

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Lawrence Yacht & Country Club, 101 Causeway, Lawrence, New York 11559.

Those members present were: Mayor Martin Oliner  
Deputy Mayor C. Simon Felder  
Trustee Michael A. Fragin (arrived 7:24 p.m.)  
Trustee Irving Langer  
Trustee Alex H. Edelman

Also present were: Ronald Goldman, Village Administrator  
Gerry Castro, Deputy Village Administrator  
Alison Cohen, Secretary to the BOT

Absent were: Village Attorney, Peter Bee Esq.

The Board convened in Work Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss various agenda items.

Mayor Oliner wished Deputy Mayor Felder a very happy birthday.

**Board Action:** Trustee Edelman motioned to go into Executive Session in order to discuss a personnel matter and a matter of possible litigation. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss the aforementioned matter.

The Board adjourned to Regular Session to vote on the matter.

**REGULAR MEETING** - Mayor Oliner called the regular meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved that the Claim of Michael Perone and possible litigation be rejected. The matter was referred to Village Counsel to advise Mr. Perone, in writing that the Claim has been rejected. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Mayor Oliner - Aye

Deputy Mayor Felder – Aye

Trustee Fragin – Aye

Trustee Langer – Aye

Trustee Edelman – Abstained

The motion carried.

### **GOOD & WELFARE**

1. Jeffrey Hirth of 24 Westover Place, inquired as to the status of the temporary flood lights borrowed from Nassau County to illuminate a portion of Route 878. They “shine all night, into his bedroom window”. Mayor Oliner explained the genesis of obtaining, repairing and maintaining the temporary flood lights from Chief Deputy Nassau County Executive Rob Walker, and the reasons for not doing so earlier. The Mayor added that since then, he has become personally involved and has undertaken a new study, receiving new maps and information, so that the Village has been able to effectively connect and repair some of the permanent lights from Wanser Ave. on down toward the Atlantic Beach Bridge, with more being repaired each day, in an ongoing process. The hope is to have these temporary lights for another couple of weeks, until the others are restored, with the tempering of their brightness and/or angles. The situation will be looked into and addressed, per the Mayor.
2. Park Commission Chairman Howard Siskind thanked the Mayor and Board for arranging the installation of the new bunkers, which “look great”, at the LY&CC golf course. Mr. Siskind stated that it was a great improvement and will aid in the drive for new members. The Mayor once again requested that LY&CC General Manager Leo McMahan follow up with regard to obtaining a rendering to display at the LY&CC and submit to the Nassau Herald for publication. Mr. Siskind confirmed that this request had been repeatedly made to Valley Crest, but that he and Mr. McMahan would call Valley Crest again the next morning to insist that they send a rendering.

Mayor Oliner stated that the tennis court project was moving forward. After considering various approaches, there is a vendor being considered who has the requisite diamond bladed machinery and who is experienced in this matter. The cost will be approximately \$26,000 for the nine tennis courts. Deputy Administrator Castro is in the process of negotiating the contract. It should be ready for approval by the next BOT meeting in January 2016, for the work to begin in March.

Tennis Club President David Farbman thanked the Mayor and Board of Trustees for their attention to this matter and wanted to confirm the standard May 1<sup>st</sup> (2016) opening date of the courts, for new and prospective members. Mayor Oliner responded that the May 1<sup>st</sup> opening would not be a problem. Mr. Farbman then introduced the next Tennis Club President, Dr. Allan Simon, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016, who has been a Lawrence resident for many decades. The Mayor and Board welcomed Dr. Simon wholeheartedly. Dr. Simon addressed the Mayor and Board about the current conditions of the tennis courts and the

prospective improvements. Discussion ensued in this regard. It was suggested that a letter or article be run in the Nassau Herald to spread the word as well as by word of mouth via the Tennis Club, regarding the upgrade of the LY&CC tennis courts.

3. Trustee Fragin raised the issue of the day after Thanksgiving (November 27, 2015), when public concern was expressed after Nassau County had inadvertently left construction debris behind in the business district, which was mistaken for a suspicious package. The bomb squad was called. The Village's commercial area was "shut down" for two to three hours, and Trustee Fragin stated that there was a lack of communication regarding this incident, internally as well as via the Police Department. He strongly suggested that a chain of command be implemented as well as an emergency preparation plan.

Administrator Goldman addressed Trustee Fragin's concerns and advised of numerous conversations with the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Mayor Oliner, Trustee Edelman and others, regarding plans "in the works" to rectify this issue.

4. Administrator Goldman raised the matter of the Inwood Train Station that is under the jurisdiction of the Village of Lawrence. Mr. Goldman described a long-standing issue of groups of people loitering at the station at all hours of the day. The presence of these people is disturbing area residents who have become concerned over the safety of their family and their homes. He added that he has been in contact with the Police Department, "No Trespass" tickets are being issued at the appropriate times, the Village's DPW has cleaned up the area and stronger legislation is being considered to perhaps aid in the handling of this situation. Discussion ensued in this regard.

Representatives/residents who live between Central Avenue and Brunswick Ave., in the five houses in close proximity of the Inwood Train Station came to the meeting to voice their concerns. Mr. Richard Gordon of 36 Doughty Blvd. spoke regarding his recollection of a prior ordinance pertaining to the Inwood Train Station regulation(s). Mayor Oliner confirmed that the parking lot was only to be used to drop off people to use the train, traveling through the lot to use the train or to park in the lot to use the train. Anything else would be considered trespassing. Further discussion ensued. Mayor Oliner stated that the problem was understood and requested discussing the matter further with the Village Attorney, who was not present at tonight's meeting. The feeling was that the Village should be able to control and manage its private property.

Alan Isaac Kohn of 38 Doughty Blvd., which is directly across the street from the area under discussion, described the circumstances of each morning's events, painting a picture of how unpleasant, threatened and uncomfortable it is to leave the house for work or school for all family members. He added that the police seem to be a "band-aid" and just "shoo them away".

Menachem Bornstein of 40 Doughty Blvd. added that the people loitering at the station congregate at all of the entrances and exits; they know each of their (the residents') schedules, when people are or are not home; they look through the car windows; they harass their children with comments no matter what the age, which scare them. He and Mr. Gordon distributed pictures to the Mayor and Board, to substantiate these claims. Further discussion ensued.

Carey Gruenbaum of 34 Doughty Blvd., who lives across the street, stated that he has lived there for 18 years, "plus". When he bought his house people loitering at the station was not an issue. He added that he hates living there and is ready to move and leave the Village of Lawrence. It is incredibly uncomfortable for him, his daughters, and his entire family. They feel afraid to walk to Seasons Express as well as scared to approach them for fear that their home will be broken into. It is an ongoing argument in his home, whether to stay or move.

Deputy Mayor Felder stated that this is a very sensitive issue. Mayor Oliner reiterated that the Board would take this under advisement, get back to the residents and do whatever needs to be done to address this situation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of minutes:** BOT November 12, 2015

No Board action was taken.

### **Item 1 – Approve Abstracts #'s**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>#770, 771</b>
<b>Recreation Fund</b>	<b>#191, 192</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b># 92</b>
<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b># 276</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	<b>#2406, 2407</b>

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of General Fund Abstracts #770 and #771. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the amount and possible capping of Peter Over's Medicare reimbursement amount; to be further researched and charges on the Village's TD credit card. All in favor.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Recreation Fund Abstracts #191 and #192. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Sewer Fund Abstract #92. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Trust Fund Abstract #276. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Payroll Abstracts #2406 and #2407. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

## **Item 2 - Appointments for 2015 – 2016**

This item was tabled until the January 14, 2016 BOT meeting.

## **Item 3 – Approve retaining the legal services of Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP**

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved to approve retaining the legal services of Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP in the matter of *Frank Cristo et al. v. The Incorporated Village of Lawrence et al.*, at a rate of \$260/hr. plus disbursements and a one-time payment of \$5,000 from the Village. Trustee Fragin seconded the motion. All in favor.

## **Item 4 - Approve Resolution to permit employees' donation of time**

Mayor Oliner explained the circumstances regarding an employee of the Village being ill and other employees wishing to donate time to him during his extended illness and recovery. Administrator Goldman confirmed that the maximum amount of days would be one week and at the lower paid employee's rate of pay.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved the approval of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Lawrence (the "Village") is party to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Local 882 Lawrence Unit (the "Union"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees is authorized to approve voluntary donations of compensatory and vacation time from one employee to another pursuant to Section 6 of the CBA; and

**WHEREAS**, one or more employees have requested to donate compensatory and/or vacation time to Peter Duggan, a Village employee represented by the Union for collective bargaining purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees considered these requests at its meeting held on December 15, 2015.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby finds that a proper case has been made for allowing donations of time to Peter Duggan in accordance with Section 6 of the CBA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Administrator is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Trustees to receive and approve pending and future requests for donations of compensatory and vacation time to Peter Duggan, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 6 of the CBA.

Deputy Mayor Felder seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### **Item 5 – Approve contract with Neopost Postage Meter Company**

Administrator Goldman explained that currently the Village is using Pitney Bowes for its postage and postage meter, and are not satisfied with the service being provided. After some exploration the Neopost Postage Meter Company has been found to be the least expensive responsible vendor at a quoted rate of \$195/month for 60 months as opposed to \$207/month. The more important factor is the level and quality of service rendered.

**Board Action:** Mayor Oliner moved to approve the contract with Neopost Postage Meter Company for a least term of 60 months at the rate of \$195.00 per month; with delivery, installation, equipment maintenance, and rate changes included. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Deputy Village Administrator Castro gave an update on the Village's I.T. system. In addition to the three prior I.T. service agreements and equipment proposals recently submitted when the Village went out to bid, Mr. Castro has received a 4<sup>th</sup> proposal. He stated that before the end of the year a decision would be reached as to the preferred vendor to submit to the Board for approval at the next BOT meeting on January 13, 2016.
- 2) Trustee Fragin raised the issue of the back log in the Building Department prior to the appointment of Deputy Village Administrator/Building Superintendent Gerry Castro. Mayor Oliner and Mr. Castro confirmed that about 75% of the back log has been addressed and in another 3 weeks or so the Building Department should be all caught up. Mayor Oliner and Trustee Fragin commended Deputy Village Administrator Castro for doing an extraordinary job. Administrator Goldman added "in that and every other area as well".

Incorporated Village of Lawrence, December 15, 2015

There being no further business, on motion by Mayor Oliner, seconded by Trustee Langer and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

This is to certify that I, Ronald Goldman, read the preceding minutes, and they are in all respects a full and correct record of such proceedings.



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Ronald Goldman, Administrator,  
Clerk/Treasurer