

VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES
GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
914 Dunes Rd West Hampton Dunes and Via Zoom May 23, 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Mayor Gary Vegliante, Trustee John Eff, Trustee Harvey Gessin, Trustee Gary Trimarchi Village Clerk-Angela Sadeli Village Attorney Joseph Prokop Village Treasurer Claire Vegliante, Robin Santora

Meeting called to order 7:37pm
Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor:

- Plover: There was a storm a few weeks ago that washed out a few nests. Some have renested this can go through the month of July. Reminder: There is a fine if you touch a nest or walk through the fencing as these birds are protected. If you need special accommodation, please call the office for consideration.
- Movie Night: Annual movie night was moved to August 5th. It is a great night, bring your family and friends.
- Tax bills: All tax bills were mailed out if you did not receive a copy of your bill, please contact the village office and one will be mailed to you. Tax bills are due on or before July 1st without penalty, must be date stamped 7/1/23 to avoid late fees. There is a 5% charge for the first month and 1% additional charge thereafter. Any questions call the office.
- Scope of work for 914 Dune Rd: Trustee Gessin is going to be working with John, Building Inspector, Sgt. Hennig and Sgt. Turner, to put together a scope of work for 914 Dune Rd. Renovations will include a new meeting space, a back office for the Building Department, and updates to the outside deck. If there are any other needs for the building, they will be assessed as well. Once renovations are complete, we will not need use of the BBPA property any longer. Discussion on BBPA property to be had at a future meeting.
- NYCOM: Attended NYCOM Annual Meeting at the Sagamore in Lake George for a legislative review. There were lots of good seminars to sit in on at the conference. Both the Mayor and the Treasurer attended. There was discussion at the conference on Governor Hochul's housing bill which was deleted from the budget. The Mayor and NYCOM believe that the Governor has turned her back on villages with NY Zoning issues. If the housing bill was to get passed that would mean that our village would need 9 new buildings per year and the village cannot hold that.
- 30th Anniversary: The village's 30th anniversary will be coming up party scheduled for September 9th with a rain date of September 10th. The village is looking for anyone who would like to make a sponsorship or donation to the event. The party will be held at Pike's Beach and the village is going to put in a permit for that location. Invitations will be sent out.
- Altice: The Mayor and the Village Attorney met with Altice today and Altice was not going to give the village anything for the franchise, but they negotiated. Federal regulation on how much they are supposed to pay. But they have agreed they will continue to pay. The meeting was successful and they are offering support and cameras and video transmission of our meetings. There are two people who do these negotiations, and we were lucky to get someone who was professional and helpful. The conversation was very constructive. Trustee Craig said there have been some issues with Altice in the village and found out that there is fiber optic in the village. Had fiber optic run to house tripled speed and lowered his bill. Residents should contact Altice for fiber optic and get a free upgrade. Mayor said that it is not all the way down the road just yet but it will be completed soon.

Trustees:

- Trustee Michael Craig presented to the board an amendment to the civil service law for the age at which Constables can retire. A few years back we negotiated a contract with the Constables, and we left off the civil service retirement. There are five full time Constables eligible for retirement at 55 years of age at 30 years of service and can get 60% of their pension. Tim, Brian, and Jake are all over 25 years, and are not leaving any time soon but two Constables, one being Jason Luhrs, has been with us for 13 years and is critical to the village and is years away from 55. Jason reached out to Fred Thiele and asked for retirement to be reevaluated. A bill will go to Albany where we lower the years of service from 30 to 25 and maintain the 55 year old retirement age. This is an option for Jason to receive this. He is willing to reduce the pay from 60% to 50%. The village board members are in support of this. It will take about a year as the legislative session is about to end. Can be moved forward to get a number and will have Senator Palumbo to sign off on it. Hopefully it will be approved at the next legislative session.
- Trustee Michael Craig spoke with Lisa Lombardo who is the assistant and person who drafts bills. He is proposing a half of 1% Transfer tax to go to our beach fund. She will draft a bill and present it to Fred Thiele. This summer set up a meeting with Lisa to discuss it. The mayor will help to get these moving forward. All board members are in support of this.

Motion to adopt a resolution to change the civil service law for retirement age and to request sponsorship from one of the representatives, Assemblymen Thiele or Senator Palumbo to sponsor the bill

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- VID: Memo from Aram. Gary Trimarchi spoke with Stanley Vickers who is spearheading the VID. It has been hard to get the permits in place for the VID. Bayside is having a lot of erosion. The beach keeps losing sand if it keeps up, we will lose sand on the ocean. The mayor said the will try to get them to move with the project by speaking with Assemblymen Thiele. Joe Prokop said that we should try to get a meeting with whoever is issuing the permits. Letter from DEC in April that the project was ceased as the results are not what they envisioned. DEC doesn't feel there is any imminent risk. The board believes this is not true and the comments are subjective. Trustee Craig will send a copy of this letter to the village attorney to review.
- Road striping: Discussion on condition of the road striping. Crosswalks need to be redone. Missing a sign that needs to be ordered.
- Street Sweeping: Street sweeper is down and will be back up in June. When it is repaired WHB will come sweep the road. Residents should have landscapers to blow back sand from the road.
- The noise law was passed and there is no noise from homeowners or landscapers on weekends. Anything disruptive on the weekends are prohibited. Constables will hand a flyer out to landscapers to make them aware of the change in the law. This summer is more about making people aware.
- Rental permits are coming in. Building Inspector says there are many permits coming in every day.

Treasurer:

- NYCLASS gained interest with the General Fund of 12k and in the Beach fund interest of 11k to date. Once all of the tax money is received, we will put it in to NYCLASS to gain interest.
- Waiting on the completion of the audit. Year end is 5/31 and we are preparing the audit for next year
- Tax rate went down due to the increase in assessments. Any questions call the office

- The village is moving forward with a bond for 200k. This will include renovations for 914 Dune Rd, new car and technical support

Motion to adopt a resolution that the issuance of a new bond in the amount of 200k is a type II action for the purposes of SEQRA and no other environmental review is required

- Motion by John Eff
- Second by Gary Trimarchi
- All in favor: Yes
- None opposed

Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the board to issue a bond incurring debt in the amount of 200k for a period up to 5 years for a purchase of new vehicle and renovations to 914 Dune Road.

- Motion by Michael Craig
- Second by Harvey Gessin
- All in favor: Yes
- None opposed

Constables:

- Village has been quiet if there are any issues call us as it is happening. Cannot fix issues if they are not made aware at the time.
- Budget for speed signs and cameras to enhance village safety. Speed signs will be placed at Cupsogue and 656A Dune Rd
- If there are any issues call the Constables ASAP

Attorney:

- Village justice court is going really nice. Judge Gomeran is doing a great job
- ZBA meetings have been once a month. They are accessible via Zoom. There are currently many projects in different areas of the village. This board is working together nicely and is very skilled. They are doing a good job at reviewing all of the applications.

Public Comment:

- Jim Cashin commented that we need to get new technology for meetings to enhance the quality of the audio as during ZBA hearings it is hard to hear the residents that attend via Zoom. Cashin was advised that we purchased a new camera/audio system and we were using it that evening.
- Doug Milles: Has the village ever considered speed bumps? Answer from Sgt Hennig is that speed bumps are not legal to put on public highways. Speed signs are going up. If there are any issues Sgt Hennig said he will be writing tickets
- Jason Luhrs: Thanked the Village Trustees, specifically Trustee Michael Craig, who helped to get the bill for the amendment to the retirement age moving along in the assembly. He appreciates the boards consideration. Trustee Michael Craig said he appreciates Jason's dedication to the village.
- Marshall Hagen: What is the relationship between the BBPA And the village. A discussion was had by the Mayor and the Trustees where they spoke about the relationship between the village and the BBPA where they said it could be a wonderful addition to the village. Asked if there is a grand plan and the Mayor stated that it has been tough but it is a new season and hopefully we will be able to move along as the residents have a lot vested. The Mayor and Trustee Trimarchi said they are open to discussions but have not been well received. The board believes the BBPA is an asset to the village and that they should be able to work together.
- Robin Laveman: What is the issue? Mayor stated that there is a difference of opinion in the ownership of the property and it would be a wonderful asset to the village if it could be developed

for the purpose of the residents being able to utilize it. The Mayor and Trustee Trimarchi both stated they have tried to speak with the BBPA but have failed. Robin said she is happy to assist in any way she can. The Mayor stated that the village supports a peaceful resolution to the issue.

Resolutions:

- Motion to approve the claim vouchers by the Board of Trustees

Motion by Michael Craig

Second by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution waiving of the reading of the minutes of the April 2023 meeting

Motion by Gary Trimarchi

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution that the amendment to the noise law is an unlisted action for the purpose of SEQRA

Motion by John Eff

Second by Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution to approve the change to the law on noise from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by Michael Craig

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

Motion to close a public meeting 8:45pm

Motion by Harvey Gessin

Second by Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: Yes

None opposed