

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2020**

**Present:** Mayor Montreuil  
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:** Deputy Mayor Squicciarino

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm following a Special Use Public Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the hearing.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from February 27, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

**License Renewals: Approved**

**Landscaper License:**

Frank Landscaping – 100 Westbury Blvd, Hempstead  
G.B. Landscaping – 159 Spruce Street, West Hempstead  
Nilton Gonzalez Landscaping – 572 Paff Avenue, Uniondale  
PG Landscaping of Nassau Inc. – 341 Marcellus Rd, Mineola  
Paul Tramantana Landscaping – 15 Clayton Avenue, Floral Park  
Ciro Freitas Landscaping – 1569 Adams Street, Elmont  
Brant’s Landscaping – 1229 Theodora Street, Elmont  
Victor’s Landscaping Service – 1043 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street, New Hyde Park  
Mejia & Reyes Landscaping, 146 Woodfield Road, West Hempstead  
LTK Landscaping Inc. – 9 Fordham Street, Williston Park  
Uniondale Landscaping – 700 Winter Avenue, Uniondale  
Four Seasons Landscaping – 45 Marcus Avenue, New Hyde Park  
Gabriel M. Landscaping – 74 Evans Avenue, Freeport  
Arturo Landscaping – 46 Allers Blvd., Roosevelt (New)  
Jose Figueroa Landscaping – 275 Caryl Drive, Lawrence  
Turf Tamer Landscaping – 20 Clarendon Drive, Valley Stream  
B & B Landscaping Contractors – 249 Marcus Avenue, New Hyde Park  
Jose Lovo Landscaping Inc. – 1989 Murray Hill Street, Elmont  
Deamorim Landscaping – 35 Cherry Lane, Carle Place  
Brother Landscaping – 176 Beverly Road, Hempstead

Pannicia Landscaping – 11 W.Hitchcock Avenue, Floral Park  
Carlos Landscaping – 162 Haig Road, Valley Stream  
J&C Landscaping – 526 Cedar Street, Uniondale  
Oliva Landscaping Inc. – 30 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Garden City Park (New)

### **Trustee Coppola:**

#### **Little League**

A meeting was held prior to the Special Use hearing with the Village Board discussing the upcoming season, including the Little League Parade which will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The original route of the parade had to be changed because of the New Hyde Park Road closing.

#### **Auxiliary Police**

He thanked the Auxiliary Police for all the support they provide the Village of New Hyde Park.

#### **Fire Department**

- At the last meeting Trustee Coppola had with the NHP Fire Department he inquired about training for disastrous situations in regards to the Long Island Rail Road. The NHPFD informed him that they train for various situations on the rail road, whether they include chemical spills, medical emergencies, dangerous passengers, or passenger/freight train derailment and including the type of freight that is being transported. Depending on the emergency it's then decided whether or not train service needs to be shut down.
- Fire fighters are also equipped with manuals that explain potential emergencies and how they should be handled, including how to handle injuries, various types of fires (based on what is burning) and how they should be managed.
- LIRR and the NHPFD hold meetings to discuss potential emergencies that can occur.
- Dangerous chemicals being transported on freight trains are regulated and controlled by the Federal Government, therefore individual towns, villages and local governments don't have a say in what is transported on the rail road. Additionally special permits are required to transport certain chemicals via rail road or truck.
- Mayor Montreuil added that the NHPFD's coordination and planning was impressive when they were responding to the fire at the substation.
- Diane Bentivegna wanted to know if the Mayor and Board can speak to the LIRR about not transporting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) on the rail road through such a populated area. If not, then at least notify the NHPFD if and when they will be transporting such a dangerous chemical. The Mayor informed her that the Village Board and the LIRR have cultivated a relationship in the past year because of the construction and they will try and speak to them to see what can be done.
- Mayor Montreuil also suggested that the Board attend the Fire Commissioners Meeting at the Fire Department and speak to them about LNG. They are held every other Tuesday evening.

### **Trustee Pallisco:**

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The last meeting was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, with three cases presented.

The next Zoning Board meeting will be March 11<sup>th</sup>, with two cases on the docket which have been carried over from last month.

### **Architectural Review Board**

The last meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, where the following cases were presented:

- 1631 Jericho Turnpike – A request was denied to the business owner requesting to paint the exterior of the building with a corporate specific design.
- 710 Premier Boulevard – A request was approved for the owner to perform renovations on the front porch, interior and exterior of the home.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, as of today there are no cases on the docket.

### **Noise Abatement Committee**

Environmental Hazards meeting will be held at Nassau Community College on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 9 pm. The subject discussed will be the high noise levels and fumes from airplanes and how it affects residents mentally and physically, including causing stress which lead to strokes, heart attacks, asthma etc.

### **Beautification Committee**

- The Village has received 28 requests from residents to have new trees planted in front of their home.
- About 85 stumps have been grounded down so new trees can be planted.
- If residents have requests concerning the removal or planting of trees they can contact Debbie Malhotra from the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- The Tree Committee is waiting to see the variety of tree species that will be available from the nurseries before they start planting in the spring.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

Special Olympics Polar Plunge will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, at North Hempstead Beach Park in Port Washington.

St. Baldricks Fundraiser will be held at Marcus Christ Hall on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 4 – 7 pm. The fundraiser is held every year to raise funds for childhood cancer. During the event people volunteer to shave their heads in solidarity for the children who are going through cancer treatment.

### **Trustee Burger:**

Wanted to thank everyone who came out to march or support of the Irish Day Parade in Mineola, this past Saturday.

### **Building Report**

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 cases heard involving illegal use of a single-family home, property maintenance, pool installation without a permit, violation of special exception, illegal signage, illegally parked on lawn, excessive noise, and failure to maintain a proper worksite.
- The next Village Court will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> with 12 cases on the docket.
- There have been 11 permits in total approved and issued from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Authority**

There will be a Board Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns all Board Meetings are open to the public.

## **Veterans Affairs**

There are no meetings scheduled for January and February with the American Legion Post #1089. The next meeting will be held in March. There will be 'A Day at the Races' event held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Northport Veterans Home.

## **LIRR**

New Hyde Park Road closed on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will stay closed for 7 months.

- Excavation on New Hyde Park Road is continuing.
- Pilings are being driven in for shoring walls.
- Old platforms have been removed.
- Some work was being done during overnight hours.
  - 3TC has informed the Village Board that there will be no more overnight work for the time being.
  - Several residents have raised issues with noise and vibrations with overnight work.
- There has been no update on the problem with idling truck since the last Board Meeting.
- In regards to the traffic mitigation plan, there have been some traffic issues on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street because the MTA Police has not been present for the last few days and traffic has been chaos. Trustee Burger's initial contact with the MTA was not encouraging but he will be speaking to several other contacts at the MTA to try and have officers re-assigned to the area once again.
  - He encouraged the residents to contact the 3TC hotline when they spot problems in the area like the S 12<sup>th</sup> Street rail road crossing.
- There is still a punchlist of items that 3TC has to work on in regards to Covert Avenue.
  - Work on Covert Avenue has been slacking because attention has moved over to New Hyde Park Road. Trustee Burger will be setting up a meeting with 3TC to discuss the open items including the Landscaping Plan.
- National Grid has been working on S 11<sup>th</sup> Street and some of their equipment was left there to be used as a staging area. Per Superintendent Tom Gannon they were issued a summons and the Village requested that the material and equipment be moved. As of now the only thing left in the area is some piping which will be moved. Additionally the CEO of National Grid has been contacted by Mayor Montreuil in regards to the work they have been doing. Superintendent Gannon commented that most of the work has been done at night so far.
- Architectural renderings were received by the Village Board regarding the new station design. The Village Board is not thrilled with the design. The renderings are too modern and not what the Village Board envisioned for the New Hyde Park rail road station. Trustee Burger and Mayor Montreuil have been working with a resident (Ken Garvin) who has expert knowledge and will be helping in coming up with some options for the station design that will be taken back to 3TC.
- The landscaping design was sent by 3TC for the Village Board to review. 3TC requested the Village Board respond to the plan by March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor requested that the Board be given more time to review the plan and make any modification they feel are necessary. Trustee Burger will be speaking to 3TC to extend the response date.

**Trustee Squicciarino: Absent** – No report was given.

## **Mayor Montreuil:**

### **Department of Public Works**

Superintendent Tom Gannon commented that because the parking vouchers for the LIRR are not being sold any longer there has been an increase of calls regarding the new muni-meters, including the flowbird app. Most people are having issues with the app., especially those who do not own a smart phone or whose smart phone is too outdated to accept current apps.

The additional parking lots by Holy Spirit Church and 124 Covert Avenue have been filling up and are almost to capacity every day.

The Mayor added that the muni-meters are \$1 more than what vouchers cost, but they are in line with the other villages and towns in the vicinity. Superintendent Gannon added that many municipalities charge even more than what the Village of New Hyde Park is charging for parking.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**19-101 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-22**

**19-102 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES (BEAUTIFICATION)**

**19-103 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**New Business:**

There was none.

**Old Business:**

There was none.

**Public Participation:**

Resident Bess Giordano questioned if 3TC has started work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail. Trustee Burger explained that the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail will run from Jamaica station, through New Hyde Park, toward Mineola, therefore the work has begun in preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> rail.

Ms. Giordano also wanted to know if something can be done about the traffic on Jericho Turnpike because the traffic backup the previous week stretched all the way to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Covert Avenue. Drivers trying to merge onto Jericho Turnpike from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets were having a hard time turning. Trustee Coppola explained that the previous week traffic was affected due to a lane shutdown by the utilities company on Jericho Turnpike.

Resident Diane Bentivegna commented that PSEG has been installing new poles on S 10<sup>th</sup> Street and S 11<sup>th</sup> Street, not removing the old poles but leaving them both in the ground. She questioned whether the old poles will be removed. Superintendent Tom Gannon explained that he had PSEG file a ticket for pole removal. The old pole should be removed within 2-3 months. If no ticket was filed it could be up to 2 years before the old pole is removed. Trustee Burger added that PSEG is doing a complete upgrade of the area and new poles will be installed throughout the neighborhood. All new poles will be 15-20 feet higher. Ms. Bentivegna commented that she did get a letter informing her of the work being done. Superintendent Gannon added that PSEG has been very responsive and cleaning up after themselves instead of leaving a mess behind.

Resident Kurt Langjahr updated the Village Board on his work with the Town-Village Aircraft Noise and Abatement Committee (TVASNAC). He expressed his frustration with the Town on Hempstead for not appointing a Secretary and Executive Director for TVASNAC. Additionally he questioned if the Village Code requires people to get permits in order to fly drones over the neighborhood. Mayor Montreuil explained that the current code does not require any permits for drones.

A Village resident inquired if windows will be placed on the back side of the new platform shelters. Trustee Burger commented that the request was made to 3TC. They have been stalling but the Village Board is pushing back.

Resident Diane Bentivegna wanted the Village Board to know that the Nassau County Police Department has been doing a great job throughout the Village since the closing of New Hyde Park Road. Mayor Montreuil agreed that they have been great and very responsive, especially when the Village Board requested they patrol an area by Stewart Avenue where school busses pick up and drop off school kids. The Mayor will be sending a formal letter to the County Executive thanking the Nassau County Police Department for all their work. Ms. Bentivegna suggested recognizing the Nassau County Police Department in some way. The Mayor will look into the best way to do that. Additionally he will be contacting the MTA to see if officers can be placed on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street once again. Moreover Mayor Montreuil and the Village Board were discussing borrowing temporary traffic lights from 3TC for S 12<sup>th</sup> Street to help with the traffic.

Resident Rosemary Hudson questioned if the new platforms will hold 12 cars and if there will be additional waiting areas then there are now. Trustee Burger stated that the whole platform will have an overhang and there will be shelters on the new platforms.

Resident Sam Khoury:

- Questioned when the pile driving on New Hyde Park Road is supposed to end. Trustee Burger has not received a definite date from 3TC but will announce once he does.
- Questioned if the residents will be able to view the plans for the new station that were sent over to the Village Board. Mayor Montreuil stated that the plans will be posted on our website and will be available to all residents.
- Questioned what the proper time for parking on Jericho Turnpike near Umberto's is. The meter had 6 pm listed, but the sign had 7 pm listed. Superintendent Gannon said that the proper parking time should be 7 pm. The time on the meter is wrong and will be looked into.
- Inquired what happens to the money originally set for snow removal when we experience a mild winter like this year. Mayor Montreuil stated that the money gets transferred to the general fund and then when the next budget year comes around it gets redistributed.
- Requested that DPW take a look at a tree in front of his house to see if it should be moved. PSEG installed a new pole and placed it too close to the tree. Superintendent Gannon stated that often when trees are moved they don't survive, but he will send someone to take a look. Mr. Khoury also wanted to know if the Village has a say where the new poles are placed. Superintendent Gannon stated that the Village has no say.

Resident Diane Bentivegna wanted to thank Tom Gannon the Village Superintendent for his responsiveness and help since the New Hyde Park Road closing.

Resident Rosemary Hudson questioned whose responsibility is to trim trees on Jericho Turnpike, the Village or Nassau County. Superintendent Gannon stated that the Village is in charge of trimming trees. Mayor Montreuil added that PSEG will trim trees when they interfere with electrical wires.

A resident questioned if trees will be removed because of illness. Superintendent Gannon stated that trees are first evaluated and if possible treated for the illness, if they don't come back then they are removed and new ones are planted in their place.

Resident Rosemary Hudson asked if the 'R' parking passes are still available for the residents even with all the construction by the LIRR. Is there enough spaces for Resident Parking by the LIRR. Mayor Montreuil stated that 'R' parking passes are still available for residents and there has been no change to Resident Parking for now.

There being no further business or public participation, upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Pallisco, and unanimously approved, the Board Meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board

Mayor Montreuil opened Executive Session at 9:15 pm.

**19-104 A RESOLUTION RATIFYING CSEA CONTRACT (6/1/20 – 5/31/26)**

**19-105 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE STIPULATION AND LAST CHANCE AGREEMENT**

**19-106 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND VILLAGE CODE: SECTION 189-57 “PROHIBITED TURNS AT INTERSECTIONS”**

Upon motion by Tr. Coppola, seconded by Tr. Squicciarino, and unanimously approved, Executive Session ended at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Cathryn Hillmann*

Village Clerk-Treasurer