

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting held on August 24, 2023, at 7:30PM

Present: Andrew Giacomazza, Mayor  
Tara Burek, Susan Ciriello, Victor Ferrarelli, and Christopher Graziano, Trustees

Absent: None

Also Present: Kelly Naughton, Attorney for the Village; Robert Weyant, Village Streets Superintendent; Michael Phillips, Water/Wastewater Administrator; Michael Panella, Building Inspector; Thomas Burke, Town Supervisor; Christopher Gerver, Planning Board Chairman; Lisa Hintz, Climate Smart Committee; Maria Hunter, Beautification Committee

**Public Hearings - Continued**

a. Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023 – ARB Revisions:

Mayor Giacomazza stated the revised law is still being worked on so the hearing will need to be continued at this time. Comments have been received from the Village Engineer that need to be reviewed. Motion was offered by Trustee Ferrarelli, seconded by Trustee Ciriello, to continue the public hearing on Introductory Local Law 8 of 2023 to the September 14, 2023, meeting.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

b. Introductory Local Law 9 of 2023 – Ridge Preservation:

Mayor Giacomazza stated the revised law is still being worked on so the hearing will need to be continued at this time. Comments have been received from the Village Engineer that need to be reviewed. Motion was offered by Trustee Ciriello, seconded by Trustee Burek, to continue the public hearing on Introductory Local Law 9 of 2023 to the September 14, 2023, meeting.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:**

Supervisor Burke thanked the Village for the parkland fees that will fund phase two of the sensory park. The Mayor asked Mr. Burke when the pieces would be delivered for installation. Mr. Burke stated that they should arrive no later than the beginning of October, however it depends on ground temperature. If they can not properly be installed in October, it will be the first thing done in the spring.

Lisa Hintz thanked both boards for working together for the sensory park as well as thanking the Village for the parkland fees. She then thanked the Board for having “Wreaths across America” on the Agenda.

**Administrative Business:**

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Trustee Graziano, seconded by Trustee Ferrarelli, to accept receipt of the minutes of the meeting held August 10, 2023.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Trustee Ciriello, seconded by Trustee Burek, to approve Abstract 6 containing vouchers 23240468 - 23240589 and totaling \$402,371.75.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

c. Extra Item – Fire Department Equipment Request

Motion was offered by Trustee Graziano, seconded by Trustee Burek, to approve Fire Department Equipment Request 2023-24 totaling approximately \$4,545.14 for the purchase and replacement of uniforms.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

**Old Business:**

a. Approve Expenditure from Parkland Fees – Sensory Park Phase 2

Motion was offered by Trustee Ciriello, seconded by Trustee Burek, to approve the expenditure of \$74,320.00 from the Village Parkland fees in order to fund phase 2 of the Sensory Park located at Earl Reservoir. This will fund a sensory dome, discovery cave, backhoe digger, and nature discovery tables. It will also fund a border fence, rubber surface and stone base.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

**New Business:**

a. Liquor License Notification – BB Woodbury/aka Bareburger

Mayor Giacomazza stated notification was received on August 9, 2023, from BB Woodbury/aka Bareburger of their intention to apply for a liquor license. Correspondence was received from the Police Department stating that they have no objections to the application. The Mayor directed the clerk to send a letter to the NYS Liquor Authority stating the Village has no objection to said application.

b. Proclamation – “Wreaths Across America Day” – December 16, 2023

Mayor Giacomazza thanked Lisa Hintz for her suggestion to declare “Wreaths across America” day in Woodbury. He then thanked her for what she has done for the Veterans in this community for the past two years. He then read the following proclamation.

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING DECEMBER 16, 2023, VVREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

WHEREAS, in 1992, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, had a surplus of wreaths at the end of the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America to continue and expand efforts to honor each branch of the military and all servicemen and women; and WHEREAS, in 2008, the U.S. Congress unanimously voted and declared "Wreaths Across America Day" to be celebrated annually; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Wreaths Across America is to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and those who have served, and Teach the youth of America the value of freedom and the sacrifices that are made to protect it; and

WHEREAS, Wreaths Across America Day includes the Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony, a wreath-laying ceremony held annually in December at Arlington and more than 2,200

participating cemeteries run by dedicated volunteers in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and 24 foreign nations; and

WHEREAS, because our veterans carry the burdens of war and conflict, and bear the marks of heroism and honor, they deserve the praise and appreciation of every American and those whose lives they touched in every part of the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andrew Giacomazza, Mayor of the Village of Woodbury, NY, do hereby proclaim December 16, 2023, as "National Wreaths Across America Day" in the Village of Woodbury, and extend thanks and appreciation to our veterans and Gold Star Families for their service and sacrifice and to Wreaths Across America for bringing this honor to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of Woodbury, New York. Done in concurrence with the Woodbury Village Council, this 24th day of August 2023.

c. Schedule Public Hearing – Moratorium Waiver Request – 96 Turner Road

Motion was offered by Trustee Ferrarelli, seconded by Trustee Burek, to schedule a public hearing to be held at 7:30 PM on September 14, 2023, to entertain public comments on an application received from Silverberg/Zalantis Law Offices representing Avalon Building Systems requesting relief from Local Law 11 of 2023 (continuing the moratorium on the issuance of certain permits, certificates of occupancy and approvals) for property located at 96 Turner Road.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	4	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli
	NOES	1	Graziano

d. Schedule Public Hearing – Moratorium Waiver Request – 140 Route 32

Motion was offered by Trustee Burek, seconded by Trustee Ciriello, to schedule a public hearing to be held at 7:30 PM on September 14, 2023, to entertain public comments on an application received from Silverberg/Zalantis Law Offices representing Avalon Building Systems requesting relief from Local Law 11 of 2023 (continuing the moratorium on the issuance of certain permits, certificates of occupancy and approvals) for property located at 140 Route 32.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	4	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli
	NOES	1	Graziano

e. Approve Purchase of Audio/Visual Equipment – Village Hall Meeting Room

Motion was offered by Trustee Graziano, seconded by Trustee Ciriello, to approve the purchase of audio/visual equipment for the Village Hall meeting room in the amount of \$7300.69. Most applications are being submitted digitally to the Building Department. This will allow all to see what is being presented. This purchase is an attempt to eliminate the use of easels and the overuse of paper.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

f. Authorize Mayor to Sign Documents – Environmental Consultant for Planning Board

A motion was made by Trustee Graziano, seconded by Trustee Ferrarelli, to authorize the Mayor to sign any documents relative thereto and hire Capital Environmental Consultants Inc for the Planning Board. Attorney Naughton stated this consultant would be to review the Woodbury Common DEIS, and for any other assignments given to the environmental consultant.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

g. Authorize to Advertise for Bids – Cleaning/Televising of Sanitary Sewer/Manhole Inspections

A motion was made by Trustee Burek, seconded by Trustee Ferrarelli to authorize the Village Clerk to advertise for Bids for the cleaning/televising of sanitary sewer/manhole inspections as per the EPA order. Bids will be accepted until September 20, 2023, at 2PM.

<b>ADOPTED</b>	AYES	5	Giacomazza, Burek, Ciriello, Ferrarelli, Graziano
	NOES	0	

**Public Comment**

Supervisor Burke applauded the Village Board and Senator Skoufis for acquiring the Hotel Tax for the Village. He then stated he heard that there was a potential problem with water chestnuts at Cromwell lake and wanted to offer assistance. He stated he had a similar situation at the Reservoir and his Building & Grounds department rectified the situation.

Maria Hunter stated the Beautification Committee has been working on bringing military tribute banners to Woodbury and erected along Route 32. She stated she had a Chamber meeting with Wynn Gold, the Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Cornwall and Timothy Finnegan to discuss a grant regarding Orange County Tourism. She stated she spoke to Colin from Smith Seamen & Quackenbush, and he requested that the Village not try to clean the plaque at Oak Clove, that it is supposed to look like that. She then informed the public about Trunk or Treat being held on Halloween night at Central Vally Elementary School and stated that there will be a “polar plunge” at 8am on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Reservoir.

Lisa Hintz thanked the Mayor for the “Wreaths across America” Proclamation. She stated she still has to purchase 140 wreathes. She stated they are seventeen dollars a piece or buy two get one free. She urged people to come out on Veterans day and either volunteer or just witness the honoring of Military Veterans. She then brought attention to the brown eyed susan flowers that were planted at Village Hall. She stated Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a ground water display at the Senior Center at 6pm. Woodbury Clean-up day will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Woodbury Repair Café will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2pm at Village Hall with multiple vendors. She also stated the Climate Smart Committee reached the 500 lbs. of recycled plastic donation in order to receive the first Trex bench and is looking for suggestions on where to place the bench.

Jimmy Ng stressed distress over the turn out of the public during board meetings. He would like to know how to get people to start showing up and showing interest in what is happening in the community. He stated people are not aware of what is happening and wants people to fight for the area and the community that he moved to, just as he is doing. He then gave the board credit for being so informative. Trustee Burek asked Maria Hunter how the involvement been in the 40 years in which she has volunteered her time. Maria Hunter explained to Mr. Ng that this is a “bedroom” community. Most people go to work in the city and come home and don’t come back out once they get home to their children. She stated people come out in waves and he will begin to see more people come out when big projects are in front of the board or when it gets closer to election season. Mr. Ng then asked how many people in Woodbury know that Mayor Giacomazza is running again. He stressed that the Mayor and the Supervisor within a community are more important than a Presidential election. Trustee Ciriello urged him as well as others to come to meetings or make a call and find out what the right answer is that people should not rely on what is posted on the internet. Trustee Burek stated what you see on Facebook is usually a game of telephone. Trustee Graziano stated that the Mayor and the Supervisor have done so much for this community and work so well together. He stated there have been so many people that have lost elections for board seats that should still be on the Boards. As a community we need to figure out how to keep the good people in office. Mr. Ng stated that is the problem, because if people are getting their information solely from Facebook, they are not getting all the information or

the correct information. The Board then urged Mr. Ng to come to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial that is held here every year and urged others to come as well, so that more people can have a sense of community.

#### **Board Member/Department Comment**

Trustee Graziano reiterated what he stated earlier in the meeting and just wanted to thank the Mayor and the Supervisor for working so well together for the benefit of the people of Woodbury.

Trustee Ferrarelli thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the Mayor and Supervisor for all the work they have been doing. He then wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

Trustee Ciriello stated she raised her son's to be leaders and she was disheartened when her son came back from school and stated there was a lack of encouragement from other students about starting this school year. She urged everyone to remember to always be a leader and encouraged others to befriend students if they are being picked on or struggling or alone. She stated you never know what a person is facing inside, or outside school and every child should feel welcomed.

Trustee Burek reiterated Trustee Graziano comments and stated the main reason she and Trustee Graziano ran for office was due to not having a history with the people of the community and wanted to help and make a difference. She stated they recently had a meeting with the Town Parks department to see what the Village could help out with after they finish the sensory park. She stated that is what government should be boards working together to better the community as a partnership. She thanked Maria Hunter and Lisa Hintz for working so well together. She then stated that when people post on Facebook, most of the misunderstandings are about land use. She then thanked Maria for correcting a lot of statements and questions about it. She then stated that she wants to have an open house meeting for the public in September with members of the Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Village Board to discuss land use. She stated there are multiple projects that are going to shape the future of Woodbury and she wants the public involvement. She then thanked Mr. Ng for coming out for every meeting.

Mayor Giacomazza stated parkland fees are generated from certificates of occupancy. The Village in the past never had a say in how the money was allocated because the Village doesn't own any parks. Recently the Village Board had a meeting with the Town Parks Department where they figured out how and what the parks would like to do in the future. Hence leading to phase II of the sensory park. He then stated parks are the "Crown Jewel" of Woodbury. He then stated the new bell outside is an antique fire bell donated by Herman Galbert's family. Mr. Galbert was a long-time resident of Woodbury and the bell stood in the front of his yard for many years. The volunteer fireman sandblasted and painted it, and the Highway Department installed it. He then urged people to come out for the September 11<sup>th</sup> memorial. He then thanked Assemblyman Eachus and Senator Skoufis who fought back on the OC Fare and MTA payroll increases, in which Governor Hochul wanted a 47% increase. Assemblyman Eachus and Senator Skoufis also came through with the Hotel tax for the Village and being that the price has gone up on everything, it is nice to have additional revenue coming in. He then stated pom cards should not be placed in doors alerting people that an individual is not home. He then stated he is looking to have a coordinated event with the Middletown ESPA to find dogs and cats a forever home.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss or comments received, a motion was offered by Trustee Graziano, seconded by Trustee Ferrarelli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Jessica McClennan, Deputy Village Clerk