

April 10, 2019

## **GARDEN CITY UPDATE - NEWS AND INFORMATION**

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The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including the LIRR Third Track and its impact on Garden City, the water tank replacement project, zoning matters, the concept plan for the former St. Paul's School building and other matters. We encourage you to attend Village Board of Trustees meetings and meetings of your Property Owners' Associations.

### **OATHS OF OFFICE**

Village Justice Allen Mathers administered the oath of office to Theresa Trouvé, the second woman in the history of the Village to ever serve as Mayor, and Trustees Brian Daughney, Mark Hyer, Stephen Makrinos and Louis Minuto during the annual organizational meeting held Monday, April 8, at Village Hall. Mayor Trouvé was first elected to the Board in 2014, replacing former Trustee Andrew Cavanaugh in the Central Section. Trustee Brian Daughney, who most recently served a two-year term as Mayor, began representing the Estates section on the Board in May 2010. Trustee Hyer replaced outgoing Mayor Nicholas Episcopia in 2017 and is beginning his second two-year term. Trustee Makrinos begins his third two-year term representing the West while Trustee Minuto in 2017 replaced outgoing deputy mayor Richard Silver, who did not seek re-election. To see pictures from the swearing-in ceremony, visit [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

### **ST. PAUL'S CONSTRUCTION MANAGER**

At the April 8, 2019 Board meeting, Trustees unanimously selected CNY Group LLC to serve as construction manager for stabilization and planning related to development of a potential St. Paul's concept plan. CNY was one of the two finalists from the RFP (Request For Proposal) process. Village Counsel will now negotiate a formal contract based upon terms generally provided in CNY's RFP proposal, and further authorize the Village to thereafter execute same.

Last month, Trustees adopted a \$1 million bond resolution for the St. Paul's building and also appropriated \$250,000 for professional fees and expenditures related to limited remedial and protective work of the St. Paul's building and to assist with the feasibility of the proposed concept plan. Further, the Board executed agreements not to exceed \$250,000 (inclusive of fees and expenses) with vendors, including a construction manager, in connection with advice regarding the present physical condition of the St. Paul's building(s), identification of work immediately necessary to stabilize the building(s) and for such further services as may be subsequently authorized by the Board to coordinate rehabilitation and/or construction consistent with any adopted concept plan for future use.

It is important to understand the current physical condition of the building(s) and to identify any short-term work needed to stabilize and protect. The Village's architectural and engineering professionals recommended hiring a professional construction manager who they will direct and coordinate for the stabilization of the building, creating environmental testing reports, protecting

stained glass windows, recommending steps necessary to prevent ingress and water intrusion and address related issues of temporary protection that may be required.

CNY Group LLC's proposal is on file with the Village Clerk and was publicly presented to the Board of Trustees during a January 22, 2019 public work session. Headquartered in New York City, the firm was founded in 2003 and prides itself on open communication and collaboration among all team members. Long-time Garden City resident Walter Beal, a project executive with CNY Group, said he was pleasantly surprised with the condition of the lower level of the Main Building during a January 2019 walk-through of the site. The same, however, could not be said for the third and fourth floors, which Mr. Beal said are in a state of disrepair. "We must do something to protect it from further deterioration. Frankly, I don't know how much longer it has," he said.

### **CHIEFS OF THE GARDEN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Following Garden City Fire Department elections held in March, Thomas Stryko was elected Chief of the Garden City Fire Department. He will be aided during the coming year by: 1st Assistant Chief Devyn Moody, 2nd Assistant Chief Neil O'Malley and 3rd Assistant Chief William Castoro. Chiefs, and line and corporate officers, took their oaths of office during a brief ceremony at Village Hall April 8. We wish them well and thank them for their continued involvement. Special thanks is also extended to the families of all of the dedicated volunteer firefighters for sharing them with the Village and for all of the sacrifices they make to assure that we are protected.

### **ADOPTED VILLAGE BUDGET**

The Garden City Board of Trustees adopted a \$65.5 million General Fund operating budget for 2019-20 following an April 8, 2019 public hearing. Careful review of proposed Department spending plans led to revisions following four budget work sessions held in March. The result is a spending plan that includes a tax levy revenue increase successfully capped at 1.55 percent.

Tax levy increases have averaged 1.23 percent over the past four years and budget increases have averaged \$1.2 million during the same time period, according to outgoing Finance Commissioner and Trustee Stephen Makrinos. He thanked the Finance Department, headed by Village Treasurer Irene Woo, Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, Village Auditor Courtney Rosenblatt, the Department Heads, his fellow Trustees and members of the Citizens Budget Review Advisory Committee for all their hard work during the budget season.

"We have challenged our Finance Department, Village Administration and Department Heads to present a budget that is conservative, provides fair wages to our employees as well as giving them the tools and equipment to allow them to provide the services our residents deserve," Trustee Makrinos said. "Our current budget accomplishes this and more. It provides funding to finally address the stabilization of St. Paul's, improve the condition of our fire stations and improve our water assets and Pool. And for the latter, we will look to implement an 18 percent across the board reduction in membership fees."

To read more about the Village's adopted 2019-20 General Fund operating budget, visit [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

### **EMERGING CONTAMINANT ACTION PLAN: THE NEXT STEPS**

The Village retained Sher Edling, LLP to represent the Village in any type of legal action the Village may take in regards to water contamination caused by 1,4-Dioxane, and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a manmade chemical used in the process of making Teflon and similar chemicals, and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), the key ingredient in Scotchgard and numerous stain repellents.

In its continuing efforts to monitor and safeguard the Village's water supply, the Board earlier this year retained national expert firm Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. to provide advice necessary for the preparation and the execution of an Emerging Contaminant Action Plan for its water supply. Emerging contaminants, particularly 1,4-Dioxane, are not unique to Garden City or almost any water supply across the country.

According to Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco and our counsel, there currently are no uniform federal, state or local standards for testing these emerging contaminants nor are there any approved treatment methods. New York State, for example, has not developed any minimal standards and is studying the issue. Village staff is also consulting with H2M, the Village water consultants, and other water districts and had a meeting with the Western Nassau Water District, which has created a promising pilot program to treat some of these contaminants.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 1,4-Dioxane is a "likely human carcinogen" and has been found in groundwater at sites throughout the United States. It is a by-product present in many goods, including paint strippers and antifreeze, and in some consumer products like deodorants and shampoos. As stated by the EPA, no federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water has been established. Residents may view EPA-published material on the topic here:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/ffrro\\_factsheet\\_contaminant\\_14-dioxanejanuary2014\\_final.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/ffrro_factsheet_contaminant_14-dioxanejanuary2014_final.pdf).

According to Langan, emerging contaminants, notably 1,4-Dioxane and perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) "have unique physical and chemical properties that make them, for the most part, more difficult to treat by the mainstay tried-and-true technologies." The Village Water Department and the Board of Trustees created this action plan to stay abreast of the issue and try to get ahead of any potential water issues. It is important to note that the Village's water supply is tested on a daily basis to ensure it meets all standards in regards to safety and quality. The Village has spent millions of dollars over the years, and continues to spend and invest in infrastructure to ensure the safety of our water.

The Village also receives expert guidance from its pre-eminent environmental law firm, Sive, Paget & Riesel. David Yudelson of Sive, Paget & Riesel has worked with numerous municipalities throughout the country, including Garden City, for years in solving water-related issues, and was instrumental in the Village's successful suit a few years ago which resulted in a

\$10 million settlement against former companies which had contributed to polluting the local aquifer.

The Village also recently engaged H2M Architects and Engineers to perform a Village-wide evaluation of emerging contaminants as part of the Water Department's Emerging Contaminant Action Plan. As expressed by the Board members, water safety is of course of the utmost importance and it will develop an action plan to address legitimate concerns and will spend funds necessary that will successfully treat and remedy any issues.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT**

The Garden City Police Department has accepted a grant award of \$10,000 per year effective through December 31, 2021. This program is a countywide campaign to reduce impaired driving and the injuries and fatalities caused by motor vehicle crashes. The monies help cover the cost of extra DWI patrols, including patrols on holiday weekends. Police Commissioner Ken Jackson states that during this initiative, Officers will monitor the Village's roadways, strictly enforcing all DWI and Drugged Driver laws.

### **SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS**

Want to stay connected to the Village and its activities? Sign up for email alerts through an online portal on Garden City's homepage. The link is located on the bottom right side of the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net). All you'll need to do is provide your name and a valid email address to immediately begin receiving non-emergency updates about local meetings and events, upcoming festivals, even Village Hall holiday hours, approved solicitations and road closures.