

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, October 29, 2015 at Village Hall, 196 Central Avenue, Lawrence New York 11559.

Those members present were: Mayor Martin Oliner
Deputy Mayor C. Simon Felder
Trustee Michael A. Fragin
Trustee Irving Langer
Trustee Alex H. Edelman

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

Absent were: Village Attorney, Peter Bee Esq.

The Board convened in Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION

No Board Action was taken during the Work Session.

REGULAR MEETING - Mayor Oliner called the regular meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

GOOD & WELFARE

1. David Farbman of 55 Margaret Avenue, and President of the Lawrence Tennis Club, requested the matter of the refurbishing of the LY&CC tennis courts be placed on the BOT agenda due to its time sensitive nature. Mayor Oliner responded that it was on this evening's agenda for review.
2. Peter Frankel from Uneeda Enterprises, a vendor of the Village, was persistent in requesting payment for invoices that were six months old. Mayor Oliner stated that he was out of order and asked that Village Attorney Peter Bee speak with Mr. Frankel privately.
3. Brandon Nasierowski identified himself as the Labor Relations Representative for the United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU), involved in the ongoing negotiations. He stated that he was in attendance this evening on behalf of the Village of Lawrence employees' bargaining unit; many of whom were in attendance at the meeting. He stated that the UPSEU has been representing the Village of Lawrence employees for the last twelve (12) months. Prior to their tenure, the employees were represented by another union; the Civil Service Employees' Association (CSEA); and have been without a contract for the last

five (5) years. The Village imposed a “zero” for one of those years. Mr. Nasierowski stated that the UPSEU has been working with the representatives of the Village in an attempt to reach a new agreement but to date these efforts have proven unsuccessful. Mr. Nasierowski went on to read a prepared speech.

Mayor Oliner responded with a prepared statement/speech in rebuttal, with the Village’s position. A brief discussion ensued in this regard.

4. John Piccone, a Lawrence resident and member of the Lawrence Marina, inquired if there would be a discussion per the agenda regarding the “early closing of the Yacht Club”. Mayor Oliner responded that there was no “early closing of the Yacht Club”, and that Mr. Piccone would be welcomed to speak later on in the meeting pertaining to the LY&CC.
5. Mrs. Chani Friedman of 184 Broadway, which is directly across from the Lawrence Middle School, raised the issue of Lawrence Public School’s new “Times Square-like” sign in front of the Lawrence Middle School. A number of other residents were also in attendance pertaining to the new school sign. Some of whom also live across the street, others who live nearby. All are upset by the installation of this sign, which they feel is quite bright, on “at all hours” and a distraction to vehicular traffic, as well as an affront to the beauty (and value) of their homes and out of character with their quiet suburban neighborhood. It was erected with no warning or communication with the Village or its residents. Mrs. Friedman stated that many of the residents wrote letters and tried to communicate with the Superintendent and School District, to no avail. As a result, out of total frustration Mrs. Friedman and the other residents present implored the Mayor and Board for assistance in this matter, not knowing where else to turn. Mrs. Friedman stated that they wish the sign would be taken down.

Mayor Oliner stated that although he and the Board are sympathetic with their concerns, the Village is currently in litigation with the School District regarding the maintenance of the sidewalk on Rock Hall Road behind the school and summonses issued in this regard. This matter is now before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn; it was appealed by the School Board. It is clear that the Village does not have jurisdiction over the School District regarding the sign and only possible jurisdiction regarding matters pertaining to health and safety. Mayor Oliner added that the Village while not able to “control” the School Board, was looking into other options to try to mitigate this situation and work out an agreeable solution to all.

Mrs. Friedman asked what next step the residents might take. Mayor Oliner stated that the residents should write letters to the School Board, which Mrs. Friedman said that they had already done. It was added that the residents should attend a School Board meeting. Mayor Oliner added that he would meet

with Lawrence School Superintendent Gary Schall to discuss this matter. Further discussion ensued in this regard.

Lawrence resident, Mrs. Urbach, added her outrage and disdain pertaining to the sign in front of the Lawrence Middle School. Other residents also spoke adding their disapproval of same. Mayor Oliner said that he would do everything in his power and suggested that they write letters to the papers, attend School Board meetings, write to the elected School Board and Superintendent, etc.

6. Rochelle Kevelson raised two issues regarding traffic safety. The first matter pertained to the traffic from Washington Avenue going in to Mulry Lane and William Street to which the Mayor responded that the Village Administrator Ronald Goldman was in communication with Nassau County in an effort to have a traffic light installed at the corner of William Street and Central Avenue. The second issue was regarding drivers "running through the red light" at the intersection of Causeway and Rosalind Place where they cross Broadway. Trustee Fragin stated that this is a very long light and suggested that Nassau County remove the "No Turn on Red" sign at the corner of Causeway and Broadway, to improve this situation. Mayor Oliner added that both items will be taken up with the Nassau County DOT.
7. J. Lawrence Kolodny of 10 Boxwood Lane addressed Mayor Oliner and the Board regarding the repeated flooding of his street, which he stated had been brought before the Mayor and Board previously, but had not been rectified to date. Mr. Kolodny stated that he had brought an engineer who specialized in the matter at hand to Village Administrator Goldman and that nothing has been done. Discussion ensued in this regard. Village Administrator Goldman stated that now that the new Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro is on the job, he would review the engineer's plans for viability. Deputy Mayor Felder requested that Mr. Kolodny give Mr. Castro 2 – 3 weeks to look into this situation and see if there might be a solution agreeable to all.

Trustee Fragin requested the acknowledgment of the three year anniversary of Hurricane (Super Storm) Sandy.

Mayor Oliner extended a warm welcome back to the new Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of minutes:

BOT July 29, 2015
Special BOT September 7, 2015
BOT September 10, 2015

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved the approval of July 29, 2015 BOT meeting minutes, the Special BOT meeting September 7, 2015 minutes and the BOT September 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 1 – Approve Abstracts #'s

General Fund #760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768

Recreation Fund #185, 186, 187, 188, 189

Payroll #2402, 2403

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved the approval of General Fund Abstracts #760, #761, #762, #763, #764, #765, #766, #767 and #768. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Recreation Fund Abstracts #185, #186, #187, #188 and #189. Deputy Mayor Felder seconded the motion. All in favor.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved the approval of Payroll Abstracts #2402 and #2403. Trustee Edelman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 2 - Appointments for 2015 – 2016

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to appoint Benjamin Lopata as a regular member, of the Planning Board, to fill the term and seat of former member Ed Yodowitz, to expire July 2016. Deputy Mayor Felder seconded the motion. All in favor.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to appoint Michael (Menachem) Pinter as an alternate member, of the Planning Board, to fill a vacant term to expire July 2016. Deputy Mayor Felder seconded the motion. All in favor.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to appoint Joseph J. Jacobs as the Village Historian to fill a vacant term to expire July 2016. Deputy Mayor Felder seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 3 – Approve Resolution to ratify the hiring of part-time Administrative Assistant April Plante

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to approve a Resolution to ratify the hiring of part-time Administrative Assistant April Plante, at a salary rate of \$17.50 per hour. Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 4 – Approve Village of Lawrence Resolution settling the IVL v. Fidelity case

Village Attorney Peter Bee explained that Mayor Oliner's active participation in negotiations to settle the IVL v. Fidelity case regarding monies owed to the Village for Super Storm Sandy damage to the Golf Cart Storage Building at the LY&CC resulted in a settlement of \$128,156; versus an offer of \$28,000.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Incorporated Village of Lawrence (the "Village") and the Fidelity National Bank ("Fidelity") are parties to a lawsuit pending in United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York bearing index number 14-MC-00041-CLP-GRB-RER; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Martin Oliner has requested authority to settle said litigation pursuant to a stipulation of settlement to be approved of by counsel providing Fidelity will pay a total amount of \$128,156.00 in settlement of claim; now, therefore, it is

Resolved that the Mayor be, and hereby is, authorized to execute the aforementioned settlement agreement, together with such other terms and conditions as described therein.

Trustee Langer seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 5 – Approve purchase of electric parking meters

This item was tabled until the November 12, 2015 BOT meeting.

Item 6 – Approve Resolution for CHIPS road list

Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro explained that the Resolution for the CHIPS road list was to add three new roads to the list: Daniel Cox Road, Yacht Basin Road and Bannister Lane.

Board Action: Mayor Oliner moved to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees, working in conjunction with the New York State Department of Transportation, to facilitate the receiving of CHIPS funding for the Village of Lawrence, hereby resolves, as follows:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lawrence, hereby acknowledges ownership of the roadways known as Bannister Lane and Yacht Basin Road and Daniel Cox Road, and further hereby acknowledges that Bannister Lane and Yacht Basin Road and Daniel Cox Road are open, public roadways, maintained by the Village of Lawrence.

WHEREFOR, this **RESOLUTION**, hereby adopted by unanimous vote on October 29, 2015, before a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees,

shall be promptly recorded in the Office of the Village Clerk, and made part of the public record. (See attached Exhibit "A").

Trustee Edelman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Item 7 – LY&CC Tennis Court Re-surfacing

Mayor Oliner discussed the various options pertaining to the re-surfacing of the tennis courts at the LY&CC. The first estimate that the Village received was \$125,000. The second estimate, which entailed "diamond cutting" of the surface was \$45,000. Tennis member Paris Popack inquired about the tennis courts' drainage issue. Mayor Oliner explained that in reviewing the situation stated that drainage is not a problem and using Village personnel regarding the resurfacing using "diamond cutting", etc. could possibly be done in-house, at an even greater cost saving. Most recently the Village staff installed new swing and playground equipment in Zion Park for under \$10,000, when there were estimates initially of \$48,000 from outside vendors. Mayor Oliner noted that Super Storm Sandy repairs were made in record time and assured those in attendance that the tennis courts would be ready in time for the spring season. Mayor Oliner added that the possibility of a tennis bubble would be explored as well. Discussion ensued in this regard.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Trustee Fragin requested an update regarding the Village's I.T. system. He stated that it's long overdue and does not feel comfortable with the existing state of the Village's I.T. operations. Trustee Fragin added that the equipment is old and inadequate and this has been put off time and time again, which is of great concern to him. Administrator Goldman explained the timeline and sequence of events and circumstances leading up to the present day situation, which has Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro in charge and on top of the I.T. matter as well as the Village's new website.

GOOD & WELFARE

8. John Piccone, a LY&CC Marina member raised the issue concerning the early shutting off of the water at the Marina, on Monday, November 2nd, versus mid-November, as was previously done. They would like the use of their boats into December, which they have been previously able to do. Martin Feuer discussed the seasonal timeframe, LY&CC Marina's fees being the highest on the south shore, the water and electric, etc. Al Musello mentioned his concern regarding the use of and the security of the boats year-round. Access to the Marina house was brought to light. Discussion ensued in this regard. Mayor Oliner stated that the Marina house would remain open; the water would be turned off last (after the golf course) which would be after November 15th, and the heaters (ice eaters) will be put in accordingly as late as possible; to accommodate the Marina members.

9. Randy Green, a member of the Park Commission, discussed the ongoing bunker renovation project at the golf course. He discussed the comparison done of the three types of sand for the bunker the Park Commission did, and the respective costs. Mayor Oliner responded with information he received after speaking with Valley Crest President John Crowder that afternoon. Mayor Oliner stated that the Village would do what the Club requires and what was negotiated in the contract. The Mayor urged Mr. Green, Park Commission Chairman Howard Siskind, LY&CC General Manager Leo McMahon and Mr. Crowder to converse regarding which type of sand is the preferred choice, to move forward in a timely manner.
10. Atlantic Beach resident and Wounded Warrior Event organizer Barry Ringelheim thanked the Mayor and Board of Trustees for allowing the Event to take place at the LY&CC. He went on to thank the members of the Golf, Tennis and Marina Clubs for a spectacular job in raising money for disabled veterans. There were 485 people at the Royalton dinner, the largest number ever, and a great year. Mayor Oliner thanked Mr. Ringelheim for all that he has done in this regard.

On motion by Trustee Fragin, seconded by Mayor Oliner and unanimously approved the Board convened in Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss matters of legal advice and litigation, personnel issues and the status of the Union Contract.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Board Action was taken during the Executive Session.

There being no further business, on motion by Trustee Edelman, seconded by Trustee Fragin and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 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.



Ronald Goldman, Administrator,
Clerk/Treasurer

EXHIBIT A

RESOLUTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OWNERSHIP OF VILLAGE ROAD

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Trustees, working in conjunction with the New York State Department of Transportation, to facilitate the receiving of CHIPS funding for the Village of Lawrence, hereby resolves, as follows:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lawrence, hereby acknowledges ownership of the roadways known as Bannister Lane and Yacht Basin Road and Daniel Cox Road, and further hereby acknowledges that Bannister Lane and Yacht Basin Road and Daniel Cox Road are open, public roadways, maintained by the Village of Lawrence.

WHEREFOR, this RESOLUTION, hereby adopted by unanimous vote on October 29, 2015, before a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees, shall be promptly recorded in the Office of the Village Clerk, and made part of the public record.

Offered By: Mayor Martin Oliner

Seconded By: Trustee Alex Edelman

Unanimous Approval


RONALD GOLDMAN, Clerk
Incorporated Village of Lawrence