

**The Board of Trustees of the Village of Westhampton Beach held their Regular Meeting on Monday, February 9, 2004 at 10 a.m. in the Municipal Building, Sunset Avenue, Westhampton Beach**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Robert Strebel  
Trustee Ora Belle "Ridgie" Barnett  
Trustee Chester Morris  
Trustee Mark Raynor

Clerk-Treasurer Kathleen McGinnis  
Village Attorney Richard T. Haefeli

**ABSENT:** Trustee Harold Williams

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Mayor Strebel opened the meeting at 10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Regular Meeting:**

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**Accept minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting**

Motion by Trustee Raynor:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Trustees regular meeting of January 12, 2004 are hereby accepted.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Accept departmental reports**

Motion by Trustee Barnett:

RESOLVED, that the Police Department and Building Administrator's reports for January 2004 are hereby accepted.

Seconded by Trustee Raynor and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve Chamber events for 2004**

Motion by Trustee Morris:

RESOLVED, that the attached 2004 Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce list of events to be held on Village property is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve WHB School Student Art Exhibition**

Motion by Trustee Raynor:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by the Westhampton Beach School District to hold a student art exhibition on the Village Green on Saturday, May 15, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is hereby authorized.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve Family Counseling Services 5k Walk**

Motion by Trustee Barnett:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by the Family Counseling Service to hold a 5k Walk at the Village Green on Sunday, May 23, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. is hereby authorized subject to approval of the proposed route by the Chief of Police.

Seconded by Trustee Morris and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve Southampton Hospital Fundraiser**

Motion by Trustee Morris:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by Southampton Hospital to hold a fundraiser on "The Great Lawn" for the benefit of the Westhampton Primary Care Center and Center for Sports Rehabilitation on Sunday, May 30, 2004 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve WHB Performing Arts Center Concert**

Motion by Trustee Raynor:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center to hold a concert fundraiser on "The Great Lawn" on Saturday, June 19, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Morris and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve St. Marks Church use of The Great Lawn- parking**

Motion by Trustee Barnett:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by St. Marks Church to use "The Great Lawn" for parking for the Summer Fair to be held on Saturday, July 10, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Raynor and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve Family Counseling Services Gala Fundraiser**

Motion by Trustee Morris:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by the Family Counseling Services to hold the Gala Fundraiser on "The Great Lawn", Saturday, August 7, 2004 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Raynor and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve WHB Historical Society Antique Show**

Motion by Trustee Raynor:

RESOLVED, that the application submitted by the Westhampton Beach Historical Society to hold an Antique Show on "The Great Lawn", Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Accept proposal for Rogers Beach Snack Bar Concession**

Motion by Trustee Barnett:

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Loughlin's Deli to operate the Snack Bar Concession at Rogers Beach for the 2004 season and to pay the Village the sum of \$7,000.00.

Seconded by Trustee Morris and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Authorize NYS Parks grant - \$60,000 bulkhead**

Mayor Strebel wanted to thank Senator LaValle and Legislator Fred Thiele for going to bat for the Village regarding this grant. He said that since he has been Mayor the Village has received grants, usually on a yearly basis with the help of these two men.

Trustee Barnett added that this is really needed. Mayor Strebel agreed, saying this is probably the last piece of bulkhead to be fixed and it is in bad shape. He said the Village was fortunate to receive this grant and will do the project this year.

Motion by Trustee Morris:

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement contract with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation for a grant in the amount of \$60,000 for the reconstruction of 255 ft. of bulkhead along Moniebogue Canal at the parking lot south of Main Street.

Seconded by Trustee Raynor and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Authorize STOP DWI Contract - \$7,500 grant**

Mayor Strebel commented that this was another nice grant that the Village gets every year that gives the policemen a little overtime. He said that on a whole the overtime is down to half of what it used to be. We have mostly full-time men now. It used to be the train of thought that a lot of part-timers was cheaper, but in the long run I don't think it worked out that way. We have very few part-timers now, overtime is down, salaries haven't increased in the last few years except for the contractual part of it. Mayor Strebel said he was very proud of our Police Department.

Trustee Barnett asked what this money was used for.

Police Chief Ray Dean responded that the money was allocated for dedicated DWI patrols on weekend nights in the summertime and during the Christmas/New Year holiday season. These patrols are in addition to the regular police officers on duty. These patrols that go out are dedicated purely for DWI enforcement. They don't answer

calls, they don't have any other responsibilities other than patrolling the roads to eradicate drunk drivers.

Village Clerk, Kathy McGinnis, added that the Police Department gets a seat-belt grant each year, also, which works the same way using dedicated patrols for seat-belt enforcement.

Motion by Trustee Raynor:

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the County of Suffolk for grant funding in the amount of \$7,500.00 for participation by the Village Police Department in the STOP-DWI program.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Authorize budget transfers**

Motion by Trustee Barnett:

RESOLVED, that the attached budget transfers are hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Morris and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**Approve February 2004 warrant**

Motion by Trustee Morris:

RESOLVED, that the warrant for the month of February 2004 in the amount of \$188,539.12 for the General Fund, \$19,167.60 for the Capital Fund and \$27,114.84 for the Trust & Agency, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Trustee Barnett and unanimously approved. 3 Aye, 0 Nay

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**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mayor Strebel said in addition to being proud of our Police Department, he was also proud of the Department of Public Works. He said that in this last storm they were really on top of it and he had heard good things about the job they had done.

Mayor Strebel announced that the Chamber is thinking of putting a street clock on Main Street in Westhampton Beach. He said he thought it was a good idea. They have one in East Quogue that is very pretty and another one in Sayville that has been there for many years.

Mayor Strebel said that this was a good time to thank the Chamber of Commerce, the Beautification Committee and all of the people who help make our Village as beautiful as it is. He gets a lot of compliments about the Village and it is due to the work of the different groups. He also said that Trustee Ridgie Barnett is out there at 6:00 in the morning pulling weeds and working to beautify the Village.

Paul Houlihan, Building Inspector, gave an update on the computerization of the Village building records. He said they had been working with the Town of Southampton for the last couple of years to implement the Govern system here in the Village. Over the 2003 calendar year all of the building permit applications were processed through the computerized system which generates actual permit posters and certificates of occupancy and compliance. We are now in the process of backtracking and going through approximately 7,000 documents that we have here in the Village for old building permits and CO history. We are also in the process of implementing a system for the

Fire Marshal which will have all of those permits in the computer. We are working with the Town on that and hopefully it will be very similar to their Fire Marshal system. We hope within a year to have enough historical information on the computer for it to be a real asset to the residents of the Village, title companies, banks and real estate people who want to log on to the system and take a look at the information we have. Ultimately, within the next few years when we get all of this information on, it will open up the information to local businessmen, attorneys and residents so that they can actually view any property and see all the historical building, planning and zoning information. He said that is our ultimate goal here.

Mrs. McGinnis asked if this was already operational in the Town where a resident could log on to the Town website and get this information for a fee.

Mr. Houlihan responded that the Town has had this for quite some time and has had a very good response, especially from the attorneys and real estate people who are able to use it. He said there has also been a good response from residents who can go down to the Town and log onto one of their computers, even if you don't buy the subscription, and you can look up your own information. He said the Village is heading in that direction. We have quite a bit of information on now and in this next year or so we will put on quite a bit more. That is why we have budgeted for part-time employees. We are using them to enter all this information into the computer. They were very helpful last year in doing this.

Mayor Strelbel said that a lot of times people will approach him telling him how they feel about certain laws and regulations that have to be complied with. What a lot of people don't understand is that we basically enforce the laws that New York State writes. There is nothing in our fire code that is exclusive to the Village of Westhampton Beach. It is a New York State fire code and we must comply with it, as is our building code. There could be different zoning regulations from one area to another simply because of logistics. People that live in a dry land area that is not surrounded by water don't have the same FEMA regulations, and so forth. There is a perception out there that all of these rules and regulations were instituted by the Village and they really aren't.

Mr. Houlihan said that we work under the New York State building codes and our regulations are actually very similar and almost identical to the adjoining, surrounding communities. If anything, they are getting more similar with the new International Building Code, which also deals with the fire code, mechanical code, property maintenance code, they are all rolled into one. They were crafted from the International Code which many states throughout the United States are using now. I think there is probably more uniformity today in all the building codes and fire codes than there ever was before. You'll find our codes are very similar to all our adjoining communities. I talk with building officials in the other communities and we all have the same problems and issues. There may have been some confusion as everyone throughout the state made the transition from the old building/fire code to the new one. There were some changes in areas like ours where we have hurricane zones. We have special requirements because of the high wind possibilities and storm events. That caused a little bit of confusion, but not too much. The builders, architects and engineers are on board and we see plans coming through today with 100% compliance, whereas a year ago they seemed a little bit confused about it. Again, there is uniformity in the building/fire codes today as opposed to ten or fifteen years ago and I think you will see less and less confusion about this in the future.

Mayor Strelbel thanked Mr. Houlihan for his remarks and asked if anyone else would like to address the Board. There being no response, a motion was made at 10:25 a.m. by Trustee Raynor to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Williams and unanimously approved. 4 Aye, 0 Nay

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Respectfully submitted,

Christine Owen  
Deputy Clerk