

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF THOMASTON**

March 11, 2024

The Board of Trustees met on Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Village Hall, 100 East Shore Road, Great Neck, New York at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Steven Weinberg, Deputy Mayor Burton S. Weston, Trustee Jay W. Chagrin, Trustee Aaron Halpern and Trustee Nancy Sherman

Excused: None

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION 24-22

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Chagrin, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held on February 12, 2024 are hereby approved and accepted as presented.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Public Hearing – 2024 Vigilant Contract Fire Protection and Ambulance Service Contract

At 7:34 p.m. Mayor Weinberg opened the public hearing on the proposed 2024 contract for fire protection and emergency ambulance service provided by the Vigilant Engine & Hook & Ladder Co., Inc. for the portion of the Village of Thomaston north of the LIRR tracks.

There was a brief period of discussion amongst from the Board. David Weiss, Trustee of the Vigilant Engine & Hook & Ladder Co., Inc. provided an update on ambulance billing and other activities. As the correct insurance certificates and/or additional documents requested pursuant to Village Law Section 4-412 had not been received from Vigilant, the Board continued the public hearing:

RESOLUTION 24-23

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Halpern, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the public hearing on the 2024 Vigilant Fire Protection and Emergency Ambulance Service Contract is hereby continued to April 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Insurance Claim for 2023 Street Sweeper

The Mayor advised the Board that the insurance claim for the 2023 street sweeper which was destroyed by fire, has been settled for the agreed value of \$298,000, and that in exchange for payment in that amount title to the equipment is to be transferred by the insurer.

RESOLUTION 24-24

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Halpern, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Mayor Weinberg to execute the Power of Attorney for Claim No. NYPF23120523 to appoint National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA or any of its agents to act as his true and lawful attorney with respect to this insurance claim.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Declare 2019 Ford F-250 pickup truck surplus

RESOLUTION 24-25

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Sherman, and unanimously approved the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the 2019 Ford F-250 pickup truck and 8' Western plow, VIN #1FT7W2BT9KEG50676, is hereby declared surplus, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Public Works is authorized to solicit proposals, via the govdeals.com online auction for the sale of such surplus vehicle and plow, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby delegates to the Superintendent the power and authority to designate or select the purchaser, or other disposition, of the 2019 Ford F-250 pickup truck and 8' Western plow, based upon a determination as to which proposal is in the best interests of the Village and consistent with applicable legal requirements, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, or his designee, is authorized to execute and deliver a bill of sale or such other documentation as may reasonably be required to effectuate the transfer of each such vehicle and equipment to its approved purchaser upon payment in full for the purchase price.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Proposal from Municipal Valuation Services, Inc.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Municipal Valuation Services Inc. for renewal of the Village's existing assessment and Small Claim/Certiorari consulting services. Trustee Sherman proposed that the Village obtain additional rates from other consulting firms.

The Board tabled the matter to a future meeting.

2023/24 SCAR Settlements

The Board reviewed various stipulations of settlement and/or discontinuance of Small Claims Assessment matters.

RESOLUTION 24-26

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Sherman, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is in receipt of various stipulations of settlement and/or discontinuance of Small Claims Assessment matters which have been executed by the Village's representative, as listed on the schedule attached to these minutes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby ratifies and confirms the aforesaid stipulations of settlement and/or discontinuance, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves and authorizes the payment of refunds of the 2023/24 tax year tax payments, in the aggregate amount of \$2,347.45, reflecting the difference between the original and amended assessment as determined by the said stipulations, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator shall issue refunds of the 2023/24 tax year to the applicant's representative(s) as may be required by such stipulations.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Bill T2024A – Landmark Preservation

The Mayor announced that a request for landmarking the Korean Methodist Church located at 715 Northern Boulevard, Thomaston, NY. The request has been forwarded to the members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Since the request for landmarking has been made, the Mayor noted that the landmark process will be subject to the current chapter of the Village Code.

With regard to Bill T 2024A, a local law to amend the Code of the Village of Thomaston, in relation to landmark preservation, the Board will proceed with the discussion at a later date, prepare a revised draft based upon the discussion, forward a revised draft to counsel for review and present a proposal for comments at a future meeting.

Town of North Hempstead Public Hearing (Special Use Permit for alteration of existing car wash at 201 W. Shore Rd)

The Board discussed the Notice of Town of Hempstead Town Board Public Hearing (to be held on March 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Board Meeting Room, 220 Plandome Road, Manhasset) for the application Gold Coast Magic Realty (Manhasset Express Car Wash), Section 2 Block 210, Lots 55 and 68, for a Special Use Permit from the Town of North Hempstead to legalize alterations to a drive-through facility, including the installation of vacuum stations and a drive-through pre-pay island and canopy, on a parcel used as a car wash.

This agenda item was for information only, as the application is under the jurisdiction of the Town of North Hempstead.

Update on Tree Board Recommendations

The Mayor updated the Board concerning the recent meeting of the Tree Board held on February 22, 2024.

RESOLUTION 24-27

Upon motion of Trustee Chagrin, seconded by Trustee Halpern, and unanimously approved the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees concurs with the Tree Board's approval of the alternate plantings to be used on the following village traffic islands (Terrace Drive & Valley View Road; St. George Road; Weigt Court) and Village entrances.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

2023/24 Budget Modifications

RESOLUTION 24-28

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Chagrin, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the following 2023/24 budget modifications as of February 29, 2024 are hereby accepted as presented:

Budget Modifications as 2/29/24	ADOPTED	Proposed Modification	Difference
	2023/24	2/29/24	
Appropriations:			
STREET MAINTENANCE			
A5110.2 Maint. of Streets & Capital Outlay	\$359,408	\$358,577	(\$831)
A5110.2a Equipment	\$70,850	\$71,681	\$831
UNDISTRIBUTED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
A9010.8 State Retirement	\$70,100	\$67,970	(\$2,130)
A9045.8 Medical & Dental	\$111,335	113,465	\$2,130
Change in Appropriations:			\$0.00

The vote on this resolution was: Mayor Weinberg: Aye Deputy Mayor Weston: Aye
Trustee Chagrin: Aye Trustee Halpern: Aye
Trustee Sherman: Aye

Request for increase for AIM funding

The Mayor reported that, notwithstanding the vigorous lobbying efforts of NYCOM and their members, the past 15 state budgets have failed to include an increase in AIM funding, which is the only form of unrestricted aid cities, villages and towns receive. During these 15 years, the cost of providing essential municipal services has increased significantly – not to mention the 2% property tax cap to contend with.

Governor Hochul's proposed 2024-25 Executive Budget maintains AIM funding at current-year levels – and while the Senate and Assembly have included AIM increases in their one-house budgets in the past, unfortunately these actions have not translated into any additional unrestricted aid for cities, villages and towns since 2009.

RESOLUTION 24-29

Upon motion of Mayor Weinberg, seconded by Trustee Chagrin, and unanimously approved the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

WHEREAS, city and village officials share the same priorities as our State leaders, which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

WHEREAS, New York's local governments, which are on the frontline of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

WHEREAS, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

WHEREAS, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Thomaston urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget; and it is further

Resolved, that the Village Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Jack Martins, Assemblymember Gina Sillitti and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

Vouchers

RESOLUTION 24-30

Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Weston, seconded by Trustee Chagrin, and unanimously approved, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the vouchers, in the aggregate amount of \$69,564.03 (as itemized on the Abstract of Vouchers dated Monday, March 11, 2024), are hereby approved for payment, all allocated to the General Fund.

A copy of the approved voucher list is attached to these minutes.

The vote on this resolution was:	Mayor Weinberg:	Aye	Deputy Mayor Weston:	Aye
	Trustee Chagrin:	Aye	Trustee Halpern:	Aye
	Trustee Sherman:	Aye		

New Business

Karl Schutte, a resident of the Shoreward Drive expressed his concerns with his adjoining neighbor’s property. Mr. Schutte stated that his neighbor: erected a wall without a permit; changed the topography of his property; and is directing rainwater onto his (Mr. Schutte’s) property, thus causing flooding in Mr. Schutte’s basement.

Deputy Mayor Weston and Trustee Halpern agreed to do a site visit at Mr. Schutte’s property to view the conditions Mr. Schutte described.

Adjournment

At 8:53 p.m., there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Weinberg, seconded by Deputy Mayor Weston, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Knowland
Village Administrator

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VILLAGE OF THOMASTON						
AUDITED VOUCHERS						
February 13 through March 11, 2024						
Type	Date	Num	Name	Amount		
Check	02/16/2024	ACH	MICHAEL F. MCNERNEY ARCHITECT PLLC	-1,656.25		
Check	02/20/2024	4729	PSEGLI	-64.46		
Check	02/20/2024	4730	PSEGLI	-523.67		
Check	02/20/2024	4731	PSEGLI	-101.07		
Check	02/26/2024	ET	FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA, INC.	-4.85		
Check	02/26/2024	ET	FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA, INC.	-300.00		
Check	03/01/2024	4734	VERIZON	-124.58		
Check	03/01/2024	ACH	MICHAEL F. MCNERNEY ARCHITECT PLLC	-812.50		
Check	03/04/2024	4735	VERIZON WIRELESS	-62.50		
Check	03/04/2024	4736	OPTIMUM	-13.00		
Check	03/04/2024	4737	PSEGLI	-353.84		
Check	03/04/2024	4738	PSEGLI	-11.78		
Check	03/04/2024	4739	MANHASSET-LAKEVILLE WATER DISTRICT	-21.60		
Check	03/11/2024	4740	ICC CDS, LLC	-1,500.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4741	W.B. MASON CO., INC.	-7.90		
Check	03/11/2024	4742	FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA, INC.	-129.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4743	PARAMOUNT PEST MANAGEMENT	-450.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4744	COSTELLO'S ACE HARDWARE	-76.50		
Check	03/11/2024	4745	ATLANTIC SALT	-2,276.26		
Check	03/11/2024	4746	SUMO GARAGE DOOR	-3,340.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4747	JORDAN ASSOCIATES	-258.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4748	GENERAL CODE, LLC	-1,195.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4749	GENERAL WELDING SUPPLY CORP	-8.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4750	STAPLES CONTRACT & COMMERCIAL	-27.12		
Check	03/11/2024	4751	ANTON MEDIA GROUP	-154.70		
Check	03/11/2024	4752	WEX BANK	-775.88		
Check	03/11/2024	4753	TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD-SWMA	-708.51		
Check	03/11/2024	4754	FINE DETAILING	-200.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4755	SKINNON & FABER, CPA'S, P.C	-41.06		
Check	03/11/2024	4756	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	-215.31		
Check	03/11/2024	4757	BUSINESS CARD	-675.93		
Check	03/11/2024	4758	BUSINESS CARD	-50.48		
Check	03/11/2024	4759	NYS EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE	-11,829.37		
Check	03/11/2024	4760	LI SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC	-105.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4761	CHRISTOPHER GOMOKA	-500.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4762	MEYER, SUOZZI, ENGLISH & KLEIN, P.C.	-1,860.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4763	MEADOW CARTING CORP	-36,455.00		
Check	03/11/2024	4764	LIFFCO INC. POWER EQUIPMENT	-819.98		
Check	03/11/2024	4765	JORDAN ASSOCIATES	-172.50		

	Check	03/11/2024	4766	NYCOM	-1,662.00	
	Check	03/11/2024	4767	CANON SOLUTIONS AMERICA, INC.	-20.43	
	Total				-69,564.03	

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