

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 19, 2019**

**Present:** Mayor Montreuil  
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino  
Trustee Coppola  
Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department  
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Janet Bevers, Research Assistant to the Board  
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

**Absent:** Trustee Pallisco  
Trustee Burger

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:01 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Montreuil.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from December 5, 2019 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

**License Renewals for Carters: Approved**

ACA Waste Services, Inc. – 40 Eads Street, W. Babylon  
AM Waste Services, Inc. – 40 Eads Street, W. Babylon  
Daniel Finley Allen – 114 Sylvester Street, Westbury  
Eagle Sanitation – P.O. Box # 298, Woodbury  
Jamaica Ash & Rubbish Removal – 172 School Street, Westbury  
Jet Sanitation Service – 228 Blydenburgh Road, Islandia  
Prestige Custom Builders / Scherillo & Sons Construction – 7 Pumpkin Street, East Northport  
R & C Rubbish Removal – 10 Marconi Blvd, Copiague  
Millennium Container – P.O. Box 7444, Wantagh  
National Waste Services – 1863 Harrison Avenue, Bay Shore

**License renewals for Restaurant: Approved**

Umberto's Restaurant – 633 Jericho Turnpike  
Wong's Garden – 1203 Jericho Turnpike

**License renewals for Tow Car Owner: Approved**

Nuzzi Auto Collision – 77 Jericho Turnpike

## **Tr. Coppola:**

### **Fire Department**

- For the month of October there have been 37 fire calls and 48 rescue calls
- For the month of November there have been 52 fire calls and 38 rescue calls
- There have been 1,960 total fire calls to date in 2019
- Christmas tree safety is very important during the holiday season. Keep trees watered, away from fireplaces, and frayed lights to avoid a fire incident
- Elections were held at the NHP Fire Department on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Patrick Lyons was elected to Chief of Department and Reid Sakowich to Fire Commissioner

### **Nassau County Police**

Spoke with Sargent Gozaloff regarding the double parking on S 12th Street by the LIRR in the mornings. There is a crew onsite around S 12<sup>th</sup> Street to enforce traffic. The Sargent recommended the Village places 'No Standing Signs' on the kiosks which may help with morning traffic.

## **Tr. Pallisco: Absent. In his absence Mayor Montreuil provided the following report.**

### **Beautification Committee**

- Tree Lighting took place on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The New Hyde Park Memorial High School Band and Chamber singers performed. There was also a visit from Santa and a Magic show for the children.
- The Mayor thanked Tr. Pallisco and DPW for decorating Village Hall, as well as the Fire Department for helping with the installation of the snowflake lights on Jericho Turnpike. This year's generous donation from the New Hyde Park Lions Club and The Greater New Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce helped with purchasing additional snowflake lights.
- Beginning Monday, Christmas music will be playing on Jericho Turnpike.
- Tr. Coppola added that donations were received from Annic Estates and Joe Palazzolo for new Christmas Lights and Snowflakes

## **Tr. Burger: Absent. In his absence Mayor Montreuil provided the following report.**

### **LIRR**

3TC will be making a detailed presentation following the Trustee reports, especially as it relates to New Hyde Park Road.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridges opened week of November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Stairwells on Covert Avenue opened on/about December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Fencing, curbing and façade wall continues to be worked on
- The punch list items are still being worked on
- Weekly calls continue with 3TC as well as unscheduled calls when issues arise
- Landscaping was started but at the request of the Village Board it was halted as it is not the proper planting season. A Landscaping Plan from 3TC was given to the Board for review. It will be returned to 3TC before planting resumes.
- Temporary platforms are still under construction west of S 12<sup>th</sup> Street
- The Village Board is working with 3TC to scout alternate parking locations

- An agreement was reached with World Courier for the use of their parking lot on the corner of S 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The 18 spots in the lot will be used for ‘R’ parking and in turn 18 spots in the resident parking lot will be blocked off for World Courier usage.
- There has been no activity on the new electrical substation

**Water Authority**

Tr. Burger attended the Water Authority Board Meeting December 16<sup>th</sup>. Station 57 Rehabilitation Project was discussed with work scheduled to begin in 2020. The project will cost an estimated \$15 million.

**Veterans Affairs**

American Legion Post #1089 is looking for new membership. Their members are aging and the Post is seeking new members.

**Tr. Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk’s Office**

Coin Meter Collection	\$11,493.06
IPS Vouchers for November 2019	\$18,480.00
Muni-meter Revenue	\$117.45
Parking Permits	\$24,150.00
2019/2020 Taxes Paid	\$1,150.29
Interest Penalties Paid	\$105.52
Building Permits	\$8,274.86
Camp Expense Reimbursement (TONH)	\$2,000.00 (pending)

**Library**

Upcoming Programs:

Baking Sweater Cookies (for children 1-4 grade) on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm

Toy Story is showing on December 27<sup>th</sup>

Tai Chi classes are offered from January until April 2020

A muni-meter will be installed in the Central Boulevard parking lot, across the street from Village Hall.

**Mayor Montreuil:**

The muni-meters have been live since December 9<sup>th</sup>. The vouchers are still being used but the muni-meters will be replacing the vouchers in the near future. Commuters can pay at the muni-meter or over their phone using the flowbird app. Tr. Squicciarino added that the muni-meter system is the same one used in Mineola. Code Enforcement Officers will be getting hand-held tablets to make it easier for them to issue tickets for commuters using the new meters. Residents can still use the ‘R’ parking permit to park in all resident parking lots.

The Harley Davidson Special Use Hearing was held November 21<sup>st</sup>. The comment period is still open until December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Send your comments to the Village Clerk in order for your concerns to be addressed in the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available for viewing on the Village website. At a meeting the previous night, the Board met to discuss its concerns regarding the DEIS.

Mayor Montreuil reported receipt of the Auditor's report. A meeting will be scheduled in early February 2020 for the Village Auditor to present the audit findings.

Tr. Squicciarino reported that the Village received a \$40K grant to build a master plan for downtown revitalization.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**19-67 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-15**

**19-68 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES (INSURANCE RECOVERY)**

**19-69 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**19-70 A RESOLUTION TO PLACE STOP SIGNS ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE AT SOUTH 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**19-71 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DPW/BUILDING SUPT. TO PURCHASE 2019 INTERNATIONAL CV TRUCK**

**New Business:**

There was none

**Old Business:**

Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided

Mayor Montreuil reported that on Friday night, December 13<sup>th</sup> around 5 pm, traffic backed up on New Hyde Park Road. Only one lane was opened going southbound. Tr. Burger and Mayor Montreuil investigated and reported it to 3TC. Travis Brennan, Director of Public Outreach, met Tr. Burger at 10 pm that evening on New Hyde Park Road. Mr. Brennan mobilized 3TC to come and fix the problem. It was discovered that the cones separating the lanes were moved blocking one of the southbound lanes creating the traffic problem. While on site 3TC also repainted some striping and filled in potholes.

The topics discussed with 3TC have been in regards to the New Hyde Park Road crossing schedule. There have been issues with the closing of Covert Avenue and since New Hyde Park Road is a more traveled road the issues will intensify. That is the reason the Village Board has been adamant that 3TC stick with the original plan to keep 2 bypass lanes open during the construction project. 3TC will explain during their presentation why that might not be feasible. The new station was supposed to be completed in 2022 but the schedule was moved up to be completed in 2020. Therefore the Village Board invited 3TC to present their upcoming plans. Mayor Montreuil introduced Travis Brennan.

**3TC Presentation:**

Travis Brennan gave a detailed presentation on the upcoming 2020 project and revealed the milestones of 2019. He spoke about:

- LIRR expansion project and the benefits when completed
- 2019 major milestones video
- New Hyde Park LIRR station enhancements and the New Hyde Park Road grade crossing elimination
- Covert Avenue grade crossing elimination completion
- New Hyde Park Road 2020 construction schedule and proposed full closure: New Hyde Park Road will be closed for 7 months from Plaza Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Improved traffic flow during construction and traffic detour plan

- Temporary platforms and pedestrian detour
- Temporary commuter parking

Tr. Burger arrived at the meeting at 8.35 pm.

### **Public Participation:**

Resident Sam Khoury questioned if Plaza Avenue westbound toward Herkomer Street will stay open when construction starts on New Hyde Park Road. Mr. Brennan explained that it will be the same as it exists today, for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Mr. Khoury expressed concern that with New Hyde Park closing S 12<sup>th</sup> Street will become more congested and wanted to know if there will be traffic cops present during peak hours on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues and S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Brennan commented that 3TC is working with the Village Board and 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct to make that possible.

Resident Diane Bentivegna commented that she relayed her concerns regarding the project and has never heard back from 3TC. She would like better information provided and a better mitigation plan than what was given during the Covert Avenue construction. She commented that neighbors couldn't leave their driveways or pick up their children in school because of the poor planning on 3TC's part. She is concerned that if New Hyde Park Road closes those incidents will be repeated. Mr. Brennan commented that those issues occurred not because of the construction on Covert Avenue but because of problems on the LIRR. With the grade crossings being down traffic backed up and that was the reason people were unable to leave their driveways. Once the grade crossing at New Hyde Park Road is eliminated those incidents will not be happening.

Ms. Bentivegna was also concerned that 3TC's Traffic Mitigation Plan has the majority of truck traffic directed to Covert Avenue which will only increase the traffic problems that already exist. She asked what are the mitigation strategies that 3TC is going to make to assure residents that S 12<sup>th</sup> Street does not become a highway. 3TC is working with the Village to place signage so that drivers are aware when entering the area. They will install 8 VMS boards as far south as Hempstead Turnpike and as far north as the Long Island Expressway (LIE). Regionalized signage as far as Queens and local signage with the help of the Village Board, informing drivers to leave the area if it's not crucial for them to be there.

- Mayor Montreuil added that mitigations for S 12<sup>th</sup> Street are going to be difficult, whether leaving it as is and doing nothing or closing it to traffic, in which case all traffic would be pushed over onto Covert Avenue. The Village Board is planning to put up signage directing drivers toward Nassau Boulevard. The Mayor also informed the residents that speed bumps were purchased and will be installed from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the rail road tracks on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, not to control speed but to discourage people from using the area as well as residential streets.
- Mayor Montreuil also commented that routing trucks onto Covert Avenue will create uncontrollable traffic so trucks should be routed to Nassau Boulevard, as well as utilizing Denton Avenue for car traffic. The Village Board is proposing a temporary light at Denton Avenue to control the traffic. This would alleviate the heavy traffic on Covert Avenue once construction starts.
- Tr. Burger added that New Hyde Park Road is used by many as a through road and the Village Board has asked 3TC and the MTA to cast a wider net to push traffic away from the area. The plan is to get signs out onto the LIE and Hempstead Turnpike, utilize 1010WINS to inform drivers to stay out of the area. He addressed Ms. Bentivegna that if there are any LIRR issues and the gates are down for an extended period of time, S 12<sup>th</sup> Street will be a problem but at least Covert Avenue can be utilized.
- Mayor Montreuil added that trucks turning from Covert Avenue onto Jericho Turnpike will have issues because of the tight turning radius. That is another reason to keep trucks off Covert Avenue and push them west or east.

Resident Michael Morrissey asked why the project was originally presented with a bypass road which has now been changed. Closing New Hyde Park Road will only make the traffic on Covert Avenue worse. There is a lot of congestion there every morning and it will become a parking lot when construction begins. He was also concerned and asked what the 20 feet deep holes, 4 feet apart, are for. Mr. Brennan explained that they are being dug as support for the sound and retaining walls.

Resident Rosemary Hudson asked if New Hyde Park Road was going to be an underpass and if it was going to be wider than Covert Avenue. Mr. Brennan explained that it will be 5 lanes, two southbound, two northbound and one turning lane onto Clinch Avenue. He explained that the underpass is narrow on Covert Avenue because in order to make it wider, 3TC and the LIRR would have had to demolish the homes on the south side of Covert Avenue so that the underpass could be built wider.

Ms. Hudson also asked what could be done about the truck traffic on Jericho Turnpike to discourage trucks to turn down Covert Avenue. And if so then what if Garden City doesn't allow through traffic on their roads. Mr. Brennan explained that 3TC works with multiple villages and towns to figure out traffic plans. If Garden City doesn't allow it then through traffic will have to be pushed out further away from New Hyde Park.

Sam Khoury asked if 3TC would be paying for overtime of Police Officers that would be placed to direct traffic during peak hours. Mr. Brennan explained that if the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct designates Officers to the area for that reason, 3TC is prepared to pay for their overtime.

Ms. Bentivegna is concerned what will happen if the Police Department or the MTA doesn't provide Officers for the area. Mr. Brennan encouraged her and all residents to voice their concerns to 3TC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and MTA if designated Officers are not sent to the area.

Mr. Khoury wanted to know if South Park Place will remain as it is today because people do enter the one-way street from the wrong direction and when New Hyde Park Road is closed it will only get worse with traffic backup. Mr. Brennan explained that signs will be posted to inform drivers that New Hyde Park Road is closed. That doesn't mean that people won't choose to ignore signs and use as a one-way street. Mr. Khoury also commented that some of the signs on Jericho Turnpike were on the sidewalk and not on the island. Mr. Brennan explained that Jericho Turnpike is a State road and state laws have to be followed regarding sign placement. Mayor Montreuil added that there has to be greater collaboration between all the various agencies and he is looking forward to a summit meeting between all the agencies sometime in January 2020.

Ms. Bentivegna commented that signage is great but if it's not enforced then people still make illegal turns and drive down the wrong way. Mr. Brennan said that he only has control over the signage but he can advocate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct for traffic enforcement and facilitate meetings with the Village Board and the various agencies involved. A LIRR representative commented that 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct is in charge of enforcement and that MTA Police can only enforce on the tracks. The Mayor added that when a problem arose on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street with people running stop signs the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct was very cooperative and sent enforcement officers to the area. There were many tickets handed out during the 2-week period.

Resident Bess Giordano commented that the light on Jericho Turnpike and Ingraham Lane should be temporarily removed. Another resident commented that the light is beneficial when crossing Jericho Turnpike because drivers on Jericho Turnpike are going too fast for anyone to be able to cross without a light. The Mayor suggested that it might be the timing of the light itself that might need to be changed. He had requested that the DOT research traffic activity at Ingram Lane and Jericho Turnpike about 5 months ago but nothing has been done to date. He asked that Mr. Brennan help the Village Board escalate this by involving his contact at the DOT.

Mr. Khoury asked if the design of the new platform will have a pedestrian overpass. Mr. Brennan explained that to get from one side to the other pedestrians will have to use the underpass on New Hyde Park Road or S 12<sup>th</sup> Street to get to the other side.

Ms. Hudson commented that the temporary platform waiting area is all enclosed with no windows which doesn't seem safe for late night commuters. The Mayor suggested that windows be put in for security purposes. Mr. Brennan will be talking to the engineers about that.

Mayor Montreuil explained that the permanent design of the LIRR station is important to the Village. In April of 2018 a meeting was held where various designs were presented to the Village Board for review. What was suggested by the Village Board was that the New Hyde Park station have a similar look to the Stewart Manor station. Because the project has been moved up to 2020 a final design has not been submitted to the Board for approval. The Village Board made a request to see the final design before construction starts on the station itself.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board