

January 23, 2019

GARDEN CITY UPDATE - NEWS AND INFORMATION

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The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including plans for the upcoming budget, the LIRR Third Track and its impact on Garden City, the water tank replacement project, personnel matters, 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.

FIRE LIEUTENANT TAKES OATH

Trustee John Delany, appointed Fire Commissioner, administered the oath of office to 2nd Lieutenant Brian Reilly, elected December 12, 2018 to fill the vacancy left behind by Engine Company 2nd Lt. Michael Tamke, who left the Department.

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 13 REGARDING PROPERTY TAX CAP

There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 to consider a proposed local law to authorize the Village to adopt a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law to permit the Village to override the State-imposed property tax levy cap for the Fiscal Year commencing June 1, 2019. Village Counsel Peter Bee emphasized that this local law does not raise taxes nor does it direct the Board of Trustees to raise taxes. "It is merely a protective local law proposed to allow the Board to raise taxes above 2 percent if and only if the Board determined that it was appropriate to do so when enacting the budget," he said. The public hearing will take place in the Village Hall Board Room beginning at 8:00 p.m.

PROPOSED CODE CHANGE TO ADDRESS ROAD EXCAVATIONS

The Village Board of Trustees has instructed Village Counsel to craft a local law to attempt to limit the ability of anyone, including utilities such as PSEG and National Grid, to dig up recently paved roads in the Village. The law would require the repaving of the road, curb to curb, not just the portions dug up.

Trustees are seeking to amend the existing code, which already requires a 150 percent deposit to cover the cost of a person restoring a street damaged by a street opening. "The amendment prohibits, short of an emergency, permits being issued for street openings for streets that were repaved in the last three years or newly paved in the last five years," Village Counsel Peter Bee said.

This local law is based off a law recently passed by the Town of North Hempstead, according to Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco. A public hearing on the matter will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2019 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room.

ST. PAUL'S SECURITY MEASURES

The Police Department is actively investigating a recent criminal trespass inside the St. Paul's Main Building. The Department has increased patrols around the building and is working closely with the Departments of Public Works and Recreation and Parks in the safety and security of the building, including the installation of additional outdoor lighting.

At the January 22, 2019 Board work session, Trustees heard from three candidates vying for the opportunity to serve as construction manager: CNY Group, Aurora Contractors, Inc. and Triton Construction. Whichever firm is ultimately chosen by the Board will then subcontract companies to properly clean, abate and secure the building from the elements. "We want this to happen as soon as possible, believe me, and we're going as fast as we can," Trustee Lou Minuto assured.

WINTHROP DONATION TO VILLAGE

Trustees accepted a conditional gift from NYU Winthrop of \$140,000 to be donated in three installments (\$100,000 now and \$20,000 in each of the next two years) to be used to purchase, install and maintain an electronic scoreboard at Community Park.

In publicly thanking NYU Winthrop at the January 17, 2019 Board meeting, Mayor Brian Daughney noted that the Village desires the gift be acknowledged with appropriate inscription on the scoreboard, identifying the donor and visible to the public. Justin Burke, director of External Affairs for NYU Winthrop was in attendance.

WATER TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Village continues performing prep work for the water tower replacement project off of Old Country Road. Please be advised that during this week and next, in preparation for the water tower demolition, the Garden City Water Department will be performing system tests that could affect the entire Village. While this is being done, you may experience some temporary disturbances in your water service, similar to when hydrant flushing occurs in the spring.

Unfortunately, this work cannot be conducted overnight. Due to this, you may experience temporary fluctuations in water pressure and/or temporary water discoloration during the course of the day. However, the water is safe to use. We anticipate these inconveniences to only last one to two days. Here are some recommendations you can follow in preparation:

- Draw water for cooking ahead of time
- Store bottles of water for drinking
- Be sure to check the water quality before using your washing machine or dishwasher

In addition, you might also notice fire hydrants in your area open and flowing. This is part of the work being done, and it will have no effect on fire protection in your area. If you have any questions you can contact the Garden City Water Department at 465-4020.

Demolition of the actual tower is slated to begin in early February, after the Village finishes replacing valves and completing other related work to allow for the Village to rely on West Hempstead's water system and provide access to the site. The new tower has been designed to allow for the placement of cell and related equipment, which can generate revenue for the Village and also be used to improve emergency services communication. The new tower is expected to be completed by late fall of 2019.

TENNIS CENTER HEATING

The new heating system being installed at the Tennis Center requires some additional, unexpected cancellation of court time this week. The new system has been installed but more work is required to get it functioning properly. At this time, the facility will be closed until Saturday, January 26, 2019. Village personnel is optimistic the project will be completed by that date, or sooner. All cancelled contract tennis time and lesson programs will be made up later in the season.

FIRE STATION NO. 2 REPAIRS

Trustees engaged the services of PKAD Architects & Design to provide an evaluation and cost analysis to repair and/or replace Fire Station No. 2 on Stewart Avenue at Edgemere Road as this station is not able to support the size of new fire apparatus and the amount of manpower that now occupies the station.

The firm provided a brief presentation at the January 17, 2019 Board of Trustees meeting regarding the proposed feasibility study it would conduct for programming and conceptual design. The station needs to be modernized to support current day staffing needs as well as modern fire apparatus and equipment, all while preserving the existing aesthetics of the building. This could be accomplished one of three ways: modernize the existing structure; modernize the existing structure with additional square footage as needed; or build a completely new firehouse. Trustees emphasized that whatever method is chosen, the building's character and aesthetics must remain the same.

According to Chief Brian Gallo, who helped create a new five-year plan since the last plan took into account all three fire stations, Fire Station No. 2 needs the most work. "We reevaluated now that we are an all-volunteer department," he said, adding that minor issues need to be addressed at Fire Station No. 3 and Headquarters.

BOARD CONSIDERING EXPANDING PUBLIC OUTREACH, NEW APP

At its January 17, 2019 meeting the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to add the *Garden City Life* to its approved official papers for Village notices. In New York, local governments must have at least one official news outlet for official notices that require publication. The Village continues to seek ways to improve the manner in which it communicates with residents.

Among other potential improvements, the Village is considering implementing an app that would push notifications about Village matters to residents who sign up. Please stay tuned. Meanwhile, the Village website, www.gardencityny.net, provides a lot of relevant and important information,

including the water tower replacement project, St. Paul's, National Grid and PSEG projects, the LIRR third track project, zoning change review projects and much more.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulance service for Village residents through NYU Winthrop commenced January 7, 2019 in the Village, responding to 45 service calls in the first week alone. The two-year agreement provides service 24 hours a day/seven days a week with at least two new ambulances fitted with brand new equipment, each of which has one EMT and one paramedic aboard. Under the agreement, NYU Winthrop charges the resident's private insurance carrier, and does not charge residents for any shortfall.

Ambulances are stationed at the St. Paul's campus and crews are using a meeting room in Cluett Hall to serve as their Headquarters. Electrical outlets were added to the room, as were key fobs to make the room accessible 24 hours a day. Dedicated parking spaces were also created; this area was placed on the priority list for Village snow removal. Village Police have radio connectivity with the ambulances and the Village is upgrading its VHF radio systems to accommodate the new T1 communication lines into the Police Department's radio system, which improves connectivity between Headquarters and each new ambulance. Further, two microphones/speakers are being installed for efficient dispatching between Police Headquarters and each ambulance. Residents requiring service can call 911 or the Police Department.

IT SYSTEMS FOR DPW, BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

The Department of Public Works and the Building Department are undertaking the installation of a comprehensive IT system specially to address the needs of both Departments. This new system will streamline operations, improve reporting, increase the accuracy of expenditures and reduce paperwork. In addition it will help to improve customer service by using technology to modernize processes.

Both Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco and Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello believe this will be a significant improvement, bringing their departments into the 21st century. "This system will tie into other existing systems in the Village, including the GIS system and GPS tracking. It's a very versatile system that will allow us to expand as we grow," Mr. DiFrancisco said.

Trustees engaged the services of Tyler Technologies, Inc. to install both IT systems. Both projects are included in the adopted capital budget.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is *Wednesday*, February 13, 2019 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend.