

**VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 17, 2020**

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

**Present:** Deputy Mayor Squicciarino  
Trustee Coppola  
Trustee Pallisco  
Trustee Burger  
Thomas P. Gannon, Supt. DPW & Building Department  
Igor Sikiric, Deputy Supt. DPW  
Cathryn Hillmann, Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Lara Verbanac, Research Assistant to the Board

**Absent:** Mayor Montreuil

Deputy Mayor Squicciarino opened the Board Meeting at 8:04 pm following the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:**

Upon motion by Trustee Burger, seconded by Trustee Coppola, the Board Minutes from August 20, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:**

The Republican Club requested the use of Marcus Christ Hall to hold a meeting, on September 21, 2020 between 7-9 pm.  
- **Approved by the Village Board**

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustee Coppola:**

**New Hyde Park Auxiliary**

Auxiliary Police has been attending various events in the area, most recently the Village traffic court and building court which are now open to the public.

**Nassau County Police Department**

Residents were reminded that they need to lock their vehicle doors and to call the police if they see anyone suspicious lurking around their residence. There have been thefts ranging from change found in the vehicle, to computer theft, and house keys being taken from inside the vehicle. There was an incident of a car being keyed on N 12<sup>th</sup> Street the previous week. The Police was called and apprehended the person responsible.

### **New Hyde Park Fire Department**

- The New Hyde Park Fire Department held a 9/11 Ceremony honoring all those who were lost during the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.
- NHPFD encourages residents to check the batteries in their fire detector twice a year. If the detectors they own are 10 years old or more, they should be replaced with new ones.

### **NHP Little League**

The Little League season will be ending Labor Day weekend. Hopefully by next season things will be back to normal.

### **Trustee Pallisco:**

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

- The last meeting of the Zoning Board was scheduled for September 9, 2020. Since no applications were submitted the meeting was canceled.
- The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for October 14, 2020. As of now there are no cases on the docket.

#### **Architectural Review Board**

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on August 5, 2020 via Zoom, with two cases being heard.
- The Architectural Review Board meeting originally scheduled for September 2, 2020 was canceled, due to no applications being submitted.
- The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 7, 2020. As of now there are no cases on the docket.

#### **Department of Public Works**

- Trustee Pallisco thanked the Village DPW department for the new sidewalk banners which they placed along Jericho Turnpike.
- A certified arborist has been invited to the Village to speak to the DPW department, where they will be discussing various type of trees, ground preparation and caring for newly planted trees.

#### **Air Traffic Noise and Safety**

Town-Village Aircraft Safety & Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC) will be holding their meeting on September 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm, at 1 Washington Street in Hempstead, for anyone who is interested in attending. Presently there haven't been many complaints regarding the air traffic noise but as flights increase residents are welcome to join TVASNAC's fight.

#### **Tree Committee**

- Tree stump removal has been ongoing, and will continue until all stumps are removed.
- There is still time to sign up and get a new tree planted in front of your residence.
- Additionally, if any tree pruning needs to be done, residents are asked to call the DPW department and set up an appointment.

### **Trustee Burger:**

Thanked the DPW department for placing the nice banners along Jericho Turnpike.

## Building Report

- Village building court was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. This was the first building court held in person since the start of the pandemic.
  - Cases included: property maintenance, selling ice cream without a permit, use of a single family home, working without a permit, and feeding stray cats.
- The next Village building court will be held on October 21, 2020 at Village Hall, with 28 cases on the docket, involving property maintenance, working without a permit, violation of special exception, illegal use of a single family home, illegally parked on lawn, illegal second kitchen, and harboring undomesticated animals.
- There was no special use application submitted for consideration at the last board meeting.
- There have been 51 permits in total approved and issued from August 20 – September 16, 2020

## LIRR

- Work continues to move forward on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Project.
- New Hyde Park Road re-opened on August 24, 2020. The Village Board was informed of the re-opening 30 minutes before the ribbon cutting ceremony started. There was no time to announce it to the residents.
  - The Village Board noted its displeasure with the short notice, to MTA and 3TC.
- There are a number of safety concerns the Village has with the new underpass.
  - North bound/south bound lanes should be re-aligned, issues with the crosswalk visibility, left turning lane into commuter lot, and construction area safety.
  - Modifications were requested by the Village Board and currently sit with Nassau County.
- Construction continues on the station house and new platforms.
- Currently, S 12<sup>th</sup> Street is slated to close for construction in October. The street will be permanently closed and dead ended, from both the north and south sides.
  - 3TC is currently working on signage, detour plans, communication and coordination with the MTA.
  - Once detour plans are completed they will be posted on the Village website.
- The Electrical Substation demolition was completed and preliminary construction has started.
  - Foundation work is completed as well as utility work on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Closure was required on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, between S 8<sup>th</sup> and S 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Transformer pads and installation of grounding grid is in process.
  - The Village Board is working with the MTA and 3TC on a number of issues, including perimeter fencing.
- The landscaping plan has been updated and comments were submitted and accepted by 3TC, with the exception of a few trees, which will have to be replanted elsewhere due to underground utilities.
  - Since most of the area is still under construction the replanting will be postponed until next spring. There will be some limited planting by New Hyde Park Road and by Covert Avenue this fall.
- The high rail access gate has been shifted to S 11<sup>th</sup> Street and away from residential homes. The Village Board is looking into making it more aesthetically pleasing.
- Along the entire corridor there will be utility pole removal. The pole removal won't start until sometime next year. The Village Board is trying to get a handle on the overall utility poles that will remain in the area.
- Foundation work for the wall construction along 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues continues. Panels are being manufactured but won't be installed until early 2021.
- The Village Board is working with 3TC on a truck access route for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Current design can accommodate 18 wheelers from 45-55 feet. The New Hyde Park Fire Department truck had no issues entering the Covert Avenue extension.

- A number of punch-list items for Covert Avenue have been closed. From the 29 open items on the list, 20 items have been closed, with 9 currently being worked on.
  - Stop signs were installed on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

**Water Authority**

- The next Board Meeting, which will be held on September 21, 2020, will be Trustee Burger’s last with the Water Authority. Matthew McCann will be taking over his role.
- All contracts were awarded for the Station 57 project and work on the station will be kicking off in late September.

**Veterans Affairs**

- American Legion Post 1089 will hold their next meeting on October 17, 2020 at 10 am at Marcus Christ Hall.
- Trustee Burger and Commander John McGuire held a telephone conference discussing internal changes.
- Veteran’s Day ceremony planning will begin shortly.

**Trustee Squicciarino:**

**Village Clerk’s Report**

Coin Collection	\$4,355.00
Insurance Recovery	\$9,491.10
Court Fines	\$49,268.50
Muni Meter Revenue	\$3,529.80
Prior Years Taxes	\$1,112.50
2020/2021 Taxes Paid	\$6,673.15
Penalties Paid in August	\$807.90
CDBG Reimbursement	\$180,010.44

- Currently the Fiscal Year End Audit is on its way at the Clerk’s Office.
- The CHIPS money for road work was received from the DOT in the amount of \$150,000

**Library**

Library is offering a variety of virtual classes, including trivia game night. For all interested, go on line and register.

**2020 Census**

If you have not done so, please fill out the 2020 Census before October 31, 2020, by calling 1-844-330-2020 or going online at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

**Town of North Hempstead**

- On October 2, 2020 Saint Francis Hospital Outreach Bus will be at Clinton G. Martin Park, from 10 am to 2 pm. (Wellness checks only, non COVID related)
- On October 3, 2020 at Clinton G. Martin Park, all North Hempstead residents are invited to bring documents to be shredded and pills to be disposed of. Three bags maximum can be brought in. Only pills accepted, no ointments or needles.

## **Nassau Schools**

Nassau schools have reopened and classes have started. Older students are going to class on alternate days, whereas younger ones are in school 5 days a week.

**Mayor Montreuil:** - Absent. No report was provided in his absence.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

**20-23 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT #20-07**

**20-24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN BUDGETARY ACCOUNT CODES**

**20-25 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE 46TH YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

**20-26 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK**

**20-27 A RESOLUTION AUTORIZING DPW SUPT. TO PURCHASE A LEAF BLOWER VACUUM**

## **New Business:**

There was none.

## **Old Business:**

There was none.

## **Public Participation:**

Resident Andrew Faglio questioned if:

- Will the 'don't block the box' marking which was removed from the corner of Herkomer Street and Jericho Turnpike be re-painted. Superintendent Tom Gannon stated that it was removed by National Grid during utility work and it was repaved and not re-painted. National Grid will be repainting the markings.
- Additionally he questioned if there are plans to place a 'don't block the box' on the corner of New Hyde Park Road and S Park Place. He is concerned that because of the light at Plaza Avenue the traffic will be backing up and blocking the exit from S Park Place. Trustee Burger stated that if the intersection becomes a problem a request will be made with Nassau County to place a 'do not block the box' at the intersection.
- When traveling north on New Hyde Park Road toward the underpass there is a section of the road that seems to be needing repaving. Superintendent Tom Gannon stated that it is slated to be repaved in the near future.
- There are still plans in the works to develop the streets along the train tracks. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino stated that the Village Board is looking at candidates who will be starting the process of planning the development, including the study to see what the residents and the businesses in the area foresee for the area.

Resident Vivian Vitale is questioning the no parking sign placed at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where the road dead-ends. She is concerned that the sign was placed because of a neighbor's insistence not because it was necessary. Because of the sign there is now less parking on the street for the nearby residents. Superintendent Tom Gannon stated that the sign was placed because one resident had a difficult time exiting his driveway while cars parked at the dead-end. Trustee Coppola reiterated that no resident owns the street and no one can insist or get angry on where anyone parks, as long as parking rules are observed and residential driveways aren't blocked.

Resident Robert Keefe questioned the timing of the lights on the corner of Ingraham Lane and Jericho Turnpike. Since the opening of New Hyde Park Road the timing of the red light seems to have gotten longer on Ingraham Lane and the green light shorter. Superintendent Gannon stated that the light on Ingraham Lane was timed to work in conjunction with the light on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Jericho Turnpike. Trustee Burger added that people exiting S 12<sup>th</sup> Street used to hit a red light once they turn onto Jericho Turnpike and Ingraham Lane. Now that the lights were changed it gives them a continuous green light so that more cars are able to exit S 12<sup>th</sup> Street and turn onto Jericho Turnpike.

Additionally, Mr. Keefe is concerned for pedestrians crossing Jericho Turnpike at S 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The east and west lanes don't seem to be turning red at the same time, so pedestrians start to cross the street while the westbound part of Jericho Turnpike still has a green light. Trustee Burger stated that the lights on S 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Jericho Turnpike will be re-examined once S 12<sup>th</sup> Street closes in late October. Since Jericho Turnpike is a state road, DOT will have to be involved in re-timing the lights.

Resident Sam Khoury thanked the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Gannon for their help with National Grid and the marking on Jericho Turnpike and Herkomer Street. He questioned:

- Whether Harley Davidson paid their fees owed to the Village and when will the residents be informed when there will be a hearing. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino stated that there are no current updates but as they decided it will be announced.
- Drivers are still using S Park Place to cut across to Herkomer Street even though it's a one way street. Trustee Pallisco suggested an Auxiliary Police car be parked on the street to discourage drivers from driving down the wrong way.

Resident Diane Schafer wanted to update the Village Board that the 'Trap and Neuter' program that the Town of Hempstead used to have has been cut. Now, they have limited trapping and neutering of cats, therefore the population of cats in our area is on the rise. She asked that the Mayor send a letter to Don Clavin on that subject before the situation gets worse. Deputy Mayor Squicciarino will contact the Town of Hempstead to get more information and ask what their capacity is as compared to last year.

Resident Anne Stevenson questioned when the pedestrian path on the overpass be completed. Trustee Burger stated that it should be completed by end of September and before S 12<sup>th</sup> Street is closed for construction.

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 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Lara Verbanac*

Research Assistant to the Board