

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

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

Meeting called to order 7:39pm
Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor:

- Movie Night: Annual movie night is August 5th. The movie is Super Mario Bros. It's a fun night, bring your family and friends.
- Reminder tax bills are due July 1st, 2023.
- 30th Anniversary Party: The village's 30th anniversary is coming up. A party is 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. If interested in sponsoring, please call the office. The party will be held at Pike's Beach and invitations will be sent out.
- Plovers: Tremendous number of birds that have hatched and are running around there are over 40. There is still between 10-30 days until separation and when they fledge. It is through hard work of village and residence that they have survived. The people who put up the string fence are a private company and not employees of fish and wildlife. They were very helpful and much more reasonable. Reminder: Dogs are destructive to the nests and plovers. Please keep pets out of string fence or you can be liable for a fine.
- Fleet Management: Getting to age that our vehicles are starting to breakdown. Found a surplus of money in our reserve fund to purchase a new vehicle. At the end of night will be asking for a resolution to purchase vehicle. We are looking to bond for a second vehicle which would bring our fleet to almost completely brand new. Over Memorial Day weekend we needed to put the mayor's car into patrol to help out. For the July 4th weekend we will need to use the mayor's car again for backup but by Labor Day we should have a full fleet with little or no impact to our budget.
- Street Sweeping: Westhampton Beach accommodated us with cleaning our streets. Some spots were missed due to where fiber optic trucks were parked and the street sweepers had to go around the vehicles. Westhampton Beach has been an extraordinary neighbor, the department of public works. Westhampton Beach held a recent election. Electoral bodies remained in tack, but it was a close election. Our election year is next June. Everyone needs to stay involved and vote.

Trustee Report:

- Trustee Michael Craig spoke of the Village Improvement District (VID). The twelve homes in the 600 block where there is erosion happening. The VID banded together to get permits. After 12 months the DEC finally responded with a pushback for more information. Aram completed a study and has hired an engineer from Patchogue to redesign our VID project to look like Patchogue's and is going to resubmit plan. Not happy having to spend the extra money but the engineer was mandated by the State. Next step is the VID is going to have to vote increase cost for engineer and additional planning and refileing.
- Trustee Jeff Trimarchi spoke about the FIMP project. The Mayor says we still have one more renourishment left, since our beaches are in such great shape it has stalled another year having to use it. After the next project is in place, the FIMP project will kick in where we have about another 50 years. At that point municipalities that own the beaches would be expected to

contribute up to 15% of the cost. It does depend on what happens. If it is caused by a hurricane we are covered. If vast destruction by other means, for instance whether a storm wipes out the beach and dunes, then we would have to wait and see for Federal money. If FIMP money comes in the average cost to our community would be around 8-15 million dollars every four to five years, but if you read the fine print, it is more for municipalities that have ownership in their beaches. Our beaches have been donated to the public, which has become a public benefit for us since the State of New York owns our beach. We are in a good position to leverage our public entity with the government. We are scheduled to be renourished in the fall of 2024. So far, they have been renourishing beyond the standards. It is important to keep elevation up. After hurricane Sandy our beaches remained in good condition. We encourage residents to add sand and sand fences to help keep up the elevation.

Treasury:

- Waiting for the completed audit from the auditors.
- If you have not received your tax bill, please call the Village office. There is obviously a problem, maybe your address has changed. Taxes must be received, or post marked by July 1, 2023, or there is a 5% penalty added which mandated by the state. There is no negotiating to avoid the penalty, there is no way to remove the penalty charged. After the first month there is an added penalty of 1% each month after that.
- To date 58% of taxes have been received, so we are in good shape.
- Received fourth mortgage tax check in the amount of \$17,000.00. We budgeted for \$70,000 last year and have received \$78,500.00, so we are in good shape.
- Already transferred \$600,000 to NY Class, very excited about the interest we are earning. And since we are starting at the beginning of tax season this year, we should be able to accumulate a lot this year.
- For those that do not know Angela is leaving, in fact this is her last meeting and day of work. She has been training Robin Santora as the new Village Clerk. Angela was a terrific asset to the village and a great friend.
- Any questions for Claire email or call the office.

Constables:

- They are in the new building, there is no landscaping or signs yet. The hope is a local landscaper could help with future landscaping.
- Still need to get a sign and want it to coordinate with the landscaping. Wedel in Riverhead was recommended as a company to use.
- The building will look nice, but just not there yet.
- We are entering hurricane season everyone should have a plan for their home, outdoor furniture, etc. Should have a plan to evacuate.
- Sgt Turner stated there was a report that a large swim platform washed up at a residence in Remsenburg. If any of the residents are missing a platform, call the constables and they can put you in touch.
- Trustee Michael Craig stated there is a 25-mph sign buried in a tree in front of 872 Dune Rd, Bayside. Sgt Hening thought it was good timing with road striping and repairing signs, can coordinate with Westhampton Beach to help move the sign.
- John McClary our building inspector has gotten CHIPS funding for our new speed signs. The signs have already been ordered and will be in in a couple of weeks. One is run on solar which is down by Cupsogue and the other is hard wired in front of the new constabulary.

- The two cameras outfitted in the constable vehicles take over 3000 images within a 24-hour period. If there is a problem with a plate the duty officer will be automatically alerted. There is interagency cooperation between Southampton Town, Westhampton Beach, Quogue and the county.

Attorney:

- The last correspondence we received from the state was a couple of months ago, regarding the three story/ four story issue and we have been dealing with a response to that dispute. Just the other day we received a 77-page letter, regarding the propane tanks. Basically, one page for each property describing their version of how terrible a job the village is doing. The problem is they are trying to take our building department away from us, we need to be careful, since they have succeeded in other municipalities. Attorney Joe Prokop's recommendation is to go up to Albany and have a face-to-face meeting and go through each property. Believes there is too much overreach, and they should be reported to the inspector general.

When the village was formed, we installed underground propane tanks with the guidance of the Department of State. At that time, they were approved by the State as for their location and setup and were approved at that time. Since then, the tanks have been decommissioned and replaced with what we feel are potentially dangerous above ground tanks. They want us to go from property to property and inspect each tank and be sure they are positioned correctly. We have complied and have had three building inspectors along with an engineer certify it at a great expenditure of our own resources. Each property has been issued two certificates, one of completion and one of compliance. Which is still not good enough for the Department of State. States end game will not be good for the Village. The Mayor believes we go and meet with the powers of Albany and if there's not a positive result, then we need to litigate.

One thing pointed out in the 77-page letter is that there were homes that were issued tickets but were never followed up on. We need to find out what happened to those tickets and deal with those situations. Joe thinks John, our building inspector, should become familiar with these reports. Everyone thinks John has been doing a great job and is fully capable and has been a great addition to the Village.

Resolutions:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to approve the bids for the purchase of a new vehicle.
Authorized purchase of \$47,580

Motion by Michael Craig

Seconded by John Eff

All in favor: Yes

None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution approving the claim vouchers by Board of Trustees for the Village

Motion by Gary Trimarchi

Second by Harvey Gessin

All in favor: Yes
None opposed

- Motion to adopt a resolution waiving the reading of the minutes of the May 2023 meeting
Motion by John Eff
Seconded by Gary Trimarchi
All in favor: Yes
None opposed

Joe Prokop reminded that we have an Organizational meeting which is Friday July 7, 2023. There have been some changes in NY State law and regulations where we must make changes to some of the policies. Also, there was proposal for a local law regarding contractor licenses in the village and we want to have a public hearing on it. Needs to be published in Newsday so it can be in the paper 10 days before hearing.

- Motion to set public hearing on July 7, 2023
Motion by Michael Craig
Seconded by Gary Trimarchi
All in favor: Yes
None opposed

Public Comment:

- Jim Cashin asked if there has been a report of a power surge damaging any pool or other equipment about two or three weeks ago? Sgt. Hennig said none had been reported. However there have been a few thunderstorms, pool equipment could have been hit by lightning.
- Gloria wished Angela and her family the best of luck on their move.
- Alan Green wants to know if there is any plan to put the existing above ground utility wires below ground. There are plans but it is never going to happen. It is way too expensive.
- Residents need to individually call Altice to find out whether fiber optics is now available to their home. It needs to be installed by a subcontractor.

Joe Prokop officially sworn Robin Santora in as the new Village Clerk.

Trustee Michael Craig welcomed Robin. Wanted to thank Angela for her seven years with the Village. Michael feels it has been an absolute privilege to work with her. She did an amazing job. It is a tough job, but she has done a great job and always with a smile. Angela has enjoyed working with the board and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve this Village.

- Motion to close a public meeting 9:00 pm
Motion by Harvey Gessin
Seconded by Gary Trimarchi
All In favor: Yes
None opposed

