

Mayor's Report March 7th 2023

Because of the storm on February 2-3 and the subsequent 16 hour power outage, the Village arranged a meeting with PSEG to discuss several important issues. On Monday, February 27th Deputy Mayor Pam Pierce and I met with Karyn Kemp Smith and 5 others from PSEG. We had an excellent discussion and the action points were: PSEG has identified 11 compromised trees between Bevin Road and Lighthouse Road that will be removed, PSEG will conduct a review of its text messaging system and correct the process that allowed incorrect messages to go out hourly and lastly PSEG will look at the switching network at Bevin Road to see if it is possible to change it, making it possible keep Bevin energized should Eaton's Neck need to be turned off. PSEG will also be looking at several options for installing a redundant primary feed wire, either underground or submarine, to allow an alternative way to energize EN should the above ground wires become compromised.

During the month a lot of work was done on the 2023-24 budget. The final numbers are coalescing around a tax increase of between 2.5% and 3%. The budget will stay below the NYS tax cap. Although the Village has not had a tax increase in seven years, the high level of inflation is not going to allow that streak to continue. The Village will hold a special meeting on March 14th at 4 PM to present the proposed budget to the Board of Trustees. At this time the BOT will be able to review the budget and modify it prior to presenting it to the residents. At the April BOT meeting a public hearing will be held to solicit input from the residents on the proposed budget.

On February 23rd the Village received notice that its application for a \$1,000,000 BRIC grant for engineering and design for the seawall was turned down due to lack of funds. Amazingly, all of NYS was only allocated \$2,000,000. These grants are extremely competitive and therefore very difficult to secure. The Village will likely re-apply in the next cycle.

The Board of Assessment Review, comprised of the members of the BOT, met on February 24th. Twenty one applications were review and all were denied based on inadequate supporting documentation.

The Village is in the process of renewing its franchise agreement with Altice. The Village attorney, Bruce Migatz, is reviewing the template agreement and a meeting with Altice will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the document.

During the month the Village received \$70,000 from the Multi Modal Grant to cover the cost of a portion of last summer's road paving.

The Village had a moderate nor'easter on March 4th. Village Associate Justice Tara Ryan was able to get some very good seawall video showing how powerful the waves were. I was able to share the footage with the Village's Congressman Nick Lalota, State Senator Mario Mattera, Assemblyman Keith Brown and Huntington Supervisor Ed Smyth. They were really stunned to see how bad the conditions can become at the seawall and all promised to do all they can to help remedy the situation. I additionally spoke to Assemblyman Brown about the \$50,000 grant he obtained for the Village for seawall repair. I asked him to contact DASNY and see if they can expedite the final approval process.

Thanks go out to Elke Rittenhouse who arranged a terrific presentation from the Guide Dog Foundation at Village Hall last Thursday. Three future guide dogs were there and demonstrations of how they were being trained comprised much of the visit. The Guide Dog Foundation is looking for volunteers who would like to help raise these incredible animals. The commitment ranges from keeping a dog for a full

year to simply housing one of the puppies for a weekend. If you would like more information the GDF phone number is 631-930-9000.

Lastly, the Village's icon snowbirds, the Ospreys, should be returning any time after St Patrick's Day on the 17th.