# **DECEMBER 4, 2024 GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD**

# **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harter will call the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Harter, Trustee Olejniczak, Trustee Werner, Trustee Roach

Board Members Absent: Trustee Fuller

Also Present: Clerk Wierzbicki, Treasurer Geller, Attorney Cassidy, Engineer Hoffman

Approximate Number in Audience: **2**

1. **MINUTES**

Motion made by Trustee Roach seconded by Trustee Olejniczak to approve the minutes of the November 6th General Meeting

##### **VOTE: YES 4 NO** **0 1 Absent**

Motion made by Trustee Werner seconded by Trustee Olejniczak to approve the minutes of the November 20th Special Meeting

##### **VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

##### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Motion made by Trustee Werner seconded by Trustee Roach to accept the Treasurer’s report as submitted.

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

**2. Payment of Vouchers**

Motion made by Trustee Roach seconded by Trustee Olejniczak to approve payment of vouchers as audited.

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

1. **Transfers**

**Transfers for Fiscal Year 5/31/25 - Dec 04**

**General Fund Expenditures**

**Account Description From To**

**A-1325-600 Treasurer Audit Expenditures 5,000.00**

**A-1325-032 Treasurer Edmunds Software Charge 4,500.00**

**A-1325-406 Treasurer Computer Equipment and Services 500.00**

**(Annual contract includes increase, Computer Solutions Service)**

**A-1410-401 Clerk Printing and Supplies 1,000.00**

**A-1410-405 Clerk Computer Equipment and Services 1,000.00**

**(Edmunds contract, Onsolve LLC Emergency System)**

**A-1930-000 General Fund Contingency 5,600.00**

**A-9010-020 Employee State Retirement Contributions 3,500.00**

**A-9010-025 Police Retirement Contributions 2,100.00**

**(Per NYS Invoice)**

**A-1940-000 Judgements and Claims 100.00**

**A-4010-000 Public Health Registrar Expenditures 100.00**

**(Fees - Town of Warwick)**

**A-3120-415 Police Security System Equipment and Services 1,500.00**

**A-3120-411 Police Computer Equipment and Services 1,500.00**

**(Dell Computer)**

**A-5110-011 Highway Oil and Chips Salaries 2,000.00**

**A-5110-003 Highway Salaries - Greenwood Lake 2,000.00**

**(No budget, will include next year)**

**A-5110-405 Street Oiling Project Expenditures 300.00**

**A-5110-407 Highway Medical Expenditures 300.00**

**(Partners in Safety Drug & Alcohol Program)**

**A-8020-402 Planning Board School Expenditures 100.00**

**A-8020-405 Planning Board Advertising 100.00**

**A-8020-401 Planning Board Equipment and Supplies 200.00**

**(Quill - various)**

**Water Fund Expenditures**

**Account Description From To**

**F-8340-041 Distribution Maintenance and Repairs 10,000.00**

**F-8340-020 Water Salaries - Meter Installer 10,000.00**

**(New Position no budget)**

**Sewer Fund Expenditures**

**NONE**

**Motion to approve transfers as presented by Trustee Werner second by Trustee Roach**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE & PRESENTATIONS**
2. **A certification of delivery was completed for the lead line inventory.**
3. **A completed agreement for the Christmas Tree Lighting was received from the First Presbyterian Church.**
4. **A quote was received from Timmerman Equipment Company for a trailer mounted self contained vacuum debris collector.**
5. **A notification was received from Engineering Properties regarding the Edward J. Lempka warehouse.**
6. **Altice USA sent a notice regarding additional video and equipment pricing.**
7. **A letter was received from Police Chief Coleman regarding Fun Fest light parade request.**
8. **Chief Coleman sent a request for speed sign recommendations for Meadow Rd, Randall St and Wheeler Rd.**
9. **Peckham Industries Inc. sent a price increase notification.**
10. **A letter was sent to St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church requesting purchase of 105-2-17.**
11. **NYSDOT sent a Local Highway Inventory request.**
12. **NYS DOT sent a Notice of Appropriation for 104-1-15.**
13. **TLC LLC sent a quote for DPW safety equipment.**
14. **Florida Union Free School District submitted a completed 2025 Sewer Contract for Golden Hill Elementary School.**
15. **A quote from Hydra-Numatic Sales Co for a cellular monitoring system for the Water Treatment Plant.**
16. **Public Works submitted their monthly report for November.**
17. **H2O Innovation submitted the Water and Sewer reports for November.**
18. **Payment application #8 was received from Mehl Electric for the Water Treatment Plant.**
19. **New York State office of the Attorney General sent a letter for the Eminent Domain Procedure Law.**
20. **Florida Fire Department sent a request for a donation for the Tree Lighting**

**VI. REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES**

**1. Thomas Fuller – Police, Justice, Emergency Management, Senior Affairs**

**2. Craig Olejniczak – DPW, Recreation & Parks, Animal Control, Buildings/Grounds**

**3. Alyssa Werner – Sewer/ Water, Chamber of Commerce, Glenmere watershed**

**4. Matthew Roach – Building & Planning, Historical**

**Each Department head gave a brief overview of November reports**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

This opportunity is provided for members of the audience to comment on **any item listed** on the agenda. Please address the Board and limit your comments to five minutes.

**Sue Obrien Farries Ave I am not sure if this is where I need to speak about this. I am talking about Orange and Rockland doing work in the Village of Florida and notifying the Village of Florida and the homeowner. I am not sure if this is where you want me to talk about it.**

**Mayor Harter we will put that at the end**

**Greg Kimiecik Maple Ave you mentioned something about the lead service lines in the house**

**Mayor Harter New York State decreed a mandate where every municipality that supplies water has to have a logged list of every line and has to document the material of the service line as lead or copper. This is a statewide issue where nobody was prepared for it and it’s a massive undertaking to do. We have been proactive with it we are also doing it at the same time as our water meter installation and if we have any changeouts. What will happen is when we go in there, do the changeout, document the line material. We have to submit that yearly to the state to show that we are doing the inventory.**

**Greg Kimiecik When I get my service shut off at the sidewalk?**

**Mayor Harter it’s a two part approach. It’s going to be the service to your house and the water main to the curb box.**

**Engineer Hoffman yes from the main to the curb box and the curb box to the house. Each house has two chances that it may be lead but so far none has been identified as lead.**

**Mayor Harter and if your house was built after 1986, the mandates kicked in where you weren’t allowed to use lead lines anymore. If you are built after that, you are good.**

**Greg Kimiecik you are going to dig up the street?**

**Mayor Harter they are going to want test bores. We are going to start applying for grants so that you would get a company to drill and test the lines as opposed to ripping up the whole thing like you said.**

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Helpsy Contract**

**Motion to authorize Attorney Cassidy to finalize Helpsy contract subject to addendum. Motion by Trustee Werner second by Trustee Olejniczak**

**Attorney Cassidy The purpose of this resolution is to confirm that you are happy with the general concept of the placement of the bin by Helpsy and materials collected by that. The Village would be paid for things that are collected in the bin at .07/lb and if we were to host a drive it whether that be for bulk pick up would be .10/lb. I am asking for you to approve the agreement in principal, I will prepare an addendum to be adding our customary certificate of insurance and other provisions as an addendum to the agreement. Can you confirm the placement?**

**Mayor Harter next to the Cub Scout bin**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 absent**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Grievance Day**

**Motion by Trustee Olejniczakseconded by Trustee Roachto approve the scheduling of Property Tax Grievance Day for Wednesday February 19th , 2025 from 4-8 PM.** **All Grievances must be presented in person or in writing by such time.**

**Attorney Cassidy just to clarify you are not grieving the taxes, you are grieving the assessment which the taxes are based on.**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

1. **Increased State Aid for Local Governments**

**Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and**

**Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of $50 million in unrestricted state aid; and**

**Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the $50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and**

**Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and**

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

**Whereas, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and**

**Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;**

**Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Florida calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional $50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and**

**Be it further resolved, that the Village of Florida urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.**

**A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator James Skoufis, Assemblymember Karl Brabenec and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).**

**Motion by Trustee Werner second by Trustee Olejniczak**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO** **0 1 Absent**

1. **Florida Fire Department**

**Motion to approve donation in the amount of $500.00 for the reimbursement of charges for the Village Tree Lighting.**

**Motion by Trustee Roach second by Trustee Olejniczak**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

1. **Giving Tree Mapes House**

**Motion to authorize the placement of the Giving Tree on the property of the Mapes House beginning immediately.**

**Attorney Cassidy just for clarification, we are authorizing organizers to place tree on Village property. We are not funding.**

**Motion by Trustee Werner second by Trustee Roach**

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1 Absent**

**Mayor Harter stated that the Menorah lighting will be on 12/30/24 at 4:00 PM**

1. **Meeting Schedule**

December 18th, 2024 9:30 AM Work Session/Special Meeting

January 15th, 2025 9:30 AM Work Session 7:30 Meeting

February 5th, 2025 9:30 AM Work Session 7:30 Meeting

February 19th, 2025 4:00-8:00 PM Grievance Night/ Work Session

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Sue Obrien Farries Ave November 14th 6:15 am, a street full of construction vehicles are in front of my house. I asked what they were doing. I was thinking the property across the street has a lot going on and I really thought that’s what happened. The people that are contracted with Orange and Rockland are worth their weight in gold. He told me that they were there to change the gas lines for two houses here. It’s not even daylight, I ask him what houses, he said 46 and 48. I’m 48 when were you going to tell me? You didn’t get notification? Didn’t the Village let you know? I couldn’t argue with them they are the contractors I had to wait for the Orange and Rockland guys to come. That was the beginning of the first five days. Guy come to the door and hands me a printed out notification nine hours after they started working. They are going to dig up my front lawn, replace all my gas stuff. I said wait my husband needs 24/7 care here you can’t just disconnect everything. That was Thursday, the next morning the power goes out. I have a gas generator it comes on if the power goes out. This way I don’t have to worry because my husband is 24/7 care. He has a respiratory system. Nothing came on. They don’t know what happened. Why isn’t the generator coming on. We had no power. That was November 15th. Evidently it’s common. Apparently it created a bubble.It did not come on, it created a bubble.**

**Trustee Olejniczak if they did not go to the generator and bleed the line yes it could. If they weren’t aware**

**SO I called 911 so now I need emergency care for my husband. I need an oxygen tank, EMS came. Sometime on November 15th the O & R guy came to me and stated we are not going to finish today, we need a special team, we didn’t know you had a special care here. They said the Village was supposed to tell me.**

**Trustee Olejniczak I am almost positive that the Village had no idea. I feel bad it was poor communication between you and Orange and Rockland. I dealt with a scheduled project for my street but no specific date and time. They just showed up and dug. I understand your part and it’s unfortunate. I saw their trucks going up Farries and I reached out to Fuzzy(DPW Supervisor) and said what is going on on Farries and he said we have nothing to do with it. I remember that day and I feel for you unfortunately some of their projects there are contractors are giving us time frame on work.**

**There was a brief discussion on Orange and Rockland and work notification in the Village.**

**Mayor Harter stated that he would reach out to the Representative that we have.**

**Elizabeth Cassidy Mayor, in light of what Mrs. Obrien saying that, we prepare a written notice to them because I am concerned that a street project should have coordination with both DPW and Police. We should be aware of it.**

**There was a brief discussion for the concerns, a letter will be prepared.**

**Mayor Harter Greg do you have anything to add?**

**Trustee Olejniczak I did leave out a couple quick pieces of information. In my reports, I wanted to mention due to the bathrooms being closed at our parks at Glenmere and Sturr, we will make a port o potty available at Sturr Park and we are trying to get a port o potty moved up behind Rookie’s. The other thing, we are now entering winter storm weather. I am going to ask the community really keep in mind and be cognizant of an approaching or pending weather and be aware of the overnight parking law. Also be aware of taking your garbage cans in off the side of the road, off the end of your driveway so we are not creating any dangerous conditions for our plow drivers**

**Greg Kimiecik it doesn’t make sense why people leave their cans in the street. People need to shovel their sidewalks**

**Mayor Harter they are supposed to, its in the code. Alright with that Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy New Year. Motion to adjourn?**

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Trustee Werner seconded by Trustee Olejniczak to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

**VOTE: YES 4 NO 0 1` Absent**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Colleen Wierzbicki**