

VILLAGE OF NEW HYDE PARK
REGULAR MEETING
September 19, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Devane
Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar
Trustee Eve Sheikh
Trustee Rainer Burger
Igor Sikiric, Superintendent of DPW
Rebecca Sheehan, Village Clerk-Treasurer
Binu Pillay, Superintendent of Building
Laura Daly, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

ABSENT: Trustee Arthur Savarese
Peter S. Trentacoste, Attorney to the Board of Trustees
Benjamin Truncale, Jr., Attorney to the Board of Trustees

Mayor Devane opened the Board Meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Devane began the meeting by recognizing and thanking the New Hyde Park Junior Fire Department for their outstanding service, and congratulated them for being awarded the New York State Youth Group of the Year. Mayor Devane expressed appreciation for the Fire Department's efforts addressing the decline in volunteer membership in fire departments by starting a junior program. He then did a rollcall of the 83 Junior Fire Fighters and presented each of them, individually, with a Certificate of Recognition.

BOARD MINUTES: APPROVED

Upon motion by Trustee Sheikh, seconded by Trustee Burger, the Board Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2024 were unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

The Police Report for August 2024 was submitted by the Nassau County Police Department.

POLICE REPORT

A review of the August 2024 police report was given; 3 auto accidents; 35 total aided cases (other than auto); no robberies; one residential burglary; one commercial burglary; one car was stolen; 4 larceny charges; 2 criminal mischief charges; 3 moving violations; and 9 parking violations.

RESOLUTIONS:

24-41 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ABSTRACT NO. 24-08

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Eve Sheikh, the resolution authorizing Abstract No. 24-08 was unanimously approved.

24-42 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO MOVE A PART TIME LABORER TO A FULL TIME LABORER WITHIN THE DPW-POWERS

- Upon motion by Tr. Burger, seconded by Tr. Sheikh, the resolution authorizing converting a Part Time Laborer to a Full Time Laborer, James Powers, was unanimously approved.

24-43 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A NEW PART TIME LABORER FOR DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS-McNEELY

- Upon motion by Tr. Sheikh, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, the resolution authorizing the hiring of a New Part Time Laborer, Ryan McNeely, was unanimously approved.

24-44 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO AMEND THE PARKING TIME LIMITS ON BROOKLYN AVENUE

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Burger, the resolution authorizing the amending of the parking time limits on Brooklyn Avenue, was unanimously approved.

24-45 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALFREDO'S CONSTRUCTION

- Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Sheikh, the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Alfredo's Construction to reseal and restripe the Village Hall parking lot was unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Trustee Arthur Savarese

Parks and Recreation, Little League, Public Information, Dept. of Public Works (DPW), Tree Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Watch, Business Relations, DPW Redevelopment

Trustee Rainer Burger

Building Department, LIRR, Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Noise Abatement, Water Authorities, Scouts/Troop 298, Marcus Christ Hall (MCH)

Trustee Eve Sheikh

Library, Senior Programs, Schools, Business Relations (Construction)

Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar

Beautification Committee, Cultural Committee, Board of Assessors, Clerk's Office, Community Development (CDBG), Summer Camp

Mayor Christopher Devane

Auxiliary Police, Fire Department, Nassau County Police, Facilities, Board of Appeals, Planning and ARB Board, 300 S12 St.

Trustee Art Savarese reported by Laura Daly Secretary to the Board:

Social Media

- Follow the Village on the Village Instagram account for Updates, Important Notices & Events (@villageofnhp).
- You should also visit the Village website and download the MY VNHP app on your phone to stay connected with your village.
- Also check out the E-Board for updates and notices!

New Hyde Park Little League

- There are no Teams playing in the Fall

Memorial Park Update

- The Park hours are 8:00am - 6:30pm starting Monday, September 16th
- Please check our Instagram account for park hour updates in the fall

- Mayor Devane further clarified that the park closing time is one-half hour before sunset and that the closing times will change accordingly
- On Friday, September 6th, the Village hosted Back to School Movie Night. The movie was “IF”; there was a great turnout
- Saturday, September 14th, the Village and Scout Troop 298 unveiled our Wall of Heroes. We had another great turnout for a wonderful ceremony. Trustee Burger will have more in his report.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: Neighborhood Watch

- The Neighborhood Watch program is ongoing and we are looking for more volunteers to patrol the Village streets during the week. If you are interested, please send me an email at asavarese@vnhp.org and then go to Village Hall to fill out an application.

Other Items.

- Greater NHP Chamber of Commerce: If you would like to join the Chamber or need additional information you can visit the Greater NHP Chamber website. <https://www.nhpchamber.org/>
- Mark Your Calendar: The New Hyde Park Street Fair is Saturday September 21st from 10am - 4pm.
 - We will have a DJ, Dan the Man, at 10 am followed by a live band, the Hambones, at noon.
 - If anyone would like to volunteer to help set-up, please be at Village Hall by 6am.

Igor will be filling us in on the progress of the DPW Facility and the rest of the DPW report.

Department of Public Works: Igor Sikiric, Superintendent

Sanitation August 2024

- 564 tons of refuse and recycling consisting of:
 - 432 tons of MSW
 - 14 tons of newspaper
 - 20 tons of commingled recyclables
 - 68 tons of yard waste
 - 30 tons of construction debris
- There is one doubled day scheduled before the next meeting
- Monday October 14th is Columbus Day so there will be no collection; garbage will be collected on both sides of the Village on Tuesday October 15th, with cardboard/paper being collected on the North side.
- Bulk waste and E-waste pickups can only be scheduled by calling Village Hall; Bulk waste is collected every Monday and Friday; and E-waste is collected on Wednesdays.
- Remember that cardboard must be flattened and bundled; no full boxes or boxes with garbage or styrofoam inside will be collected.
- Do not put your cardboard out for collection with your bottles and cans, it will not be collected.

Operations

- Installation and repair of new signs and poles due to aging and damage is on-going; in the month of August approximately 40 signs were repaired, replaced, or relocated.

DPW

- DPW staff performed weekly maintenance and cleanup operations along Jericho Tpke, LIRR corridor, and parking lots. Litter pick-up along sidewalks, median areas, and parking lots is conducted on a weekly basis.
- All vegetation and landscape maintenance are conducted weekly or as needed.

Routine Tree Maintenance

- Routine tree maintenance requests and tree preventative maintenance procedures are on-going and will continue as needed.

- DPW conducted 20 tree trims, 5 tree removals and responded to 10 calls regarding downed trees or broken tree limbs.
 - Most of these were due to a wind storm that came through the Village on August 9th.
- Our Tree Contractor was in the Village and performed 10 tree trims, 1 removal and 1 stump removal.
- Tree trims and removals will continue next month; if you have any requests, you can call Village Hall or use the MyVNHP App.
- DPW received and staff responded to approximately 35 service requests that were received via the MyVNHP App or phone calls to Village Hall. The majority of calls this month were regarding trees.

DPW Renovation Update

- We are now two months into the DPW renovation project and the progress thus far is that a portion of the garage, the salt shed, the old office trailer and storage building has been demolished
- The contractor is currently renovating the main garage section with new electric and structural repairs.
 - Also, the foundation for the new truck garage and the new recyclables transfer area has been poured
- It is currently anticipated that the majority of the structural work which consists of a new truck garage, new office, and new salt shed should be completed by the end of the year.

Building Department - Binu Pillay, Superintendent:

ZBA

- The last scheduled meeting of the Zoning Board and Appeals was held on September 11th with 1 case heard and approved with suggested changes.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 9th and as of today no cases have been submitted, the deadline was 9/18/24.

ARB

- The last meeting of the Architectural Review Board was held on August 28th with 1 case heard, the applicant installed a sign without approval. The Board had a Reserved Decision until the applicant goes in front of the Board of Trustees. After that, he will have to come back in front of the ARB Board to continue the discussion and ARB make a decision about the sign.
- The next meeting is scheduled for September 25 and the deadline to submit was 9/18/24; and no applications were submitted to date.

Planning Board

- The last meeting of the Planning Board was scheduled for August 28th; however, no applications were submitted and the meeting was cancelled.
- The next meeting is scheduled for September 25th and as of this time we have no applications submitted.

VILLAGE COURT

- The last Village Court was held on September 18th with 43 cases, which comprise of: 4 Sidewalk Obstruction; 8 Property Maintenance for grass and abandoned vehicle; 4 Garbage out before 7pm; 12 working without a permit; 2 Illegal Occupied Basement and Multiple Families in Single Family House; 6 Property maintenance for garbage on property; 3 failed to file for a permit; and 4 rentals without registration and advertising without registration.
- The next village court will be held on October 16, with 48 cases, which comprise of: 3-obstructing sidewalk; 10 Property Maintenance for grass; 8 Property Maintenance for garbage; 2 Garbage out before 7pm; 1 Illegally parked on the lawn; 1 failed to transfer SEP; 18 Working without a permit; 2 Illegal use within place and illegally occupied basement; and 3 truck idling and truck routes thru a non-permitted street.

- One way signage and no left turn signage has finally been installed
- We are checking into a stop sign on 3rd Ave which pretty much wraps things up with the 3rd Track Project.
- This will be the final report on the 3rd Track Project after about 7 years.\

LIRR Track Work

- We had Track Signal work back on Aug 9th - 12th
- The Village understanding is that work is completed and no further work at this time
- However, we did identify some graffiti by Covert Ave and we are working with MTA to get it removed

Water Authority

- The Water Authority is ordering up a new reactor for Well 57A to get it to 100% capacity (operating at 73%). The Water Authority received NYSDOH approval for the 3rd phase of the Station 57 additional Reactor. The bid specifications are almost complete and the reactor itself is scheduled to arrive in mid-December.
- There are currently three other major projects physically underway which include: Station 44 Rehabilitation (4 wells) Elmont; Station 40 Emerging Contaminants (2 wells) New Hyde Park; and Elevated Tank 20 Rehabilitation Elmont.
 - Station 44 Rehabilitation has 2 wells shut down and the well casing cut and capped during construction. The original well building for these wells has been demolished and excavation has begun for the new structure which will raise the wells to grade pursuant to DOH regulations. A dispute between Contractors has slowed down progress
 - Station 40 Emerging Contaminants project had trees along the east border removed which will be replaced with a retaining wall beginning next week. Contractors are currently making their required submittals.
 - Tank 20 Rehabilitation should have been completed in July 2023; however, the contractor has stopped work for failure to pay Union health benefits. The Water Authority has submitted a claim against the contractor's performance bond to complete this long overdue project.

Noise Abatement

- Last TVASNAC Meeting Aug 26th, the next meeting will be on Sep 22rd
- Meetings are held at the Hempstead Town Hall and start at 7 pm.
- Town of Hempstead attorney has filed a foil request to the FAA for the raw data from noise monitors placed along the departure and arrival routes of planes going into JFK. The FAA reported that the town was supposed to receive these reports on July 29. Reports are now coming in September as the Port Authority keeps stalling-we have not heard if the reports have come in.
- If response is not received Town of Hempstead and North Hempstead will move forward with Legal Action.
- Town of North Hempstead agreed to have a noise meter installed at Tully Park. As noted in August, the NHP Village is inquiring with TVASNAC if they want to install a Noise meter in one of the Municipal Parking Lots- we have not heard back.
- Residents are urged to file online noise complaints at www.hempsteadny.gov/TVASNAC; or for Hempstead residents to call 1-800-225-1071, North Hempstead residents dial 311.

Veterans Affairs/American Legion Post 1089

- On Saturday, September 14th, we had the Dedication Ceremony of the Heroes Wall at Memorial Park. This was an Eagle Project by Troop 298 Life Scout Michael Domingo. It was a huge undertaking by Michael! The Legion is humbled and honored and thank Michael for his efforts in remembering and honoring those 57 Soules from NHP that were lost during WWI, WWII, the Vietnam and Korea Wars.

- As the Commander of Post 1089 and on behalf of the Post, I also want to thank the Mayor, the Board, Cheryl, Laura, DPW, Building Department, our Clerk and the entire staff for their support in helping organize this event and also for all their support to the Legion and our Veterans.
- The Legion will be out at the Street Fair this weekend in their usual spot in front of the Village Hall, selling flags, hats and accepting donations.
- Next meeting will be Oct 12th at 10am at Village Hall
- Veterans Day weekend and Veterans Day is our next event. On Sunday Sep 10th, Veterans Day weekend, the Legion will be holding a Pancake Breakfast at Applebees. The cost is \$12 per person or \$10 per person for Legion Members, Scouts and immediate Families. Scouts will once again be assisting the Legion in serving.

Scouting

- As reported above, Eagle Scout Project - Life Scout Michael Domingo - Memorial Wall to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Freedom.

Marcus Christ

- The updated estimate for the design of Marcus Christ came in over the estimated \$2.5M the Village was willing to spend.
- The Board met with the Engineers and Architects and looked at various value engineering options to reduce cost which included reducing the size of the overall footprint.
- The Board is currently waiting for an updated design and estimate which is expected in early October and hope to go out to bid in November, if not sooner.
- Budget: Estimated approximately \$2.5 million- currently we have \$1.1million Bond remainder

Miscellaneous

- There was a noise complaint on the Taco Bell drive-thru that we are looking into

Trustee Eve Sheikh:

Senior Programs

- Our next senior event is Friday, September 20th at 11am - Bagels and Games! It's exciting to see the Seniors and for the upcoming events!
- The events in October are:
 - October 11th at 11am - Cooking demonstration! Can't wait for that!
 - October 25th at 11am - Terrarium workshop! Should be fun to make!
- Registration is required for all the senior programs; please email Seniorprograms@vnhp.org

Hillside Public Library

- The library is participating in our Street Fair this Saturday - please make sure to stop by at their table.
- Some of their upcoming events are:
 - September 23rd from 1pm-2pm - Steady, safe and strong - fall prevention for adults
 - October 3rd at 4:00pm - Star Wars Paint Party!
 - October 9th from 6pm-7pm - Chess Night with Coach Mike
 - October 11th at 1pm - Movie showing - The Bikeriders
 - October 17th from 6pm-7:30pm - Tony T's Music Trivia Night
 - More information about other interesting events can be found on the library's website which is hillsidelibrary.info

New Hyde Park Road School

- The first day of school was September 3rd! Welcome back students and teachers!
- The school has the following programs if you are interested and would like your child to join:

- Cub Scouts - Explore Stem - September 20th at 6:30pm at the NHP Memorial High School cafeteria.
- Youth soccer clinic at Micheal J Tully Park - Registration form is available at the Road School
- New Hyde Park PAL is offering 11 youth programs as well - you can go on their website or get a flyer at the Road School.
- New Hyde Park Memorial High School Homecoming Parade – October 19th at 12pm. Can't wait to participate!

Deputy Mayor Madhvi Nijjar:

Clerk's Office Tax Update:

- The Clerk's Office is up and running nicely
- They closed their books for the year on August 31, 2024
 - The Office is preparing for the audit year 2023-2024
 - We are anticipating the audit to take place sometime in October
- We have a new intern from St. John's University majoring in Public Administration who will be working with Rebecca in the Clerk's Office; this is a free internship for the Village

Grants:

Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant:

- We applied for \$25,000 in October 2023 and were approved for \$18,885 in March 2024
- We purchased chairs, shelving for the court records, 2 chairs for the Court Clerk and Deputy Court Clerk and we now have a new audio/visual system here in this room

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

- The Senior Program, run by our Senior Director, Laura is starting for the season tomorrow, September 20th and will continue to be funded by CDBG
- We will continue to update Village Hall to be ADA compliant in all aspects
 - All needed updates will be funded by CDBG

Culture Committee Events:

- We are having a busy September
- We held the Lighting of the Trees of Gold in honor of pediatric cancer awareness month on Thursday, September 5th at 6 PM on Village Hall lawn
 - This was a Community Event to show support and to spread awareness of Pediatric Cancer
- Back to School Movie Night was held on Friday, September 6th
 - The movie "IF" was shown
 - The feedback was very positive; both the children and their parents loved it.
 - It was an absolute success
- We had a honorable ceremony on September 14th, the unveiling of the Heroes Wall
 - The ceremony was beautiful!
 - It was an honor to bring those Heroes home
- Sep 21 is our Annual Street Fair
 - We need Volunteers - please sign up to help
- The upcoming Fall events are:
 - Columbus Day, Sunday, October 13th
 - Halloween Parade and Fall Festival, Saturday, October 26th
 - Diwali, Friday, November 8th
 - Veterans Day Ceremony, Monday, November 11th

- The Tree Lighting, Saturday, November 30th
- Lastly, I would like to wish all those celebrated this past Sunday “A Happy Onam!”; and apologize for not putting it on the e-board

Mayor Christopher Devane:

Wall of Heroes

- The dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, September 14th at Memorial Park
- Everything needed to be in place in order to bring our heroes home to their final resting place
- It was an awesome and a source of pride
- Michael Domingo did a phenomenal job on all the work that went into it
- You can go look at the Wall during the day or night
- Every penny was paid by the people in the Community or the labor was donated

Street Fair

- Thank you in advance for all the work done by Cheryl, Laura and the Clerk’s office, for doing a monumental amount of work that goes into the event
- Thank you, Igor, and the crew from DPW for all the work that went into the unveiling; and in advance for all the work that will go into the Street Fair
- Last year we had 120 vendors this year we have about 90
 - Last year it was free to all Chamber Members, but this year we are charging Chamber members that are outside of the Village
 - Not trying to make money, just trying to take a step towards breaking even

DPW

- The work is under way and going smoothly

Facilities - Village Hall

- Looking good and we are about to reseal the parking lot
- Basement needs some updating but pretty much the Village Hall is done

Marcus Christ

- We are on the cusp of going out to bid
- The Village Board to prepare construction area for new Marcus Christ Hall project immediately.
 - It will have the Village and American Legion insignias
- It is basically the same design but we reduced the sq footage from 5,000 sq ft to 4,400 sq ft to stay within the budget that we have in mind
- To pay we may need to bond it out and forego the bond for street repairs for two years or reduce that one to a few streets; but we may need to put it off
- We will keep the public updated as we go along

Memorial Park

- The final most beautiful most important part of the park is now in place, the Heroes Wall

300 S 12th Street

- Village officials are supposed to hear from the State on September 20th regarding Grant Disbursement Agreement for this property; we could get the funds and close on that property immediately
- There are some remediation issues with the sock factory and the house before we knock it down; we are getting a credit for it and will then go right into developing the area
- We are going to repave the area and the area right behind it and then develop the area for a new parking lot and add a dry well

- As soon as those two areas are done, we will start to develop the park; need to do those areas first so we don't impact our residents parking area
- We anticipate 70-75% of the park to be done by Thanksgiving

LOTS

- DPW to install bollards to prevent cars driving over curb into Brooklyn Avenue parking lot.

OTHER

- The Areas on Jericho Tpke that have “Saturday, Sunday and Holidays” on their parking signs will have “Saturday” removed from the signage new message will be “Except Sundays and Holidays” including Brooklyn Avenue
- The Brooklyn Avenue lot gate is in poor shape; too expensive so we are looking into replacing it with a 4' chain link fence. There should be less driving into the fence due to the way we input the parking stations
- Residents on Brooklyn Ave have concerns with Push Fitness people driving down the curb into the lot, so we are in the process of putting up bollards to avoid that from happening
- We have complaints on the Lakeville Road Lot that there are less “R” and “A” spots but we have not removed any of these spots but we are looking into it
- Village officials to implement and enforce the Flowbird parking system on Lakeville Road from Brooklyn Avenue to Lowell Avenue
- Have complaints from individuals saying that they have been parking in a spot and never been ticketed before, want to clarify that we are enforcing the code across the board
- This board is proactive in addressing issues when they are notified, for example, we were told that Bicycles are being chained all over the village. The Village is going to stop that by notifying the individuals immediately, and if need be, we are going to cut the chains.
- Village officials to remind residents to bring in garbage cans in a timely manner after collection.
- Village Board to continue discussions with Legal Counsel regarding potential landscaping requirements for rental properties.
- Commented how proud the Community should be of having 85 Junior Firefighters, it is the future of this community, it is phenomenal and hope it will continue as well as troop 298
- Recognize the turnover in the Clerk's Office- for doing a phenomenal job dealing with Issues
- The significant savings achieved in Health Insurance Costs was highlighted, giving the credit to Clerk-Treasurer for reducing the cost from \$100,000 per month to approximately \$50,000. The Village is spending money but at the same time saving money.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM and a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Nijjar, seconded by Tr. Burger, and unanimously approved, to go to an Executive Session. The Executive Session ended at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Laura Daly

Secretary to the Board