

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 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 8:04 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed to honor Mark Farina and Eddie Kotarsky, two of the Village Family's own and all those lost during the pandemic.

Mayor Montreuil spoke briefly about Mark Farina and Eddie Kotarsky who both joined DPW in 1973, spent 36 years with our Village family and retired within months of each other in 2010. This past Saturday the New Hyde Park Fire Department had a motorcade honoring Mark Farina for his many years as a NHPFD volunteer. He expressed his sadness at the loss of two great men, one to Covid-19 and the other to a long illness.

Additionally, the Mayor spoke about the toll that the pandemic and the shutdown is having on the Village of New Hyde Park. He sent his hearts and prayers out to all the front-line workers, nurses, doctors, NHP Fire Department, Nassau County PD, Village DPW, etc. He encouraged the residents to get in touch with the Village if they require any assistance during this difficult time. The Village board and employees are always there to help.

The Mayor and Board are encouraged that the situation with Covid -19 is getting better. The cases are slowly diminishing and they are hopeful that in the next few weeks businesses and other public spaces will start to open. The Village Board looks for direction from the Federal, State and Local Leaders.

Village updates will be posted on the website (www.vnhp.org).

Minutes:

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

Landscaper License: Approved

Pete Timinelli Landscaping – 9 Pine Street, Elmont NY, 11003

Santos Landscaping – 45 Hagen Street, Brentwood NY, 11717

Jose G. Arevalo Landscaping – 686 Keil Street, Elmont NY, 11003
JAA Landscaping – 147-10 41st Street, Flushing NY, 11355
Omar’s Landscaping – 27 Longfellow Avenue, Westbury NY, 11590

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Coppola:

Little League

All activities have been suspended due to Covid-19. There are no new updates on when activities will be resuming.

Nassau County Police Department

Trustee Coppola offered up a huge thank you to the Nassau County Police Department during the pandemic. The NCPD have been working hard, putting in many hours to serve the community and doing an outstanding job.

NCPD is warning people to beware of phone scams. Scammers are targeting the elderly, offering Covid-19 testing or claiming to be from the various utility companies. They are asking for social security numbers, credit card numbers, etc. NCPD is warning everyone to not offer any payment over the phone unless they know that it’s a legit call.

New Hyde Park Fire Department

- Today was the 22nd day of decreases of Covid hospitalization.
- Rescue calls have been greatly reduced.
- Many calls are now being funneled to Nassau County or FEMA when Covid related.
- The fire fighters and EMT’s continue to work 24-hour shifts.
- There are still people testing positive so everyone should still keep practicing social distancing.
- In the Winter Newsletter an Emergency Medical Form was included. All residents are encouraged to have it filled out and placed on their refrigerator if EMT’s need to be called.

This past Saturday the NHP Fire Department honored Mark Marina, a FD volunteer and former Village employee. There was an overwhelming turnout by Village residents, former co-workers, including four present and past mayors. The Farina family was and still is deeply involved in the Village and loved by the community.

Trustee Pallisco:

Facilities

A new electronic sign will be placed outside the Village Hall replacing the current one which has been broken for over a month. The sign will be replaced within the next few weeks.

Because of Village Hall being closed to the public all calls have been funneled to Clerk-Treasurer Kate Hillmann and Superintendent Tom Gannon. Trustee Pallisco and the Village Board thanked them for being attentive to all the callers and funneling their requests to the appropriate people.

Trustee Pallisco thanked the NHP Fire Department and Nassau County Police Department for doing a great job during this difficult time.

Zoning Board of Appeals

All meetings have been canceled at this time.

There are no new updates.

Architectural Review Board

All meetings have been canceled at this time.

There are no new updates.

Trustee Burger:

LIRR

The work on the LIRR has been progressing. It was deemed essential by the New York State Governor's Office. As of now there has been no impact from Covid-19 to the work schedule, as well as no incidents reported. Strict PPE requirements have been implemented by 3TC and the LIRR.

Mayor Montreuil and Trustee Burger still hold meetings with 3TC and MTA on a weekly basis to review the upcoming and completed work.

- Opening for New Hyde Park Road is still slated for Labor Day weekend.
- Overnight work will once again start on May 4th and should be completed by May 16th. The work will include excavation and platform demolition. New platform installation should begin May 25th until June 12th.
- New Station design architectural renderings were received by the Village Board. The Village Board, suggested some station modifications and submitted them to 3TC and MTA. The Final rendering are in process and will be submitted to the Village in the next few weeks. Although not exactly what the Village Board was looking for the rendering will be an improvement to the original. Final renderings will be posted on the Village website.
- The station house will be renovated inside and out. The Village board did request a change of the proposed green roof. The LIRR will be sending over samples.
- The Electrical Substation architectural drawings have been received by the Village Board. Vertex, the Village engineering firm, reviewed the drawings and forwarded to MTA and 3TC with comments. The Village Board had safety concerns that the MTA addressed including the fact that the safety regulations exceed those required by the federal government.
 - The Board requested the MTA and 3TC look into an alternate fence with a different aesthetic to replace what was proposed. 3TC and MTA will be looking into another option.
 - It was also requested that the MTA and 3TC look into enclosing the exposed transformer and electrical equipment to shield them from resident's view. A 3-sided wall/shield, with the open side towards tracks has been recommend by the Village Board.
 - The construction is slated to start shortly with demo work and foundation work. Originally it was not supposed to start until later on in the year, however the MTA is looking to have the substation up and running by Q3 of 2021.
- Because of the New York State stay at home mandate traffic has been light. Plaza Avenue has been closed until June 5th. There will be curb improvement and realignment of the road on the north side of Plaza Avenue before it re-opens. There have also been many reports of wrong way traffic on S. Park Place because of the Plaza Avenue closing.
- Residents are encouraged to contact Community Outreach for questions or to express their concerns, especially if the overnight work is too disruptive. Call (516-203-4955) or email communityoutreach@lirrexpansion.com.
- The punch-list items for Covert Avenue are still open. The Village Board is working with 3TC and M&J to clear the list.

- The landscaping plan has been updated by the Beautification Committee and will be re-submitted to 3TC shortly.
- The Village Board requested that the high rail access be relocated from S 10th Street to S 11th Street. The access gate would be a little further away from residential homes. Additionally, the Board requested that more aesthetically pleasing gates be placed at the access point and MTA and 3TC agreed to look into that.

Water Authority

The Village Board and Superintendent Gannon had a recent meeting with the Water Authority where they presented the plan for the new Station 57 building, which will be replacing the old buildings once they have been torn down. The new building is very ascetically pleasing, resembling a typical house. Additionally, the fencing will be replaced to more resemble the fencing used by 3TC for the LIRR. Once the copy of the presentation is received it will be placed on the website. The Water Authority was looking to start the project in August 2020 with the demolition of the existing facility.

Trustee Squicciarino added that notices will be sent out to the residents who live nearby to inform them when the work will be starting and any modification to the schedule.

Veterans Affairs

There are currently no meetings or events scheduled for Veteran Affairs. Trustee Burger spoke to Commander John McGuire offering help to local veterans during this difficult time. The Memorial Day parade has been canceled but there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony held in front of Village Hall honoring those lost serving in the US military.

Mayor Montreuil added that the closing of Plaza Avenue East was a surprise to the Village Board. Originally it was agreed that the road was going to be kept open as a truck route to prevent trucks from using S 18th and S 17th Streets. 3TC and MTA informed the Village Board that the road had to be closed for safety purposes. The trucks turning into Plaza Avenue were too close to the excavated hole on New Hyde Park Road and for safety of the 3TC employees it was necessary for the road to be closed. The Board did request that in the future they inform the Board before road closures. The Mayor also informed the residents that the 3TC rating is now open and all residents who wish, can go online and rate their work performance.

Mayor Montreuil thanked Trustee Burger for all his hard work with 3TC and for keeping them on track.

Trustee Squicciarino:

Village Clerk’s Report

Coin Meter Collection	\$1,430.00
Court Fines	\$17,179.00
Muni-meter Revenue	\$958.50
Village Taxes Paid	\$3,161.00
Interest Penalties Paid	\$454.93

Village Taxes

Tax bills will be sent out end of May. Residents will have the option to pay their taxes in one lump sum or two installments, one due in June the other in December. Fees for payment on line will be waived only if they are direct account payments. Credit Card fees will not be waived.

Trustee Squicciarino participated in a call with the Town of Hempstead in regards to the federal funding for Covid-19. New York State received \$7 Billion—of that: \$240 Million went to Nassau County, \$130 Million to the Town of Hempstead. Money received can only be used for very specific Covid-19 related expenses. There is some question on how to spend the money from the Cares Act, since restrictions prevent municipalities from using the money for replenishment of lost revenue due to the crisis. Additionally, FEMA will give reimbursement for Covid-19 related expenses up to 75% and the Cares Act can be used for the additional 25%. The Village of New Hyde Park is calculating its expenses to submit for reimbursement to FEMA and Cares Act.

Village Parks

The Village of New Hyde Park parks will start to open this week. Memorial Park should be open this upcoming Sunday. Nuzzi Park is slated to open sometime next week. Parks are only going to be open for passive activities. All basketball courts, tennis courts and playgrounds will remain closed. Social distance must still be observed by all park visitors and there can be no organized play on our fields.

Nassau Schools

All Nassau County Schools remain closed for the rest of the year, per the New York State mandate. School budget has been postponed until June 9th.

Deputy Mayor Squicciarino thanked all Village employees including DPW, Village Hall, and Parks Department, for all the hard work during this difficult time.

Mayor Montreuil echoed Deputy Mayor Squicciarino's thanks. He added that opening Village parks is important for residents who have been stuck at home during the shutdown. He encouraged everyone to go out, walk, and enjoy the fresh air.

Census 2020

Most residents have received the request to complete the 2020 Census. Completing it only takes a few minutes and all residents are encouraged to do so. For example, the information gathered through the census by the government determines aid given to municipalities for emergency situations, like the one we are experiencing now.

Mayor Montreuil:

Mayor Montreuil had a call with Congresswoman Rice in regards to the Covid-19 aid package from the government. The Congresswoman engaged local Mayors to bring forward things that are a concern to them. It was determined that what hurts local government is loss of revenue. That is what prompted the Village Board to take a look at the budget for next year and make appropriate changes where necessary. After reworking the budget Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann and Deputy Mayor Squicciarino managed to keep the budget similar to the one originally proposed, which also kept the tax rate from going up for the year. The Village of New Hyde Park adopted the budget for 2020/21 last week. The Mayor is hopeful that the next round of funding will help smaller municipalities, like the Village of New Hyde Park.

Additionally, the Mayor participated in a call with the Long Island Congressional Delegation, including Congresswoman/Congressman Peter King, Tom Suozzi, Lee Zeldin, Kathleen Rice, and Gregory Meeks. The discussion was primarily on lost revenues and the troubles local governments are facing for that. The burden is greater on local governments because of the loss of revenue as opposed to the expenses incurred since the start of the pandemic. The Mayor suggested the Delegation ease regulation on small businesses so when they do open their doors again, they can start out more nimble and better able to recover.

RESOLUTIONS:

19-131 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #19-27

19-132 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES

19-133 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A FULL TIME CLERK TO THE JUSTICE FOR THE VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT

19-134 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2020-21 TAX PAYMENTS TO BE PAID IN TWO INSTALLMENTS

New Business:

There was none.

Old Business:

There was none.

Public Participation:

In regards to the Cares Act funding, resident Diane Bentivegna questioned if the Village can secure a supply of PPE for Village residents in need, DPW, and NHPFD since they are so difficult to obtain. She also wanted to know if plexiglass can be installed in Village Hall.

Clerk-Treasurer Hillmann already secured the plexiglass barriers for the Village Hall.

Mayor Montreuil added that masks will be available at the park. And the Village Board will look into acquiring more PPE for residents of the village who need it.

Before the end of the meeting the Mayor wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

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 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lara Verbanac

Research Assistant to the Board