

VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES

GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

914 Dunes Rd West Hampton Dunes and Via Zoom August 18, 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Mayor Gary Vegliante, Trustee John Eff, Village Attorney Joseph Prokop, Village Treasurer Claire Vegliante, Village Clerk Robin Santora, Sgt Brian Hennig

Via Zoom: Trustee Harvey Gessin, Trustee Gary Trimarchi, Trustee Michael Craig

Residents: David Alvillar & son, Roger Fay, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gelb

Meeting called to order 7:45 pm - Waved Pledge of Allegiance due to no flag.

- Paul Bass spoke regarding the Westhampton Beach Ambulance Water Rescue Team that is conducting a water rescue drill at Pikes Beach on Friday, August 25th at 6pm. They are a volunteer ocean lifeguard unit made up of an elite group of police officers, engineers and pj's all with at least 9 years of lifeguard experience. Their purpose is to respond to situational water crises when they occur. Trustee Michael Craig asked how the Village could help support the unit and was told that donations could be made to the Westhampton Beach Ambulance.
- Samantha Pardel-Jerez is the Government Affairs Manager for Altice USA, or Optimum. Village attorney Joesph Prokop and Samantha have been speaking regarding a renewal for a franchise agreement. The Villages current agreement expires on December 31,2023 and they are working on a renewal for a 10-year contract. The contract needs to be reviewed by the Board and then discussed further.
Under federal law there are franchise fees that are up to 5% of gross cable revenue that is remitted back to the village for the use of the public right-of way. Then federal law has a cap of 5%.

The Villages fiber is not complete. Resident Robin Laveman asked when we could expect the entire village to be finished and Samantha could not give a timeline as to when it would be done. Samantha did say that aerial fiber would be completed before underground.

Trustee John Eff asked about issues that seasonal residents had with reconnects and scheduling at the beginning of the season. Samantha offered for residents to contact her directly and she would be a liaison with customer service.

Mayor's Report:

- **Movie Night:** Over 200 people joined at the beach for movie night. It was a successful, beautiful night that went off without a hitch.
- **30th Anniversary Party:** The Village was created November 19, 1993. The 30th anniversary is coming up and a party is scheduled for September 9th with a rain date of September 10th at Pike's Beach. The BBQ is for all residents and families. Invitations

have been mailed and emailed. Our next Board of Trust monthly meeting will proceed the party at 11 am.

- **Village Propane Tank Survey:** John McAlary our building inspector, who is a certified code enforcer through the state, Trustee Harvey Gessin and one of Harvey's employees have been working extremely hard going door to door inspecting and measuring propane tanks of the entire village. The Mayor feels it has been an effective measure and is hopeful that the information we are able to provide to the Department of State will satisfy what the department is looking for.
- **Fire Danger/ Beach Fires:** Resident Fred Gelb expressed his concerns about fires on the beach. He is looking for stricter rules to be enforced. He wants there to be a minimum of 150ft to 200ft allowed between a beach fire and the dunes. Currently there only must be 50ft. distance from the dunes. Fred Gelb would like a \$1000.00 fine imposed if a fire is within 200ft. of the dunes.
Sgt Hening recently checked with other local areas like Southampton Town, Quogue and Westhampton Beach who all also regulate a 50ft. distance from any structure. Trustee Michael Craig thinks this is an important issue and we should look into, however there are practical issues that need to be considered. For instance, on the ocean side, you could regulate a 150ft. distance but on the bayside, there simply is not enough property for the homeowner to maintain that sort of distance.

You are reminded if you see a dangerous fire situation to call the constables at the time of the occurrence. Do not wait until Monday to call the Mayor to report the problem, it needs to be dealt with at the time it is happening.

Resolutions:

- Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following Budget modification for the purchase of a Public Safety Vehicle using surplus for 5/22 FYE:
Increase Appropriated Fund Balance in the amount of \$55,000
Increase Public Safety Vehicle in the amount of \$55,000

Motion by: Gary Trimarchi

Seconded by: John J. Eff Jr.

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

- Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following Budget modification for the purchase of a Public Works Vehicle using NYS CHIPS FUNDING:
Increase: NYS CHIPS State Aide \$ 68,000

Increase: Highway Vehicle - \$68,000

Motion by: Michael Craig

Second by: Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

- Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following budget for additional work by Building Inspector
Decrease Engineer \$3000.00
Increase Building Inspector salary \$3000.00

Motion by: Michael Craig

Seconded by: John J. Eff Jr

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

- Resolved, the Board of Trustees approves the following budget transfer for the 30th Anniversary celebration funded by health insurance savings due to vacancy:
FROM Health Insurance \$25,000
TO Home and Community Services \$25,000

Motion by: Gary Trimarchi

Seconded by: Michael Craig

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none

Trustee Report:

- Nothing further

Treasurer's Report:

- Robin, as our new clerk is doing a good job.
- Invitations are out for the party. If you have not received one in the mail or by email please contact the office, your address and information may be incorrect.
- Emailed bank statements and reconciliation reports to the Trustees & Boards. We are still waiting for the completed auditor's report, that is why we are changing auditors. We were going to wait for the final audit, but we are going to start without it.
- We have received 99% of tax payments. We have transferred one million four dollars into NY Class funds. In June and July, we received \$10,011.00 in interest and our entire budget for the year was \$10,000.00 so we are doing really well. Financially we are in great shape.
- Any questions or concerns call or contact Claire at the office.

Constable's Report:

- The speed sign that is solar is up and will be programmed tomorrow. It is for people leaving Cupsogue, it is by the water authority property. The other sign going up will be put up at the beginning of the village by the new building.
- Sgt Hennig recommends paying attention to the National weather site. There are several separate weather systems that have the potential of developing into storms. Pay attention and have a plan for what to do with furniture and any other property needs.

Village Attorney Report:

- Number of things going on in the Village. Village attorney Joe Prokop is very happy with the propane work that John McAlary and trustee Gessin have accomplished so far. He feels the work they have done will help with a constructive dialog with the state and help provide answers that the state is looking for.
- The Trustees have been working very hard over the last two months. It is largely volunteer work and they worked well with each other and put a lot of time into the Village. Likewise, the ZBA has been working extremely hard fully vetting applications. Last month, they had over a 4 ½ hour meeting.
- As you can see tonight, we continue to function under the changes in public officers' law, where under circumstances we can have people work remotely and participate. This law was renewed on July 31st and we are grateful and hope we can continue to work remotely and that the law will be left in place.
- Sgt. Hennig commented on how busy we have been in court and what a great job Joe Prokop has done. Joe credits the Village Justice Gomeran for an amazing job that he has done. His court is very organized and serious. We have recently cleared up pre-covid tickets which brings in revenue and cleans up many past issues.

Public Comment:

- Carl Landeck from 903 Dune Road first wants to thank the Board and the Constables. He is concerned with the condition of the walking path/ bike lane and that there seems to be less usable space. Looking for some type of maintenance for this space. It was noted that much of the sand and gravel is from individual driveways and that it is the responsibility of the resident to maintain that area. We discussed that the constables and John the building inspector would work on notifying the residents who need to clean up in front of their driveways.
- Trustee Gary Trimarchi brought up that the VID (Village Improvement District) is struggling and there is no way we can complete the replenishment by the fall. He knows it is not the village's responsibility but if anyone has any suggestions to help move this along, it would be appreciated.
- Kevin McGinn from 5 Cove Lane wanted to comment on our first speaker, Paul Bass and how important a program it is that he is running. People get in trouble with riptides all the time. He himself got in trouble with his granddaughter and was rescued by a lifeguard who happened to be passing by. Kevin would like to see an advisory sent out at the beginning of each season, reminding everyone of the dangers of swimming without a lifeguard present, especially if you have young children.

Motion to close a public meeting 8:56 pm.

Motion by: John J Eff Jr.

Seconded by: Gary Trimarchi

All in favor: unanimous

Opposed: none