

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 2, 2020**

**Present:** Mayor Montreuil  
Deputy Mayor Squicciarino  
Trustee Coppola  
Trustee Pallisco  
Trustee Burger  
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:**

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before the start of the meeting Mayor Montreuil and the Board of Trustees recognized Janet Bevers, who will be retiring on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, for her many years of hard work and dedication and to her commitment to the Village Community and Village Board. Trustee Pallisco presented her with a Citation from the Presiding Officer of the Nassau County Legislature, Richard Nicoletto, who was not able to attend.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Squicciarino, the Board Minutes from December 19, 2019 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

**License Renewals for Carters: Approved**

Certified Carting Inc. – 46 Skipper Drive, West Islip  
Land Source Container Rentals Inc. – 436 Old Suffolk Avenue, Islandia  
PCI Contracting Inc. – 561 Donald Lane, Woodmere  
S&M Prompt Rubbish Service – 228 Miller Avenue, Freeport

**License renewals for Restaurant: Approved**

Subway – 1201 Jericho Turnpike

**License renewals for Dry Cleaners: Approved**

Jericho Hope Cleaners – 1516 Jericho Turnpike

## **Tr. Coppola:**

### **Nassau County Police**

With the construction by the Long Island Rail Road the Nassau County Police Department is spending more time in that vicinity. Residents were reminded the importance of locking car doors, even if parked in the driveway. And residents were advised to call 911 if they see suspicious activity or if they spot anyone on their property they don't recognize.

### **Fire Department**

- Christmas tree safety is very important during the holiday season. If trees are dry they are more likely to catch fire. To avoid an incident remove trees from the house when they dry out.
- With the winter weather approaching and snow season starting, remember to shovel around fire hydrants for Fire Department access. Avoid illegally parking in front of fire hydrants even for short periods of time.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup> the New Hyde Park Fire Department is holding a Narcan Training Workshop addressing the opioid crisis on Long Island. Attendees will be given a free overdose reversal agent. All are welcomed, first responders are given preference at registration.

In closing he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## **Tr. Pallisco:**

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The following case was heard at the December 11<sup>th</sup> hearing:

- 1501 Belmont Avenue – approval was granted for an application seeking permission to subdivide the 80' x 100' property into two 40'x 100' properties. After the division, the existing house that will remain will have a total side yard aggregate of 13.7' where 15' is required.

The next meeting for Zoning Board is January 15, 2020.

### **Architectural Review Board**

The following case was presented at the December 4<sup>th</sup> hearing:

- 412 Jericho Turnpike – approval was granted to applicant seeking permission to change the paint color of the building and hang signs identifying his dental practice. Signs will be applied for at a later date.
- 1501 Belmont Avenue – approval was granted for construction of a single-family home.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020.

## **Tr. Burger:**

### **Building Report**

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Seven cases were heard involving illegal use of a single-family home, working without a permit, and a pool installation without permit.
- The next Village Court will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Eight cases will be heard.
- There was one Special Use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting on December 5, 2019. Approval was granted for removal of existing fire damaged second floor and rebuilding the house on 146 N 12<sup>th</sup> Street. A new front and rear stoop, cellar and interior first floor alterations and new front portico was also approved.

- Twelve permits in total have been approved and issued from December 19<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Veterans Affairs**

There are no meetings scheduled for January and February with the American Legion Post #1089. Next meeting will be in March.

Right before the Christmas break the Village Board received notification from Legislator Richard Nicoletto that the Village will be receiving a \$75,000 grant which will be used for Village Hall improvements including the HVAC system.

### **LIRR**

- Stairwells on Covert Avenue are now open.
- Landscaping was started by 3TC but at the request of the Board it was halted until the proper planting season. Approximately 30 trees were removed in 2019. They will be replaced based on the girth of the tree.
- Punchlist items will be updated and sent to 3TC by end of week.
- New Hyde Park Road is scheduled to close on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be closed for approximately 7 months. It will be a complete road closure without a temporary bypass road.
  - At the last meeting with 3TC on December 9<sup>th</sup> all options were reviewed and because of safety concerns, changing traffic patterns, lane reductions, and developing potholes; it was decided that closing the road would be safer.
  - The temporary road which was originally planned would be closed 40% of the time so that 3TC could excavate. Constant road changes and closures would become too confusing to the drivers.
  - Because of the full road closure several months will be saved on the construction schedule. The Village Board requested from 3TC for New Hyde Park Road to re-open before Labor Day and the new school year starts.
  - The whole project will move along quicker because 3TC will be able to work on the station as well as the parking lot during the 7 months New Hyde Park Road will be closed.
- Temporary station platforms will be opening on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- New temporary parking will be built at Covert Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There will be 100 spaces in the lot.
- The Village Board and 3TC is working with Holy Spirit to get additional parking in their lot. It should be ready in time for February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Street traffic mitigation is still being looked into. There is a number of options the Village Board and 3TC are still discussing. As traffic gets pushed out of the area the traffic mitigation maps will be updated. Within the next 2 week the maps will be on the Village website.
- There is no update on the Electrical Substation. As it was last reported the construction is not scheduled to start until September 2020.

### **Water Authority**

There will be a board meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Station 57 Rehabilitation Project bid will be completed in January 2020 so that the project can move forward.

In closing he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Mayor Montreuil:**

The lot at Holy Spirit will hold anywhere from 75 – 100 spots. The parking lot will be commuter and municipal parking only. The Village Board will be installing lights and striping. A muni-meter will be installed and parking lot will be secured and enforced by code enforcement. After the term of the contract with the Archdiocese is up, the Village Board will evaluate if the additional parking is helping out Jericho Turnpike businesses.

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 exchange 18 spots in the North-West corner of the resident parking lot will be blocked off for World Courier usage. Many residents live on the north side of the tracks and this will relieve the difficulties of trying to navigate around the construction area. Eventually the S 12<sup>th</sup> Street crossing will be closed to vehicular traffic and more parking will be made available on the north side.

There are several open items the Village Board is waiting for from 3TC including the Landscaping Plan, Soil Analysis Study and Platform Designs.

**Tr. Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk’s Office**

Coin Meter Collection	\$15,172.06
Licenses issued	\$7,755.00
Parking Permits	\$43,900.00
Building Permits	\$17, 519.86
Camp Expense Reimbursement (TONH)	\$2,000.00 (pending)

**Library**

Upcoming Programs:

Blood Drive – January 9, 2020 from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Lower Back Pain Work Shop – January 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Elsie Lane was featured on News 12 on January 2, 2020 and named for having ‘Best Wings’ on Long Island.

Mayor Montreuil reported that DPW purchased a new truck the previous week. Tom Gannon added that the truck is getting outfitted with the snow plow. Three additional vehicles were purchased. Two will be used for Code Enforcement and one for the Building Department.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**19-72 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-16**

**New Business:**

There was none

**Old Business:**

Emergency generator for Village Hall – no update provided

## **Public Participation:**

Resident Bess Giordano commented that when New Hyde Park Road closes to traffic, 3TC should not be closing any lanes on Covert Avenue unless it is an emergency. Because of construction 3TC has been closing Covert Avenue and alternating traffic into one lane. Ms. Giordano is concerned that with the closing of New Hyde Park Road there will be a lot of traffic backup if 3TC continues to do that. Mayor Montreuil commented that the Village Board had a reverse stipulation when Covert Avenue was closed and traffic was funneled to New Hyde Park Road. Trustee Burger added that during the last meeting the Village Board requested that 3TC not have any road closures on Covert Avenue, S 12<sup>th</sup> Street or Nassau Boulevard once New Hyde Park is fully closed because any lane closures will impact traffic immediately. Today, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, a slow moving construction vehicle on Covert Avenue backed up traffic for miles. Trustee Burger will be speaking with 3TC so that all construction vehicles utilize New Hyde Park Road.

Ms. Giordano commented that when landscaping resumes, no trees should be planted on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue because of the narrowness of the road. At this time there are rocks on the side of the road that should be cleared away. The rocks are hazardous because they fly into the road and will not only damage cars but can hurt a person walking by. Ms. Giordano also commented that per their schedule 3TC should be placing sod down and then plant grass along the wall. Additionally she commented that at the entrance to the right of way the large cement trucks destroyed the grass which should be replaced by 3TC.

Ms. Giordano questioned why the gates for the train are lowered 3-5 minutes earlier than the train appears. It is for that reason that traffic gets backed up. Trustee Burger commented that the amount of time gates stay down is something that is regulated by the state not LIRR.

Ms. Giordano also inquired if 3TC was aware that at the same time New Hyde Park Road will be closed the Masonic Temple on Tulip Avenue in Floral Park will also be under construction. Therefore having two major roadways impacted with construction will cause more traffic in the area. She wanted to know if signs can be placed further out to notify drivers of the construction and to avoid entering the area. Trustee Burger explained that one of the requests the Village Board made to 3TC and LIRR was that digital signs on the Parkways and Expressways be utilized informing drivers of the construction on New Hyde Park Road. Mayor Montreuil added that the request for 3TC was to broaden the signage outreach. People employed in Lake Success, coming from the South Shore use New Hyde Park Road as their major roadway. Trustee Burger added that 3TC provided a detailed list how they will be informing the public of the New Hyde Park Road closure. They will also be utilizing media like 1010WINS and News12. Additionally the Village Board requested 3TC and LIRR try and encourage commuters to take the Stewart Manor train alleviating the New Hyde Park Station. The Mayor suggested that the commuters be given a discount on the Hempstead line but no answer was received from the LIRR.

Ms. Giordano read about Shared Services between Towns and Villages that sometimes happen during large construction projects. She inquired if the Village of New Hyde Park does decide to utilize Shared Services if there would be a way to get out of it. She believes that the Village provides excellent services and she is concerned that they will get sacrificed because of this project. Mayor Montreuil commented that the Village Board will be very careful before volunteering any services, especially at the risk of lowering the quality of services provided.

Resident Diane Bentivegna is concerned about the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Covert Avenue intersection. This past holiday week there were 3 near misses at that intersection that could have been fatalities. She suggested the Village Board place a temporary traffic light or a permanent traffic light on that corner. Mayor Montreuil explained that even though the Village Board requested that of Nassau County the criteria used to warrant a traffic light on that corner was not enough for them and therefore no light has been placed. The Village Board did place stop signs in the intersection. Ms. Giordano suggested they place a blinking red light on the corner, similar to the one on Hillside

Boulevard. Trustee Burger explained that when a light like that was going to be placed on Covert Avenue, Nassau County informed the Village Board that the blinking light is equivalent to the stop sign and statistically it is ignored just as much as a stop sign. Mayor Montreuil suggested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct be informed of the problem so they can monitor that corner for a few weeks and give out tickets to drivers rolling through the stop sign. It is reckless to run stop signs at a highly traveled intersection like Covert Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At this time the stop sign is the standard size, there are larger sizes available that the Village Board can look into. Superintendent Gannon added that the trees were trimmed near the intersection and signs 'Stop Ahead' were placed for that reason.

Ms. Bentivegna is concerned that drivers are exiting Wayne Avenue and making a left entering the underpass, which is dangerous. Trustee Burger explained that a survey was done to make the turn a 'one-way' west from Covert Avenue towards 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue but the majority of the residents were against making that change. Ms. Bentivegna commented that just because the residents do not want that change does not mean that it would not be safer to have it done. The Mayor suggested that the Village Board look into placing a 'no left turn' sign on Wayne Avenue.

Ms. Bentivegna wanted to know about the wall on Covert Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, preventing anyone from seeing the traffic. Trustee Burger explained that the Village Board suggested to 3TC that a mirror be placed to see approaching traffic. Additionally people are still going down the one way street and making U-turns so they can enter the underpass. The Village Board will be looking into placing more signs to prevent that.

A resident questioned if 'no truck traffic' signs will be placed on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, so that tractor trailers don't use S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. He also wanted to know if there has been any consideration of making it 'one-way' south on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Mayor Montreuil commented that the Village Board is looking into a variety of alternatives but nothing has been decided. Superintendent Gannon commented that no trucks should be coming from Stewart Avenue and turning onto S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Resident Peter Kuczinski commented that New Hyde Park Road is a main trucking artery between the North and South Shores and the traffic will have to get pushed somewhere when the road closes. Mayor Montreuil commented that 3TC truck traffic mitigation plan is for Covert Avenue, however the Village Board is suggesting to 3TC that they divert trucks to Nassau Boulevard. Additionally Mayor Montreuil sent a letter to the General Manager of Nice bus asking how they will be diverting the buses that travel New Hyde Park Road.

Resident Giordano is concerned that there will be too much traffic on Covert Avenue when construction resumes in February, but as long as people aren't blocking the white striped box on Covert Avenue then residents will be able to cross over without trouble.

Mayor Montreuil informed the residents that National Grid will be doing work on Jericho Turnpike from Lakeville Road to New Hyde Park Road beginning in January and lasting four months. During some of that time they will have one lane closed on Jericho Turnpike. The Village Board contacted National Grid and informed them that they should coordinate with 3TC. They also contacted the DOT individual responsible for Jericho Turnpike who doesn't believe that the work done by National Grid will pose a problem. Mayor Montreuil announced that the investigation regarding the signal concerns on Jericho Turnpike and S 12<sup>th</sup> Street was completed by the DOT and they determined that the signal timing and operation needed to be adjusted. The modification to the signal was already completed. The letter received from DOT has been uploaded to [www.vnhp.org](http://www.vnhp.org).

A resident asked if there will be turn lanes on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Jericho Turnpike. Mayor Montreuil and the Village Board are working on making two turn lanes going North and shorten the lane going South on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street, which would discourage truck traffic. Parking modifications will have to be made once that is completed.

Resident Diane Bentivegna asked if there is something the residents can do to help the Village Board during the construction period. Mayor Montreuil suggested the residents stay involved, attend Board Meetings, inform the Board members of parking difficulties and traffic area problems and communicate issues they encounter. The Village Board can then carry it forward to 3TC and the LIRR. Many solutions the Village Board instituted have been thanks

to the input of the residents. Trustee Burger added that if anyone spots a problem area or an unusual amount of traffic, they inform the Village immediately so that it can be investigated. 3TC has been quick to react when a problem arises. While some residents agreed that 3TC has been quick to respond, Ms. Bentivegna believes that 3TC should be better at finding ways to mitigate problems when train problems occur and traffic bottlenecks.

Resident Sam Khoury questioned which Holy Spirit church parking lot the Village Board is referring to and if the parking lot will be unusable during the church festival and or church services. Mayor Montreuil explained that the parking lot in question is next to the Rectory on Covert Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The Village would have care, custody and control of the parking lot from Monday 5:30 am until Saturday 12 noon. During church services the parking lot would be turned over to the church, which would include days of obligation and the church festival. At that time the parking would not be available for about 7 days, so that preparations can be made for the festival.

Mr. Khoury inquired if the engineering firm hired to do the acoustic study in the Harley Davidson Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is looking into things like group riding. The acoustic study states that Harley Davidson doesn't expect group riding, but group riding is prevalent with Harley Davidson riders.

- Mr. Khoury was also concerned why the Village Code states 'the Village noise code does not apply to motorcycles or other vehicular traffic'. To his understanding that implies that Harley Davidson would not be responsible for any motorcycle noise that comes out of their place of business.
- Additionally the acoustic study only looked at how much noise one motorcycle produces. Since their parking lot will be equipped with 25 spots there will be more than one motorcycle coming and leaving their facility at one time.
- He also questioned if his comments on the issues will be addressed by Harley Davidson. When questioning group riding and the study only addressing one rider, will Harley Davidson address his concerns and not dismiss his comment based on the study.

Mayor Montreuil explained that all comments will be addressed by Harley Davidson and if comments are repetitive they will only be addressed once. The Village Board held an Executive Session after the Public Hearing and a list of concerns was put together for Harley Davidson to address, including some of the same concerns that Mr. Khoury has. The Village Board requested that the engineers look at the acoustical profile of a motorcycle and not the background traffic noise on Jericho Turnpike which is steady roar. The Village Board also entered into the record an article by a Harley Davidson engineer explaining how the sound profile of Harley Davidson motorcycle is made to be unique and is built to satisfy customer expectations. Trustee Squicciarino added that the Village Board wanted to understand how the noise would compare from a standard to a modified motorcycle. Trustee Burger added that the Village Board also addressed the radios that many riders have mounted. In some cases the radios are louder than the roar of the motorcycle. The Mayor added that one question they requested Harley Davidson to answer is what they can do to make the Village Board comfortable to prevent there being noise violations.

Resident Rosemary Hudson questioned if Hillside Avenue will be repaved over the summer months. The Mayor informed her that it will be.

Resident Bess Giordano questioned if Miller Brothers are planning on selling their whole lot to Harley Davidson. Mayor Montreuil informed her that that was correct.

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 9:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board