

February 10, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor@gardencityny.net

Village Hall is open. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are required to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing of six feet and sign in to a Visitor's Log outside of the office they are visiting. Furthermore, while multiple people can enter Village Hall, only one person will be admitted into each office space at a time and are asked to abide by employee instructions.

MOODY'S ISSUES Aaa RATING WITH STABLE OUTLOOK

In anticipation of the Village's upcoming bond sale, Village Treasurer Irene Woo, along with fiscal advisor Capital Markets Advisor, LLC (CMA), held a ratings call with Moody's Investor Service, Inc. On February 3rd, Moody's issued the Aaa rating with a stable outlook, citing in their credit opinion, "the village benefits from strong fiscal management, ample reserves and liquidity, and a manageable debt though its pension and OPEB liabilities are elevated. Strong financial management continues to contribute to annual surplus operations."

The Village will be issuing \$6.8m of bonds for various Village improvements, and \$43.1m of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) for the Water Fund Emerging Contaminants Well Treatment on six well sites on February 9th. "They are very much aware of our five-year plan, and listed long-term financial planning as one of the Village's credit strengths," Village Treasurer Irene Woo said. In addition, the Village will be refunding \$1.5m of bonds originally issued in 2010.

Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi thanked Ms. Woo and the Finance Department for their "steady stewardship of Village finances." Deputy Mayor Robert Bolebruch, Finance Chairman, added, "Accomplishing what Moody's said does not come easy. It comes with a lot of hard work." The Moody's report can be viewed in full on the Village's website under the Finance tab.

LIRR POLES LITIGATION

With regard to the pending litigation against the MTA/LIRR, the Village has been informed that the action has been filed and the order to show cause for an injunction and to compel the LIRR to perform a supplemental environmental impact study has been signed. The court has scheduled Feb. 25 as the day that the defendants must have their opposition to the application filed.

ST. PAUL'S BUILDING STABILIZATION WORK

The Board of Trustees approved a fund transfer, as well as change orders related to the ongoing stabilization work at St. Paul's during its February 4, 2021 meeting:

CNY Group: Trustees approved a \$200,000 expenditure for CNY Group to continue Construction Management Services for the St. Paul's building stabilization work. This is a continuation of the service originally approved at the March 28, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting. Funds are available in the St. Paul's Recreation Facility Capital Project account.

Westar Construction Group, Inc.: Trustees approved a \$32,282 change order for Westar Construction Group, Inc. for additional shoring and joist replacement of an approximate 300 square foot area in the first floor main entrance foyer. According to Walter Beal of the CNY Group, upon entering the foyer crews observed the flooring had actually collapsed into the basement. Funds are available in the St. Paul's Recreation Facility Capital Project account.

Thornton Tomasetti: Trustees approved a \$15,000 change order for Thornton Tomasetti to provide investigation services to assist the Village in better understanding the damaged roof and to provide conception recommendations to repair these areas. According to Mr. Beal, the flat roofs endured additional damage due to Hurricane Isaias and recent high winds. Funds are available in the St. Paul's Recreation Facility Capital Project account to cover this change order. Village Treasurer Woo noted that roof damage costs could be added to the total request for FEMA reimbursements, as the damage was due, in part, to Hurricane Isaias.

Stained glass preservation bids are expected back Feb. 23. The project could be awarded at the March 1 Board of Trustees meeting. Preserving and protecting the stained glass windows is an eight-week process, according to Mr. Beal. Proposals are also being sought for the phase II environmental report to begin investigating abatement. Mr. Beal noted that the abatement process could begin before building stabilization is complete.

2021-21 ONLINE TAX PAYMENT AVAILABILITY

The online tax payment system for the current 2021-21 tax year is only unavailable until February 18, 2021.

As of February 19, 2021, only water bill payments will be accepted online. Online tax payments will resume on June 1, 2021 for the new 2021-22 tax year. For current tax balances or payment methods available, contact the Tax Department at 465-4156.

KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW

The Garden City Fire Department is looking for help from our community. Snowfall, and plowing, can often hide fire hydrants under a large amount of snow making them impossible to find quickly. In the event of a fire, firefighters have to locate and shovel out fire hydrants before hooking up to them. Precious time is lost during this process. Please don't let your neighborhood hydrant remain "undercover." Keep the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business clear of snow. A 3-foot clearance on all sides is needed.

2021-22 BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

The Board of Trustees will hold 2021-22 Budget Work Sessions via Zoom beginning March 9, 2021 between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Here is the full schedule:

- Work Session 1 - March 9, 2021
- Work Session 2 - March 18, 2021
- Work Session 3 - March 24, 2021
- Work Session 4 - March 30, 2021

ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION

The Board of Elections provides the Village with a listing of residents who are permanently disabled. When the ballot has been finalized, the Village automatically sends those residents absentee ballots. All other residents have the option of requesting an Absentee Ballot Application for one of the several reasons listed on the Application, including, but not limited to, if they are out of the Village on Election Day, have a temporary illness, or under the Governor's Executive Orders, they do not feel comfortable coming out of the house to vote due to concerns of contracting COVID.

If they do want an Absentee Ballot, they must fill out an Absentee Ballot Application, which is available in both English and Spanish on the Village website under "Business Office." This form needs to be filled out and either mailed to the attention of the Village Clerk, Karen Altman, at 351 Stewart Avenue, or dropped off to her attention at Village Hall. Residents can also request the form via email at kaltman@gardencityny.net or, if they do not have access to a computer, they can call 465-4051. It will be mailed to them unless they want to come to Village Hall to pick it up.

The last day for the Clerk to receive applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to a qualified voter is March 9, 2021. The last day for the Clerk to mail absentee ballots to qualified voters is March 10, 2021. The last day for the Clerk to receive personal applications for an absentee ballot from the applicant or the applicant's agent is March 15, 2021. Upon receiving a personal application, the Clerk will deliver the absentee ballot to the applicant, or his agent. Whichever method is used to submit the Application and obtain the ballot (i.e. via mail or personally), the Village Clerk must receive the ballot itself no later than the close of polls on Election Day.