look for the first category, Arts & Entertainment, then Public Garden. You'll see our Centennial Gardens and Bird Sanctuary listed, then vote. And you can do it daily, so please vote again and again for our precious Gardens up until May 24th.

Visit the Gardens often too, and see why we are the Best Public Garden of Nassau County for the past two years!

Chambers of Commerce and Our Businesses

It's a busy time of year as our Floral Park and Covert Avenue Chambers of Commerce have welcomed new businesses to Floral Park and Stewart Manor, as well as new Chamber members.

All businesses are invited to join Chamber meetings, but be sure to register first.

The Covert Avenue Chamber will meet at BC Bistro on Jericho Turnpike on Tuesday, April 23rd at 7 PM. The guest speakers will be Warren Hance and Kate Tuffy of the Emma, Alyson and Kate Hance Family Foundation. This important, local nonprofit organization promotes self-esteem and confidence building for girls and women of all ages with its renowned Beautiful Me program. The annual Hance Family Fun Day and 5K Run/Walk Races will take place on Saturday, May 18th. See the meeting details at: covertavenuechamber.org

The Floral Park Chamber next meets at Cara Mia on Tulip Avenue on Thursday, May 2nd at 6 PM. Network with our business owners and learn about all the exciting opportunities in our Village. Register at: floralparkchamber.org

Enjoy the spring sunshine, and SHOP AND DINE LOCAL, especially at our new businesses, right here in Floral Park and Stewart Manor!

Trustee Frank Chiara

Library

We are half way through April and there are lots of planned activities and events taking place in our Floral Park Library:

- On Friday, April 19th, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM the library is hosting a Teen Pop Up: Taylor Swift Album Release Party. This event will be held in the teen space to celebrate the release of Swift's latest album, "The Tortured Poets Department". Teens are invited to listen to the album with friends while making some on brand Swiftie swag.
- On Thursday, April 25th from 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM a representative from the Charles Evans Center Community Mental Health Promotion and Support Team will be at the library to provide a variety of health and wellness information to interested parties.
- On Friday, April 26th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM the library is having a shredding event with Shred Away, Inc. You can shred up to a 5-box maximum.
- On Saturday, April 27th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM the Friends of The Library will be hosting its 4th Annual Lawn Sale. Stop by and enjoy some treasure hunting to find some unique hidden gems. There will be something there for everyone.

Details on these and other scheduled events can be found on the library's website at www.floralparklibrary.org.

Blank Slate Media is conducting its 10th Annual Contest of "Best of Nassau County" for 2024. Our Village of Floral Park Library has been voted the "Best" for 3 years in a row. We are going for number 4! To vote you can go on the Library's Website at www.floralparklibrary.org and click on the display banner to register your vote. You can also go to www.theisland360.com/contest2024 to place a vote for our library and for other Floral Park treasures. You can vote daily to make it happen for the 4th year.

Fire Department

Tonight, we had the honor of hearing Chief Brian Hamerman's final Floral Park Fire Department report as the Chief of the Department. He reported that the Fire Department is in good standing with 158 volunteer members. This year, the Department responded to 1,389 incidents. The Volunteer Members dedicated 2,456 hours to training in preparation for a variety of incidents they may face. Our Fire Department is ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Chief Hamerman during his tenure was able to have the LOSAP contributions increased to the current max, benefiting its members and very importantly, encouraging more individuals to volunteer. He moved to have a new training center built and with the assistance of his staff, he was successful.

He performed honorably as the leader of the Department. His positive, professional, and self-assured demeanor made it easy for the members to have confidence in his ability to lead the Department.

His volunteer service to our community dates back 23 years. Chief Hamerman is a volunteer firefighter, a leader, a mentor and a friend to many in the Department. He is a perfect example of what it is to be a volunteer, serving and giving back to his community.

Thank You Chief Hamerman and also a special thanks to his family for supporting him while he volunteered his service to our Village.

Tonight, the new Fire Chief Staff was sworn in:

- Chief of the Department Salvatore Arrigo
- 1st Assistant Chief Gilbert Luger
- 2nd Assistant Chief Eric O'Conner
- 3rd Assistant Chief William Lauria
- 4th Assistant Chief Fredrick Sangen

Congratulations to our new Chiefs. We wish them all the best and a safe tenure.

Trustee Jennifer Stewart

Thank you to the Floral Park Little League for inviting us to participate in the Little League Parade and Festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who make our Little League such a wonderful place for our children to grow and play ball. Well done to fellow Trustee Mike Longobardi for his perfect ceremonial first pitch! I wish all players, coaches, Board members, and parents a wonderful season.

4VS

The one show I would like to highlight this week is the Community Spotlight. Our neighbors to the West, Bellerose Village are celebrating their Centennial Anniversary this year and 4VS diligently put together a wonderful testimonial. I encourage all of you to watch and wish them a Happy Centennial Anniversary.

DPW

Our beautiful veteran banners are being hung along Tulip Avenue, South Tyson and Elizabeth Streets, with the remainder to be hung prior to our Memorial Day Celebrations. A big thank you to Village Clerk Susan Walsh for all her work on this amazing project.

Additionally, all Village buildings have been cleaned and maintained, and the Village Hall bathroom is being refurbished. Our **Sanitation Crews** collected 65 tons of household waste, 8 tons of paper, 5 tons of plastics and glass as well as 14 tons of bulk rubbish. The **Highway Department** has swept all roads, filled pot holes on the south side and Remsen sections, milled and paved the Stewart Street/Terrace Avenue cut-through; all snow equipment has been cleaned and thankfully stored for the season. The **Parks Department** is continuing to clean up all Village Parks; a beautification project has begun in the Woodbine Parking Lot, and the three flags have been replaced at Centennial Gardens.

This past Wednesday, the Board met at Memorial Park to celebrate Arbor Day 2024 with a ceremonial planting of a beautiful Red Maple near the Plainfield Avenue and Tulip Avenue intersection.

As you heard as we moved the agenda, the Village has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the CSEA Supervisors Unit through May of 2027.

LIRR/MTA

Yesterday, the LIRR/MTA informed the Village that there will be no train service between Floral Park and Hempstead for the weekends of April 20th and 21st as well as April 27th and 28th. We expect some trains to be idling in and around the Floral Park Station. As always, please reach out to the MTA/LIRR at MTA.info with questions and concerns.

Trustee Michael Longobardi

Building Department

Construction continues at the former Centennial Hall site as the walls and supports have started to rise. Projected timeline for the project is approximately 12 months. Permits are issued and construction is expected to start on the Covert Avenue fire property pending the IDA the Mayor outlined tonight. The Architectural Review Board held a meeting on March 27th to review the aesthetics of the proposed houses at the subdivision at 32 Orchid. Since the plans are all within code requirements and the developers were receptive to the changes the board proposed to help blend it with the character of our village, the subdivision has been approved. The next meeting of the Architectural Review Board will be Wednesday at 8 PM at the pool building. Among the applications will be the proposed restaurant at 99 Covert Avenue and a review of some basic modifications to the plan.

If you are planning any construction or renovations to your commercial or residential property, please reach out to the building department for help and guidance. They have a wealth of knowledge and information on building code requirements and safety factors, which are an extremely important part of any of your renovation or improvement undertaking.

Recreation and Pool

Little League is open. This past Saturday, our little leaguers along with coaches and family marched through town to the recreation center for the Opening Day Parade and Ceremony starting our 2024 little league season. While the weather did not fully cooperate, it was a great opening day and great to see so many turn out for a fun family event. I had the honor of throwing out the first pitch to open the season; thank you for that. Thank you to the American Legion color guard for leading the parade, Floral Park Fire Department for participating, Floral Park Police Department for organizing and securing the parade route and, most important, the league board and coaches for all their tireless dedication to the kids and little league to make the parade and season happen every year.

This week the annual summer recreation booklet 2024 has been published. This book has a list of everything from summer programs at the park, to pool information, registration forms, special event nights at the pool, calendars and more. The book is available on the Village website at fpvillage.org, in the pool building lobby, and it has been posted on various social media pages. There is a QR code you can scan to have full access to the book. The pool building is open 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday to Friday for information and registration.

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

The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday May 20, 2024 at Hempstead Town Hall, One Washington Street, Hempstead. 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 at fpvillage.org which has the links under the TVASNAC Noise Complaint Contact Information Page on our home page.

Mayor Kevin Fitzgerald

As a response to the approval of the Host Community Benefits Agreement between the Village of Floral Park and The Hillcrest of Floral Park LLC (owner of property located at 41-61 Covert Avenue) Mayor Fitzgerald made the following announcement:

As previously reported, the owner of the Covert Avenue fire property, The Hillcrest of Floral Park LLC, received the Nassau County approvals required in order for the Village to issue the building permits. We look forward to this project getting under way and, most importantly, we look forward to its completion which will be a positive addition to the Village for years to come.

Several weeks ago, the Village was informed that The Hillcrest of Floral Park LLC would seek financial assistance in connection with their financing of the project through the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency (IDA). Financial assistance through the Town of Hempstead IDA involves granting the owner relief from sales taxes and building materials and also involves Payments-in-Lieu-of Taxes (PILOTs) in place of the payments of real property taxes by the owner.

There is limited ability by local governments within these laws, such as the Village, to oppose granting tax benefits by the IDA to the property owner. Nonetheless, the Village Board, administration and the special counsel that the Village hired for this matter (Spellman, Gibbons, Pollizi, Truncala & Trentacoste, LLP) worked over the last several weeks to secure a Host Community Benefits Agreement to protect the revenue for the Village that could be anticipated from this project and which will be necessary to pay for the property owner's fair share of Village services going forward.

Under this proposed Agreement, in addition to the PILOT payments that the Village will receive from the Town of Hempstead IDA, we will receive payments directly from the property owner. These combined payments will roughly equal over the term of the PILOT the Village tax payments projected for this property. In this way, under the Host Community Benefits Agreement, this project can move forward towards completion while, at the same time, this development will bear its fair share of the costs for essential services it receives from the Village.

While there may be some debate as to the positive and negative aspects of these IDA projects on the larger county-wide level, in the Village Board's opinion there is very little question that, for the community in which the IDA project is located, there are very real costs for providing essential services to the development.

The Town of Hempstead IDA will be holding a hearing at the Floral Park Village Hall to take comments on The Hillcrest of Floral Park LLC's IDA Application as a whole on April 30th at 10:00 am.

This afternoon I reached out to NYRA on behalf of the Northend Civic Association and the NYRA Director of Community Affairs will be at the Northend Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024. I also reached out the President of the Westend Civic Association who will send an email out to his members reminding them of the event. I'm sure NYRA will be back many times over the next couple of years to update the community of what is going on with the track. I also wanted to mention that demolition of the Grand Stand did begin.

At 9:17 pm on motion by Trustee Pombonyo, seconded by Trustee Chiara, and carried unanimously, the Board closed the business meeting and opened to the public.

The Mayor re-opened the meeting for public session at 9:40 pm. At 9:45 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 Michael Longobardi, Village Administrator Gerry Bambrick, Village Clerk Susan Walsh, Village Attorney John Ryan, Supt. of Buildings Renee Marcus, Commissioner Stephen McAllister and Deputy Supt. of Public Works Joe O'Grady. Supt. of Public Works Kevin Ginnane was excused.

The Board discussed personnel and litigation matters.

At 12:06 pm Trustee Stewart motioned to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Trustee Longobardi and carried unanimously. No action was taken.

The meeting ended at 12:10 am.

Susan Walsh,
Village Clerk