

February 26, 2025

Does the Village Board have to hold a bond vote prior to issuing bonds for a St. Paul's renovation project? The simple answer is no, they do not. Why have I as your Mayor and other Trustees said publicly, of course there will be a vote before any project is decided upon? Because to me and many others it would seem foolish to assume support for a project as big as a St. Paul's project, and the legal advice provided that I am sharing below will help explain why as a policy matter most elected officials would choose to have a vote.

The Village bonds many projects, and the rules surrounding village bonding include the following:

- Unlike school districts and fire districts, there is no circumstance under which a referendum of Village residents would be required by law for the approval or disapproval of the issuance of debt to finance a St. Paul's Project, or any other Village project for that matter.
- There are rules surrounding voter approval of debt issuance, and they are as follows:
 - Any Village bond resolution authorizing the issuance of debt with the proposed maturity of the bonds in excess of five years is subject to a permissive referendum.
 - Permissive Referendum means that the residents have a 30-day period from the date of adoption of the bond resolution, after due notice by publication and posting of a summary of the bond resolution, in which to petition for a Village election for approval or disapproval of the bond resolution (subject to certain legal requirements regarding notices, timing and other matters). If a valid and timely petition were received, the Village would be obligated to hold a referendum, although the Board of Trustees could determine to reconsider and rescind the bond resolution rather than hold a referendum. To be valid, a petition must be signed and acknowledged by registered voters of the Village in a number equal to at least 20 percent of the registered voters as shown on the register of electors for the previous general Village election.
 - Alternatively, the Board of Trustees may determine that the bond resolution shall be subject to a mandatory referendum, meaning that it would be subject to a public vote to be held at a general or special Village election.
 - Where there is a public vote, either by permissive referendum or mandatory referendum, the outcome is determined by a simple majority of the voters present and voting at the election for approval.
 - Notably, bond resolutions generally require at least a 2/3 supermajority of the Board for adoption. However, if the Board decides to make the resolution subject to a mandatory referendum, only a 3/5 majority is required.

As has been pointed out before and the reason we have spoken of polls and surveys surrounding St. Paul's, the determination to undertake the project and/or spend Village funds for the project cannot be the subject of a public vote. It is only the bond resolution that can be the subject of such a vote.

The question of whether the Board should opt for a mandatory referendum is a policy question rather than a legal question. I and others on the Board have expressed that we think it is good policy considering the project

and it is something I feel strongly about. I have suggested to other Trustees that we pass a Board Resolution to reassure residents of our commitment to holding a mandatory bond referendum before moving forward with a St. Paul's project, and I am hopeful that this resolution will come at one of the March meetings before my term as Mayor ends.

VILLAGE APP IS HERE!

I am thrilled to announce that the new Village App - MyGardenCity - is now available for residents to download! This new mobile citizen engagement app allows residents to have a direct line of communication to access information, submit service requests, get notifications and more! Now you will all be in the know about what's happening around the Village.

POLICE DEPARTMENT DRONE

The Police Department has purchased a drone with funds from a (Law Enforcement Technology) LETECH grant obtained through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The model is a lightweight, portable drone equipped with an infrared system, multiple high-resolution cameras, and the capability to take pictures and videos.

Drones have proven to be a valuable asset in enhancing police operations and bolstering public safety. Their ability to offer real-time surveillance, collect vital evidence, access inaccessible areas makes them invaluable tools in combating crime, and locating missing and vulnerable persons.

PUBLIC HEARING - VILLAGE CODE REGARDING SWIMMING POOLS

The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposed amendment to the Village Code relating to swimming pools.

PUBLIC HEARING - VILLAGE CODE REGARDING OUTDOOR DINING

The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposed amendment to the Village Code related to outdoor dining.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The Board has engaged Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP to design the Village of Garden City intersection improvements for the Transportation Alternatives Project (TAP) grant in the amount of \$520,000. This is an 80/20 grant, with the Village being reimbursed for 80 percent of the project costs. The proposed project involves the reconstruction of approximately 250 curb ramps at 46 intersections to ADA standards, enhancing pedestrian connectivity in the eastern section of the Village.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- SUNDAY, MARCH 2 9:30 a.m. Pickleball at the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.
- MONDAY, MARCH 3 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Conclave* at the Library
- MONDAY, MARCH 3 1:3 p.m. Little Listeners Storytime at the Library. Must register.
- MONDAY, MARCH 3 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball in the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 4 4:00 p.m. Teen Advisory Board meeting at the Library. Must register.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 4 5:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Work Session at Village Hall and via Zoom to include a presentation on the proposed Fire Department Training Facility/DPW Transfer Station

project

- TUESDAY, MARCH 4 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 12:00 P.M. Chairobics and Strength at the Library. Must register.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 6:00 p.m. Nighttime Storytimes for ages 2-6 Years at the Library. Must register.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 6 11:00 a.m. Crafts and games for Adults with Developmental Disabilities at the Library. Must register.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 6 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball and Soccer in the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 6 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
- FRIDAY, MARCH 7 9:00 a.m. Adult Art Class at Cluett Hall. Register for the class at the Recreation and Parks office.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 7 10:00 a.m. Chess4Community Play & Learn at the Library. All levels and ages welcome.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 7 10:00 a.m. Baby and Toddler Storytime for ages Birth-2.5 Years at the Library. Must register.
- FRIDAY, MARCH 7 11:00 a.m. Budding Bookworms Storytime for ages 2.5-5 Years at the Library. Must register.