

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 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
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

Absent:

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

Mayor Montreuil introduced Bill Barrett, Village of New Hyde Park auditor from Rynkar, Vail & Barrett to present the findings of the 2018-2019 fiscal audit. Bill Barrett outlined the audit findings including Management Analysis, Village Financial Statement, Balance Sheet, and Income Statement. He spoke about the Letters to Management issued by the auditing firm and concluded that the audit findings were unremarkable and the Village of New Hyde Park is in excellent financial position.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, the Board Minutes from January 16, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

License Renewals:

Carters: Approved

Winter Brothers Hauling of Long Island – 120 Nancy Street, West Babylon
Liotta & Sons – 3966 Long Beach Road, Island Park

Restaurant: Approved

Domino’s Pizza - 1017 Jericho Turnpike
Five Star Indian Cuisine - 247 Jericho Turnpike
The Angry Gnome Pub - 1217 Jericho Turnpike
Olde Trading Post – 1218 Jericho Turnpike
Elsie Lane – 29 Jericho Turnpike
Yesterday’s Diner – 443 Jericho Turnpike
Taco Bell – 1650 Jericho Turnpike

Dance: Approved

The Angry Gnome Pub - 1217 Jericho Turnpike
Olde Trading Post – 1218 Jericho Turnpike

Games: Approved

The Angry Gnome Pub - 1217 Jericho Turnpike
Olde Trading Post – 1218 Jericho Turnpike

Dry Cleaners: Approved

Green Tree Cleaners – 1309 Jericho Turnpike

Taxi: Approved

Blu Taxi – 1201 2nd Avenue
LI Checker Cab – 1095 Route 110, Farmingdale

Limo: Approved

A Whitestar Limousine Services – 20 Jericho Turnpike

Used Car Owner: Approved

S.M. Motorsports Inc. – 140 Lakeville Road

Tow Car Owner: Approved

C&N Auto Center – 96 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park
A1 Grand Auto Body – 105 Herricks Road, Garden City Park
Grand Auto Body – 98 Denton Avenue, New Hyde Park
Frame Auto Collison – 71 Denton Avenue, New Hyde Park
TNT Automotive Corporation – 909 Second Avenue, New Hyde Park

Trustee Coppola:**Little League**

Registration for Little League is coming to a close for the 2020 season so residents are encouraged to sign up before it closes.

Fire Department

Trustee Coppola and Mayor Montreuil met with the New Hyde Park Fire Department to discuss and pre-plan how to handle problems that might arise during the construction period. They discussed fire calls that come in on the south side of the Village and how they are handled. The Village Board and the Fire Department were happy with the outcome of the meeting.

- In 2019 the Fire Department received close to 12,000 calls.
- Annual subscription mailers will be sent out shortly where residents can make an annual donation to the New Hyde Park Fire Department.

Nassau County Police

Trustee Coppola introduced POP Officer Mike Costanzo who spoke about the enforcement he and his fellow officers have been doing since the closing of New Hyde Park Road.

- Officer Costanzo informed the residents and Village Board that three police officers are dedicated to the area for the next two weeks and possibly longer depending on how things develop. They have issued 10 tickets on Monday, 27 on Tuesday, and 28 on Wednesday to drivers not obeying traffic laws and detour signs. Trustee Coppola thanked Officer Costanzo and his colleagues for their presence this past week and work they do for the Village of New Hyde Park.

- Officer Costanzo also warned that there has been 12 instances of mail phishing during the last week in New Hyde Park and surrounding areas. The New Hyde Park Post Office started converting the mailboxes to prevent such occurrences but until they are all converted, he warned residents to drop off important mail into the post office if possible, especially bills with their personal checks which can be stolen, information washed away, and re-written for large amounts of money.
- Additionally he warned that everyone lock their car doors because there have been break-ins reported and items taken from parked cars.
- Mayor Montreuil thanked Officer Costanzo and the 3rd Precinct for their presence, including the Police Inspector who have been on site every morning since the closing of New Hyde Park Road. Additionally he thanked them for securing a digital sign for the Village to use.
- A resident asked if the police can monitor intersections on Jericho Turnpike where streets get blocked by traffic and residents cannot merge onto Jericho Turnpike.
- Officer Costanzo mentioned that they received complaints about the lack of lighting on S 12th Street and 2nd Avenue. Drivers are complaining that they can't see the signs posted there. The Mayor also added that commuters have complained that it is too dark when they get off the train in the evening hours. The Village Board and 3TC are looking to see what could be done. Fixing the problem of lighting is a high priority for the Village Board.
- A resident asked if the Police Department noticed the graffiti on walls of the Covert Avenue underpass. The 3TC representative informed the Village Board and residents that they will be cleaning it up within the next few days. Additionally Mayor Montreuil informed the residents that Nassau County is responsible for cleaning up graffiti when it appears on County Roads. He thanked 3TC for taking care of the graffiti. Trustee Burger added that cameras will be installed in the underpass for safety reasons in the near future.
 - The Mayor stated that when graffiti is found in areas like the underpass it gets reported to the Police Department so they can keep track and compare with other graffiti found.
 - A resident also informed the Village Board that graffiti was spotted on a sign in the Village. Superintendent Gannon knows of the area and it will be taken care of shortly.

Trustee Pallisco:

Zoning Board of Appeals

Because no cases were submitted in time for the January 15th hearing the meeting was canceled. The next Zoning Board meeting will be February 12th, with three cases on the docket.

Architectural Review Board

The last meeting was held on February 5th, where the following case was presented:

- 1302 Washington Avenue – originally tabled decision for the applicant seeking a second story, was approved when amended plans were submitted for consideration.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 4th.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, January 22nd. Nine cases were heard involving illegal use of a single-family home, working without a permit, property maintenance, and a pool installation without a permit.
- The next Village Court will be held on February 19th with 12 cases on the docket.

- Trustee Burger encouraged residents to let the Village know if they are aware of neighbors doing building, electrical and plumbing work without a permit. Doing work without a permit could become dangerous if the work is not done properly.
- There was no Special Use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting on January 16th.
- There have been 30 permits in total approved and issued from January 17th to February 5th.

Water Authority

There will be a board meeting on February 14th. Station 57 Rehabilitation Project including 1,4-dioxane removal will be kicking off this year; most likely March 2020. Estimated value of the project will be \$15M.

Veterans Affairs

There are no meetings scheduled for January and February with the American Legion Post #1089. Next meeting will be held in March. Trustee Burger attended the 4 Chaplin’s Ceremony which was held at Notre Dame Church on February 2nd. There are 2 upcoming events:

- February 15th – Nassau County American Legion Military Ball
- March 14th – Day at the Races of Northport Veterans Home

Per the Mayor’s suggestion, Trustee Burger will report on the LIRR right before public participation starts.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Office

Coin Meter Collection	\$8,669.51
IPS Vouchers	\$26,542.00
Muni Meter Revenue	\$621.46
Parking Permits	\$13,750.00
2019/20 Taxes Paid	\$2,277.57
Interest Penalties Paid	\$126.00
Building Permits	\$7,452.67

February 18th is Tax Grievance Day for 2020/21. Office hours for the Tax Assessor will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with evening appointments from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All evening appointments must be scheduled in advance.

Library

Upcoming Programs:

Tax Grievance Class – Tuesday, February 11th at 6:45 pm

Trash or Treasure Antique Roadshow – Saturday, February 8th from 2 – 4 pm

Chocolate Dipped Everything – Thursday, February 13th at 5 pm (Grades 1-4)

Mayor Montreuil:

Mayor Montreuil thanked DPW and Superintendent Tom Gannon for the hard work they have been doing in the last few days, especially the handling of the various problems that have arisen since the closing of New Hyde Park Road.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 19-78 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-19**
- 19-79 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**
- 19-80 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$301.45 PAYMENT TO VERTEX WAS TABLED**
- 19-81 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF THE OUTSIDE COURT AUDIT AND PUBLICATION OF A LEGAL NOTICE**
- 19-82 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RECEIPT OF THE OUTSIDE VILLAGE AUDIT AND PUBLICATION OF A LEGAL NOTICE**
- 19-83 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**
- 19-84 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE A SPECIAL USE HEARING FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 AT 7:30 PM. (1631 JERICHO)**
- 19-85 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE A SPECIAL USE HEARING FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 AT 7:30 PM. (500 JERICHO)**

Mayor Montreuil announced that the next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27th because the Board Meeting on February 20th was canceled.

New Business:

There was none

Old Business:

There was none.

LIRR

Trustee Burger stated that New Hyde Park Road closed on February 3rd and will stay closed for 7 months, until Labor Day weekend.

- It is a complete road closure without a temporary bypass road. The Village Board initially objected but after the last meeting with 3TC all options were reviewed and because of safety concerns it was decided that closing the road would be safer.
- New Hyde Park Road work will be reduced from 9 months to 7 months.
- The Village insisted that 3TC minimize traffic impact by covering the summer months as much as possible.
- The temporary road which was originally planned would have been closed 40% of the time so excavation could be done, therefore constant road closures would become too confusing to the drivers.
- Station remodeling and platform work originally scheduled for 2022 will start ahead of time since 3TC will be able to work on the station at the same time they work on the New Hyde Park Road grade crossing.
- Temporary station platforms between Covert Avenue and S 12th Street also opened on February 3rd.
- Traffic detours and mitigations have been put in place.
- Holy Spirit Church parking lot has opened and is being used by commuters. The parking lot on 124 Covert Avenue has been paved and should be opening within the next few days.
- Mayor Montreuil, Superintendent Gannon, and the rest of the Board have been out on the streets since the closing, observing issues and working directly with the MTA, 3rd Precinct, DOT and 3TC to make adjustments as needed.

- Trustee Burger thanked a number of the residents for being the Village Board's eyes and ears, spotting issues and helping implement further mitigations.
- When the signage was in the wrong place on Monday, February 3rd, Trustee Burger and the Mayor worked with 3rd Precinct who took immediate action and placed a cruiser at the intersection of New Hyde Park Road and Jericho Turnpike to direct traffic.
- Trustee Burger is working with Stantec to put up another sign on New Hyde Park Road that blinks because drivers are not paying attention to the road closed sign and are still entering the construction zone.
- Trees lost during the Covert Avenue construction are set to be replanted this year as soon as the weather warms up. They will be replaced based on their girth.
- First instance of graffiti in the Covert Avenue underpass will be getting cleaned up shortly.
- There has been no new updates on the electrical substation.
- Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger are waiting on 3TC to provide the new station design.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Father Greco and the Holy Spirit Church / Dioses of Rockville Center for working with 3TC and the Village Board to work out an agreement for the usage of the Commuter Parking Lot. The use of the lot will alleviate commuters parking on Village streets. He also thanked 3TC for negotiating a fair agreement with Holy Spirit / Dioses of Rockville Center for the use of the parking lot. The lot is being used more and more each day. Additionally the Village is being vigilant with trying to get cars to leave the lot by 10 p.m. per the agreement. The Mayor also informed the residents that 124 Covert Avenue lot should open within the next few days. It has been paved and should be striped before the end of the weekend. The lot will accommodate voucher and muni meter parking.

Mayor Montreuil also thanked Trustee Burger for his hard work in regards to the LIRR project. He provided some background on how he met Trustee Burger and how he became involved with the Village Board. He additionally thanked Trustee Pallisco and Superintendent Tom Gannon for the work they have been doing. The Mayor also thanked the 3TC and MTA community outreach liaisons. Finally he thanked the residents of the Village of New Hyde Park for their patience and involvement during the project. He encouraged them to call the 3TC hotline when they have concerns or need answers during the construction project.

Mayor Montreuil shared his anxieties about the closing of New Hyde Park Road. The execution of the plan was a little slow to evolve on Monday, February 3rd but eventually it all came together. The barricades on Stewart Avenue were in the wrong place which had to get moved and signs changed to reflect their new location. He shared that Superintendent Gannon and he physically moved the barricade to the right location as not to confuse the drivers.

Trustee Burger encouraged everyone who is close to the construction area and is feeling any vibration to get their house surveyed. After the completion of the project if their house sustained any damage a claim can be filed with 3TC for repairs to their home. If there are cracks in house foundations after the project is completed and no survey had been done it would be hard to prove that the damage was caused by the construction project.

There will also be additional signage placed to divert drivers away from the area toward Nassau Boulevard instead of overloading S 12th Street. Additionally Trustee Burger is checking with 3TC to make sure that mapping systems have been updated on various websites for drivers entering the New Hyde Park area.

Public Participation:

Resident Rosemary Hudson inquired if a temporary station house trailer will be placed near the newly opened temporary platforms. Mayor Montreuil explained that there is not much room for a temporary station house and when a temporary station house trailer had been placed in other construction locations it would often become a hub for homeless people.

A resident inquired why the right turn is allowed from Jericho Turnpike onto New Hyde Park Road. He is concerned people are bypassing the road closed sign and using the streets as through roads. Trustee Burger explained that the road cannot be completely blocked because residents have to be able to get to their houses as well as receive local deliveries. Additionally he was concerned about an article he saw in the Herald Courier where it was suggested that stop signs are eliminated at 6th Avenue and Covert Avenue. That intersection is busy and eliminating the stop signs would make it more dangerous. Trustee Coppola clarified that there is no plan to eliminate the stop signs at that intersection. The article was only an opinion and the Village is not in agreement.

A resident inquired if there has been any updates on the DPW facility that is to be built. Mayor Montreuil explained that the cost of the facility would be \$8.4 Million. The Village received \$3 Million from the Governor, and is currently working on a grant from the Federal Government and funding from the MTA. The Village Board has a high initiative to get the facility done. The Mayor thanked Senator Kaplan who helped the Village acquire the \$3 Million. Until construction starts Nuzzi Park will stay open to the public, including Little League. The Mayor did explain that the Little League parade route will probably have to change because Covert Avenue is a major detour road and will be hard to shut down for the parade. If changed it will have to shift to Memorial Park. Closing New Hyde Park Road going north will be less impactful.

A resident is concerned that with the increasing traffic on Covert Avenue it is hard to merge onto the road from 5th Avenue because drivers block the intersection. She requested a box be drawn and a 'don't block the box' sign placed on the road. Additionally she is concerned that the underpass does not have a height limit sign on top of the bridge. She witnessed several trucks slow down and hesitantly enter the underpass. Mayor Montreuil explained that signs are not required on bridges or underpasses unless the height requirement does not meet the regulation of 14 feet. All commercial drivers in New York State must know the height requirements and the signage laws, therefore trucks should not have any issues with using the underpass. Additionally there are detour signs directing truck drivers toward Nassau Boulevard.

Resident Diane Bentivegna requested that a light be placed on the corner of 6th Avenue and Covert Avenue. The Mayor agreed that the corner does need a light and a meeting will be held with Nassau County to discuss it. Officer Costanzo informed the residents that they are monitoring that intersection for drivers who are running the stop sign, especially in the morning during rush hour. He informed the residents that 3TC is doing a traffic study which will provide data on the daily traffic on Covert Avenue, including that intersection. After the traffic study is completed the data will be used by the Village Board to show Nassau County that a light is needed at the intersection.

A resident wanted to know if Holy Spirit Church signed an agreement to protect themselves in case someone is hurt in the parking lot during the year the Village will be utilizing it. Mayor Montreuil confirmed that it was all outlined in the agreement and the lawyers made sure everyone involved was covered.

A resident asked why the shelters on the temporary platform aren't Plexiglas. Windows were placed on the east and west side so commuters can see trains coming and going but not the back end. For safety reasons the back end should be more open. Trustee Pallisco spoke to Travis regarding this issue and 3TC is looking into it. The residents have requested to be able to see into the shelter from the street. Aside from commuter safety during the late hours, there could be a medical emergency that would go unnoticed because there is no visual into the shelter from the street.

Resident Bess Giordano wanted to know why the temporary platforms are temporary and not permanent. The Mayor explained that it is because the old platforms are being rebuilt and will not be shifted west on a permanent basis.

The residents are concerned about the path along the underpass that looks like a sidewalk and confuses pedestrians. Trustee Pallisco and Trustee Burger both confirmed that they are working on rectifying that issue. The Mayor stated that cones were placed there so people don't confuse the path with a sidewalk.

Mayor Montreuil thanked World Currier for the trade of the 18 spot parking lot on the corner of S 12th Street and 2nd Avenue for residential use. Superintendent Gannon confirmed that the lot is being used by Village residents.

A resident is concerned that many cars are using S 12th Street instead of using Covert Avenue. Additionally she witnessed the flagger on New Hyde Park Road let cars pass the 'closed road' sign instead of directing them to the east or west toward Nassau Boulevard or Covert Avenue. The Mayor also added that there has been many reports of truck traffic on S 13th Street, S 14th Street etc. and Village Board is looking into what can be done to prevent that from happening.

Resident Sam Khoury thanked Trustee Burger and Judy White for being responsive to his questions. Additionally he emailed several people from Nassau County and DOT regarding the box that needs to be painted on Jericho Turnpike where drivers block Herkomer Street and local residents have a hard time exiting the street. A sign was placed on the corner informing drivers to not block the intersection but no box was not painted as of yet. He also stated that no one except for Trustee Burger responded to his concerns. Officer Costanzo did inform Mr. Kouhry that Nassau County does not paint or stripe roadways until spring time, therefore the box will not get painted in the intersection until at least that time.

Mr. Khoury questioned if the light timing will be changed on Jericho Turnpike and Covert Avenue. Mayor Montreuil explained that the DOT is monitoring the traffic flow on Jericho Turnpike as well as Covert Avenue. Trustee Burger added that some lights were re-timed because of traffic flow problems. The lights are longer and allow for traffic to move better, especially on Ingraham Lane and Jericho Turnpike.

Resident Bess Giordano suggested that the traffic should be diverted from Jericho Turnpike to Hillside Avenue via Hillside Boulevard. Mayor Montreuil agreed that the suggestion merits looking into because it would relieve the traffic congestion on Jericho Turnpike. The Mayor also stated that the New Hyde Park Fire Department will be using Hillside Boulevard to Hillside Avenue to avoid the congestion in the area of Covert Avenue and Jericho Turnpike.

Resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if anyone is monitoring the impact the detours are having on the services provided by the New Hyde Park Fire Department. The Mayor stated that the Fire Department will be monitoring the services provided and calls received. Part of the community benefits funds was used to purchase equipment to outfit a new ambulance which was assigned to the south side of the Village of New Hyde Park. Mayor Montreuil is very impressed how the New Hyde Park Fire Department runs its business. One of their concerns is that drivers won't pull aside during traffic congestion. The Mayor encouraged all residents to be vigilant and out of courtesy to pull aside when they see flashing lights from an emergency vehicle.

A resident is concerned that dangerous chemicals will be transported when the third track is finally completed. Mayor Montreuil was told by the LIRR and the MTA that the tracks will be used for passengers and not hauling dangerous materials through our Village.

A resident questioned if any of the merchants have reported loss of business because of the construction project. The Mayor stated that no reports were received.

A resident requested that the Village create a social media account to give more up to date information to the residents. For example a twitter account or Facebook account. The Village Board will look into it.

A resident asked what the Community Development Block Grant is. The Mayor explained a bit about the grant Nassau County gives to qualifying towns and villages. The Village has used that money in the past to do updates to the Village including the bricks on Jericho Turnpike.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board

Mayor Montreuil opened Executive Session at 9:40 pm.

**19-86 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NELSON, POPE & VOORHIS, LLC TO PERFORM
COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRANSIT ORIENTATED
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, and unanimously approved, Executive Session ended at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cathryn Hillmann

Village Clerk-Treasurer