

The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cedarhurst was held February 5, 2024 at Village Hall, 200 Cedarhurst Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 at 8:00 P.M.

Present after roll call: Mayor:	Benjamin Weinstock
Trustees:	Eric G. Brown (Via Zoom)
	Myrna Zisman
	Israel Wasser
	Daniel Plaut
Village Attorney:	Evan Neuman
Village Clerk-Treasurer:	Salvatore Evola
Dep. Village Clerk-Treasurer	JoMarie Capone
Superintendent of Buildings:	Wayne Yarnell
Superintendent of Public Works:	Guy Marino

Trustee Zisman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Trustee Wasser, seconded by Trustee Zisman, the following reports for the month of January 2024 were unanimously accepted:

Nassau County Police Department
Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department (didn't receive)
Village Justice Andrew Goldsmith

On motion of Trustee Wasser, seconded by Trustee Brown, payment was approved of all properly approved vouchers, except as noted as per the Board Audit dated February 5, 2024 covering vouchers from January 9, 2024 through February 5, 2024.

On motion of Trustee Zisman, seconded by Trustee Wasser, the Board Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2024, were adopted.

Michael Edery, on behalf of NYS Assemblyman Brown, presented a Citation to resident Tova Plaut.

A Public Hearing was heard to amend Chapter 196 Rental Dwelling Units. Village Attorney Newman explained it was to modernize and conform our code with the codes of many of our neighboring villages and towns with respect to the registration inspection and the health and safety requirements of the rental units in the Village. A motion was made by, Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Zisman, to close the public hearing and adopt the local law

A motion was made by Trustee Zisman, seconded by Trustee Plaut to approve the following resolution dispensing the village residency requirement for appointed Village Election Inspectors so that such Village Election Inspectors appointed officers must reside within Nassau County.

A motion was made by Trustee Wasser, seconded by Trustee Plaut to approve the Election Inspectors for the March 19, 2024, Village Election to be compensated at \$ 240.00, Chairperson: \$290.00.

Tijuana Gardner
Deborah Shields
Patrick Feehan – appointed as Chairperson.
David Shostack
Marc Tenzer
Ann Tenzer

Mayor Weinstock stated “Wednesday of last week I read an article in the Nassau Herald about a seawall that was proposed to be constructed a Lawrence High School. It’s about 9 or 10 feet high and it encompasses the entire campus. The area within the wall is over 25 acres and has gates that will automatically rise when it floods. It creates an island in the middle of a flood if a flood should occur. The Lawrence High School property is protected from rainwater. I felt it was a bad idea and it would increase the flooding to the residents of the Village and the community of Cedar Bay Park, which is technically not in the Village of Cedarhurst. I sent a letter to FEMA objecting to the wall. I also had hand delivered letters with a copy of the letter I sent FEMA and a copy of the notice that the LHS published in the Nassau Herald and included on their website, and a letter to the residents asking them to be aware of what’s going on and to take whatever position they want to take. I asked if they had any comments to get in touch with FEMA. We had a very short deadline, of February 9th, this Friday to submit comments. Today we were informed that FEMA has extended the comment deadline for a month, the new deadline is March 9, 2024. One of the things that we criticized FEMA for was that they didn’t hold a hearing on the subject. You would think that something this major would deserve a public hearing where the community can get out and express their comments. FEMA’s answer basically is that you have to go back to the High School and ask the School Board to conduct a hearing. Assemblyman Brown saw that letter and was very upset by it, and he said it’s like you’re asking the Fox to guard the henhouse. FEMA said in their notice that if they didn’t receive substantive comments, that deals with factual information by February 9th they were going to issue a statement of no significant findings, basically approving the project at the FEMA level. I know that most everyone one in this room has had their house flooded or their street flooded. My fear is if you build a 25 acre sanctuary in the middle of a flood zone where is that water going to go, it will only go into someone else’s house.”

David Greenbaum 571 Albemarle Place in Cedarhurst. What’s their solution to the displacement of the water? Mayor responded: “I don’t know what their solution is, it’s an idiotic plan. FEMA studied every environmental thing, except how this will affect the neighboring properties, they studied birds, fish, trees, wind and air pollution, they even studied social justice, they called it environmental justice, how this impacts minority communities. They did all of that and came to the conclusion that it’s aesthetic, you want to look at a 9 feet high concrete, 4,000 feet long, it replaces a fence with ivy growing through it. The School Board meets next Monday night at 8 in the High School.”

Trustee Plaut said it may be a good idea for those objecting to this to come down to the School Board public meeting and get your neighbors to do the same.

Francine Sharabi 566 Albemarle Place, brought up how anyone would get to the school if the area around the school was flooded. How would anyone get out of their homes if they are flooded. How can LHS serve as an evacuation center if everywhere around is going to be flooded. What’s the district’s plan for this property? What is the real plan for this property with the declining number of populations attending the public schools? Trustee Plaut suggested that these questions should be addressed to the President of the school board who is spearheading this. What is the Village’s course of action? Mayor Weinstock replied, “We only had a couple of days to look at it and digest it. We will come up with a substantive reply to at least get an objection into the file before February 9th, it was only this morning that they gave breathing room until March 9th. We intend to ask our attorney or someone who is an environmental consultant to give us what our options are. At the moment I don’t know what our legal recourse we have.”

Hanna Noiman 544 Albemarle Road. This should have been in newspapers, TV stations, etc we are little people compared to FEMA. We need more people to come out and scream. I’m suffering so many years. I’m looking to selling my house, but I don’t want to move.

Gemma Allen 330A Peninsula Blvd, Chatham Square. Bottom line is that FEMA said to us that to Lawrence High School and explain our situation and they will do the right thing. They are not going to do the right thing. What we need to do is figure out a way to force Lawrence High School to do the right thing. I contacted News 12 today. I sent them the Mayor's letter and I haven't heard back from them yet. Probably the press, the Herald, News 12 would help. Maybe that would be what Lawrence High School will listen to.

Francine Sharabi: "The School Board is going to go forward with this."

Mayor Weinstock responded: "We reached out to our Congressman to get him involved in this, hoping to clip FEMA's wings."

Trustee Wasser introduced Marty Schwartz, liaison for Town of Hempstead, Supervisor Donald Clavin. The Board asked him to come up. Marty Schwartz, said that "all of the information presented tonight will be passed on to the Supervisor and the Town Council staff. I will ask Supervisor Clavin if I can attend the School Board Meeting."

Mr. Yaffe I'm one of the younger residents from 559 Albemarle Place, "a project of this size being done this way, how do we know if there aren't other projects like this in the works?"

Trustee Plaut responded "speaking for myself, I can't implore you and your neighbors enough to be vocal. Make sure you come down and bring as many people as possible to the School Board Meeting. Also, contact your other local officials on a higher level.

Mr Yaffe stated that he has relatives on Church Avenue in the Town of Hempstead, they did not know about this. Is there any way to do a collaborative effort because they will be affected also. The Mayor Weinstock responded that Marty Schwartz will get the Town involved.

Abraham Hamias, of 575 Arlington Place, said that Lawrence High School is not in the flood zone and that we should be protected not the school. We should block the water for all of us and the school will be protected too. When will the pump start working? The draining system is all clogged. Hears beeping and honking from all the companies that lease the sewer plant property. He hears dumpster at 4 AM. Mayor Weinstock told him that we are the ones responsible to make sure that the companies that lease from us are running it correctly. The Mayor said that: "This is the first time I'm hearing a complaint about the container company, we will talk to him tomorrow morning, he shouldn't be there at 4:00 in the morning.

Tzvi Goldstein, 574 Albemarle Place, Do they have to get approval from the Building Dept to build this seawall? How does that work? If you do any construction in your home you have to get it approved by the Village of Cedarhurst. The school district is a political subdivision of the State of New York, as such they are exempt from local zoning and building codes. They have to get things approved Under the State Building Code either by the school construction authority or by the Board of Education. We spoke to our Assemblyman, who is also our Deputy Mayor, Ari Brown who spoke to our Senator Patricia Canzoneri Fitzpatrick, our State Senator is involved, our Congressman is involved, Town of Hempstead is now involved. We are reaching out every way we can to get our Government involved to put a stop to this.

There being no further business before the Board, on motion of Trustee Wasser, seconded by Trustee Zisman the meeting was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Salvatore Evola
Village Clerk Treasurer