

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
April 2, 2020

This meeting was presented via Zoom Remote Conferencing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

Mayor Montreuil opened the Board Meeting at 8:38 pm immediately following the Budget Hearing. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the Special Use Hearing.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Trustee Coppola, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Minutes from March 5, 2020 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Car Wash Application:

- Saturday, May 2nd - Boy Scout Troop 298 from (8 am – 3 pm) – **To be rescheduled**
- Saturday, May 9th - NHP Memorial Class of 2024 from (9 am – 4 pm) – **To be rescheduled**
- Saturday, June 27th - NHP Lady Jaguars (9 am – 4 pm) – **Approved (subject to change due to Covid-19)**

Limousine Permit Renewal: Approved

AJ Enterprise Limo – 915 Second Avenue, New Hyde Park

Landscaper License: Approved

Charles Landscaping – PO Box 20561, Floral Park, NY 11001
P. Gironda Landscaping – 1631 Imperial Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Roberto's Lawn Care – 257 Covert Avenue, Floral Park NY 11001
Figuroa Landscaping – 339 Laurel Road, West Hempstead, NY 11552
Golden Mean Landscaping – 465 Woodbridge Lane, Jericho, NY 11753
EZ Green Corp. – 3 Florence Avenue, Great Neck, NY 11024
Hines Design – 155 South 4th Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Sagittarius Landscaping – 145 Ellison Avenue, Roosevelt, NY 11575
Illusions Landscaping – 247 Elmwood Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
MGM Landscaping – 162-31 76th Street, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366

Dom's Landscaping – 141 Herricks Road, Garden City Park, NY 11040
Marcus Cabral Landscaping – 556 Hilda Lane, East Meadow, NY 11554
Alfredo's Landscaping – 24 William Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
Moscoso Landscaping – 188 Cedar Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
J. Rubio Landscaping – 2431 Salisbury Road, Westbury, NY 11590
J.P. Landscaping – 29 Lincoln Blvd., Hempstead, NY 11550
LG Landscaping – 92-25 212 Street, Queens Village, NY 11428
Ales Landscaping – 23 Virginia Drive, Elmont NY 11003
Eagle Lawn Service Inc. – 225 Jericho Tpke., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Martinez Landscaping – 164-33 108th Drive, Jamaica, NY 11433
Rojas Landscaping – 89-22 185th Street, Hollis, NY 11423
Oscar Hernandez – 1063 Jackson Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010
EMR Landscaping – 11 Trush Lane, Levittown, NY 11756
BM Landscaping – 24 Wentworth Drive, Dix Hills, NY 11746
Larry's Landscaping – 178 Frenale Blvd., Islip, NY 11751
J. Montemarano Landscaping – 5 Springbriar Lane, Kings Park, NY 11754
N. Perez Landscaping – 149 N Bayview Avenue, Freeport, NY 11520
J&M Landscaping – 88 Cottage Place, Mineola, NY 11501
German Beltran Landscaping – 59 Madison Avenue, Inwood, NY 11096
Gomez Landscaping – 86-52 260th Street, Floral Park, NY 11001
M&B Argueta Landscaping Inc. – 100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
American Elm Landscaping Inc. – 122 Laurel Drive, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Mata Landscaping – 128 N Grove Street, Freeport, NY 11520
Velasquez Landscaping – 3 Commerce Blvd. Amityville, NY 11701
Green Line Landscaping Contractors – 73 Cortland Avenue, Hicksville, NY 11801
RMC Landscaping – 100 Old Broadway, Garden City Park, NY 11040
Rafael's Landscaping – 392 Mulberry Lane, West Hempstead, NY 11552
Jose and Sons Landscaping – 7503 164th Street, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366
Cat's Landscaping – 944 N 5th Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
Jose Vasquez Landscaping – 339 Doughty Blvd., Inwood, NY 11096
Oscar D. Landscaping – 613 Krull Street, Uniondale, NY 11553
Joe D. Landscaping – 32 Canyon Lane, Westbury, NY 11590
Joe Mannino Landscaping – 217 Guildford Court, West Hempstead, NY 11552
Victor Escobar Landscape Corp. – 268 Kennedy Avenue, Hempstead NY 11550
Graham Block Landscaping – 1231 Tulip Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010
Rocco's Evergreen Landscaping – 554 N 1st Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Mayor Montreuil spoke about Covid-19, reminding everyone that social distancing is very important during the next several weeks to prevent the spread of the virus. He announced that the Village of New Hyde Park staff has been taking direction set by New York State Governors Office. Within the next few days the Mayor will have a call with Congresswoman Rice to see if there are any updates from the federal level that need to be implemented by the Village of New Hyde Park.

Currently Village Hall is closed, however there is staff present in the office. The Clerk's Office staff and Building Department staff have been split into two groups. Teams A and B alternate being in the office so that they can take care of all Village resident's needs. DPW has a similar setup with teams alternating every other week. Idle DPW employees are on standby in case there is an emergency during the week they are not scheduled to work.

Mayor Montreuil expressed his deepest thanks to the first responders during this Coronavirus Pandemic. He thanked the doctors, nurses, hospital workers, EMT's, and all front-line individuals who are fighting the war to protect the rest of the public. He also expressed his thanks to the New Hyde Park Fire Department for their amazing response and the great job they have been doing. The amount of calls they have been receiving have been staggering. Lastly the Mayor expressed his appreciation to the Village of New Hyde Park staff, which include the Clerk's Office, Building Department, DPW, and Code Enforcement, for working behind the scenes during this difficult time.

Trustee Coppola:

Little League

All activities have been postponed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. When activities resume they will be announced.

Nassau County Police Department

Due to the high call volume the 3rd Precinct announced that all non-emergency calls should come directly to the Precinct. For minor car accidents, property loss, theft, and the like, residents are encouraged to call the 3rd Precinct at (516)573-6300 to report the incident. All emergency calls should still go through 911.

Fire Department

- The New Hyde Park Fire Department has been holding a nightly Zoom meeting in order to review their daily calls and plan the next steps during this difficult time.
- The majority of calls received by the fire department have been Covid-19 related.
- Each call is handled with extreme caution.
- Each engine in the department is on a 24-hour shift.
- All fire fighters check into their firehouse but no one stays at the firehouse overnight, for precautionary reasons.
- In answering house calls the paramedics are under the assumption that someone in the household is infected with the Coronavirus.
- The paramedics encourage the person in need of medical attention to exit the house if possible, to reduce exposure to the emergency personnel when entering the house.
- After each transport the ambulances are thoroughly disinfected so that they are safe for the next emergency call.
- Trustee Coppola thanked the NHP Fire Department for doing a great job and trying to keep the residents of New Hyde Park safe.

Trustee Pallisco:

Beautification Committee

- Trustee Pallisco expressed his thanks to Bob McNulty from McNulty Landscaping for planting the daffodils in the court.
- The Tree Committee is planning to start planting new trees in late May, unless the situation with Covid-19 prevents it.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The last meeting was held on March 11th, with one case presented.

The next meeting has yet to be determined. Once a date is determined there will be one case on the docket.

Architectural Review Board

The last meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4th, with two cases presented.

The next meeting has yet to be determined. As of today, there are no cases on the docket.

Noise Abatement Committee

Because of the lack of flights in and out of New York metro area the air space has been quiet.

Trustee Burger:

Building Report

- Village Court was held on Wednesday, February 19th. 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 May 20th with 13 cases on the docket.
- There have been 30 permits in total approved and issued from March 5th to April 2nd.

LIRR

Although there have been challenges with the Covid-19 Pandemic the work on the LIRR and New Hyde Park Road continues. The project has been deemed as essential construction per the New York State Governor's Office. No schedule changes have been announced as of this date. MTA and 3TC are taking a number of Covid-19 measures to keep their crews safe as best they can, including social distancing, personal protective equipment, hand sanitizing, rotating crews and shifts, etc.

- New Hyde Park Road is still slated to open on Labor Day weekend, if there are any changes the Village Board will be updated.
- Overnight work was slated to start on April 1st and will continue for the next few weeks. Per 3TC the noise will be held to a minimum as to not disturb the people residing near the construction site.
- Residents are encouraged to contact Community Outreach for question or to express their concerns.
- The Village Board requested that 3TC install windows on the street side of the temporary station platform shelter for safety reasons. To date there has been no installation of windows. The Village Board will address the request again at the next scheduled call with 3TC and MTA.
- There has been no traffic concerns near the construction zone because of the New York State stay at home mandate. Traffic will be monitored and addressed if problems arise.
- The punchlist items for Covert Avenue are still open.
 - A walkthrough with M&J was completed on April 1st with not much success. The company did not receive the Village Board's punchlist from 3TC. The Punchlist must be closed before the Village of New Hyde Park takes ownership of the underpass.

- Mayor Montreuil added that there is a breakdown of communication between 3TC and M&J who is supposed to take over the work in and around the Covert Avenue underpass.
- The Electrical Substation architectural drawings have been completed and will be released to the Village Board soon. The drawings will be reviewed and shared with the residents.
- New Station design architectural renderings were received by the Village Board. The renderings are too modern and not what the Village Board envisioned for the New Hyde Park rail road station. The Village Board has been working with Ken Garvin who has expert knowledge and came up with station modifications which were submitted to 3TC and MTA. However, Mayor Montreuil, Trustee Burger and Superintendent Gannon had an un-successful phone call with 3TC as well as the MTA where they informed the Board that the design will not change and that the station incorporated modifications per the EIS and no further changes will be made. The MTA is also looking to ensure uniformity in all their stations along the line.
- The landscaping design was sent by 3TC to the Village Board for review on March 31st. The Village Board worked with resident Hale Elifoglu who helped design a PowerPoint presentation addressing the variety of trees. Both Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger thanked her for all her help with the Landscaping Plan.
- The Village Board requested that the MTA and 3TC relocate the LIRR High Rail Access gate that is currently designed to be installed at S 10th Street. The Village and MTA discussed several options. In addition the Village has requested a more aesthetically pleasing design to the High Rail Access Gate that better conforms to the sound barrier wall and fencing that is already being installed as part of the project. The MTA agreed and will investigate. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Apr 6, 2020.

Water Authority

The Board Meeting on March 23rd was canceled due to the problems with video conferencing. A video conference call will be set up again for a meeting which will be held sometime in April.

Veterans Affairs

There are currently no events scheduled for Veteran Affairs. Trustee Burger will be getting in touch with Commander John McGuire to ask if there is any help that can be provided to the vets and if there are any vets in need of goods that the Village Board can provide.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Office

Coin Meter Collection	\$11,216.63
Court Fines	\$34,862.75
Issued Licenses	\$8,400.00
IPS Vouchers	\$20,102.88
Muni Meter Revenue	\$10,152.95
Parking Permits	\$3,250.00
Building Permits	\$106,059. 43
Camp Reimbursement	(\$2,000.00)
Parking Reimbursement	(\$70,121.00)
Balance of Chips Reimbursement	(\$88,737.00)

Nassau County Schools

All Nassau County Schools have been closed as per the New York State mandate. School Budgets have been delayed until sometime in May. Lunches for underprivileged students are available for pickup from 9-11 am. On April 9th and 10th no lunches will be available; however, several days' worth of lunches can be picked up on April 8th.

Library

The Hillside Public Library has been closed during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Library is extending all book/items borrowed until May 1st and does not require anyone to return anything before that date.

Census 2020

Most residents have received the request to complete the 2020 Census. Completing it only takes a few minutes over the internet and all residents are encouraged to do so. The census information is used by the government to determine budgets for schools, hospitals, roads, etc.

Trustee Squicciarino thanked all the healthcare workers who are out there battling the pandemic. She wished them to stay safe and healthy throughout this crisis.

Mayor Montreuil:

Mayor Montreuil encouraged the residents of the Village of New Hyde Park to utilize their local restaurants for delivery during this difficult time.

The Mayor announced that the Village of New Hyde Park will be releasing a Request for Proposals for Planning Services for the Master Plan in the development of the downtown area near the train station. Because of the statewide shutdown, many businesses have their employees working from home. The Village Board feels that this would be a good time to release the RFP because it would be something that companies can have their employees work on from their home offices. Nelson & Pope provided input in the creation of the RFP. The RFP will be released within the week and will have a long response deadline due to the Covid-19 pandemic. If the Village Board feels the responses were not satisfactory or there wasn't enough interest, the RFP will be delayed until later in the year.

Department of Public Works

Mayor Montreuil announced that the CSEA Agreement has been negotiated and signed for a 6-year term. The agreement is an extension of the current agreement with only a few modifications, one being the wages. The Mayor was happy the negotiation went smoothly and expressed his gratitude to the Village Family for working hard to reach the final agreement. He thanked DPW for their hard work during this crisis as well as during the winter months when snow removal is needed. He also thanked them for helping in designing the work schedule during the crisis. The Mayor explained that sanitation and highway are two separate departments, but since sanitation is essential during this difficult time both teams are working together to pick up trash. Teams A and B pick up trash on alternate weeks, which is considered critical service, while they still practice social distancing.

Additionally, the Mayor spoke about a Municipal Agreement with neighboring Villages where if one DPW department goes down due to illness the other departments would pick up the slack and help out a neighboring Village.

The Mayor encouraged the residents to get in touch with the Village Board if they are interested in volunteering in our various committees.

RESOLUTIONS:

19-121 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-24

19-122 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO ASSUME THE LIENS FOR UNPAID TAXES

19-123 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK-TREASURER TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING (PROPERTY TAX LEVY)

19-124 A RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR EMILIO SUSA

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

A Village resident wanted to go on record that she was not pleased with the re-zoning of the area by the train station along 2nd and 3rd Avenues. Additionally, she did not feel that it was appropriate to release the RFP to the public at this time. She suggested the Village Board wait for the Covid-19 pandemic to end before planning for the future.

Mr. Norberto a Village resident commented that he is an RFP writer and questioned what the RFP process would be if there was no pandemic. Mayor Montreuil explained that the process is as follows: Once the RFP is constructed and a timeframe is determined, it is released to the public. Once the responses are received, they are reviewed by the Village Board and a determination is made which proposal best meets the requirements of the RFP. When the best proposal has been chosen the parties would negotiate and execute a contract.

Resident Norberto also wanted to know why is there an urgency to release the RFP and why is it not being postponed for 6 months. The Mayor made it clear that this was not an urgency but since the RFP had been written and was ready for release right before the crisis started, it was decided by the Village Board to be released. While most things are now on hold this would be something that businesses could work on. Trustee Burger added that he was a big proponent of releasing the RFP. This is about community development. Right now the Village of New Hyde Park is on pause just like the rest of the country, but this crisis will eventually pass. This is something to look forward to. It's a way for the Village Board to look ahead and do some planning for the future. Trustee Burger is in the Construction Industry and even though everything is on pause, his industry is looking into the future and planning for future projects.

Resident Norberto also questioned if the final date of completion for the New Hyde Park Road will be pushed back by 3TC due to the pandemic. Trustee Burger stated that based on his last conversation with 3TC no changes have been made as of yet. The work is still proceeding as planned. LIRR Construction is considered essential by the NYS Governor's Office. However, there is about a 30% reduction of employees during each shift. Extra shifts were added and adjusted into smaller groups; they also extended each shift from 8 hours to 12 hours. The Mayor added that the construction of the wall has slowed because 3TC relocated their resources. There was an incident in late January and subsequently 3TC had to reevaluate the way their employees worked the site.

Resident Diane Bentivegna inquired what funds are being used to pay for the Master Plan RFP and what vehicle is being used to elicit public input. Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann stated that at this time there is 15K from CDBG and 40K from Empire State Development to begin the Master Plan. There will be additional funds applied as grants come in.

Mayor Montreuil added that once the proposal is received and reviewed by the Village Board there will be a chance for public input.

Mr. Norberto thanked the Village Board for holding the meeting via Zoom so that residents were able to participate from their home.

Mayor Montreuil thanked all the residents who participated and announced that the next meeting will also be held via Zoom Video Conferencing.

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 9:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board