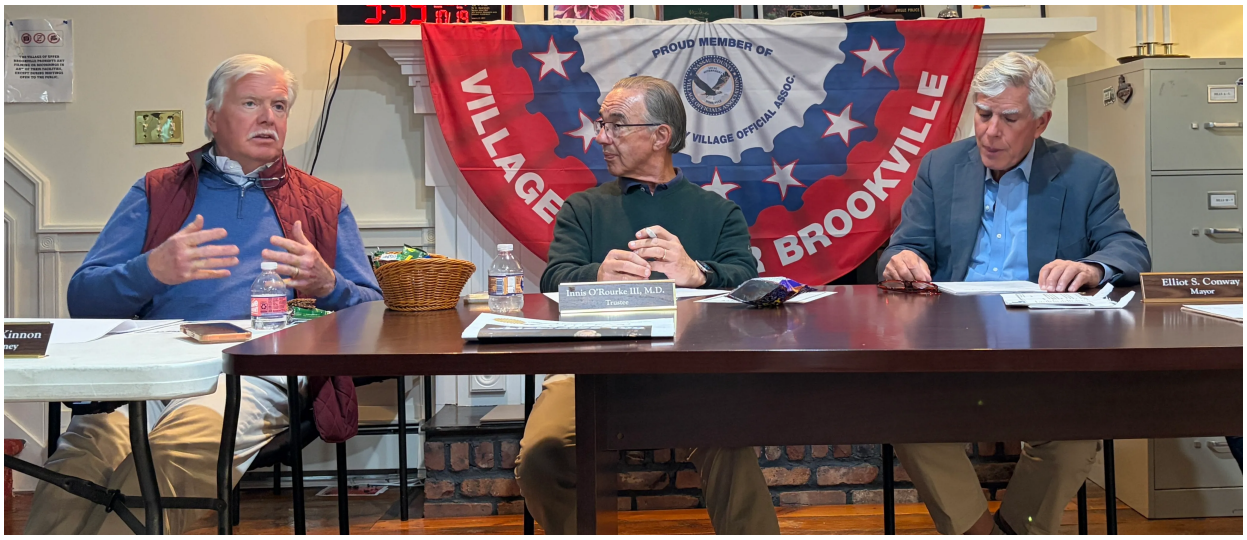
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Local News

Village of Upper Brookville debates whether to install camera-monitored stop signs

By Vivian Rose

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Village attorney Peter MacKinnon, Trustee Innis O'Rourke III and Mayor Elliot Conway discuss the legality of stop sign cameras.

Vivian Rose

The Village of Upper Brookville board of trustees will decide whether to begin installing stop sign cameras that fine drivers who do not make complete stops.

Mayor Elliot Conway said the village's traffic and sidewalk conditions are similar to those of Saddle Rock, a village that installed camera-monitored stop signs in 2024 and faced major backlash from residents, including a lawsuit.

The cameras were installed by Stop for Kids, which administered the program on behalf of Saddle Rock, and issued $60 fines. According to previous *Press* reporting, Saddle Rock generated nearly $434,000 in revenue from the cameras.

In reporting from May 15, the camera-monitored stop signs were still in effect in Saddle Rock because the village does not want to jeopardize its standing in the lawsuits it is facing that challenge the cameras' legality.

According to previously published reports, New York State lawmakers would need to pass legislation that would authorize local municipalities to install the cameras. In 2023, outgoing state Sen. Jack Martins (R-Mineola) proposed such legislation, the Protect Our Pedestrians Act, which is still in Senate committee.

Conway said the cameras could help increase stop sign compliance and noted the importance of traffic safety in the village, which has no sidewalks.

He said the village installed cameras on Wolver Hollow Road and Piping Rock Road about a year or two ago that observed drivers but did not collect fines.

"Over 75% of the cars did not stop and were going more than 5 miles an hour," Conway said. "Once again, Upper Brookville is an area with no sidewalks. So, an analogous situation."

Conway said he drafted a law and has delivered it to the village attorney Peter MacKinnon. He said the village will hold a public hearing during the village's next meeting, Nov. 16.

During the meeting, trustees also discussed implementing village-wide garbage collection. Conway said it would involve fewer trucks and would help preserve the roads.

"It's safer, less leapfrogging of large trucks in the morning and as an economic matter, you get economies of scale," Conway said.

He said the village's current garbage collection contract will be going out to bid by March. He said the village does not want to put out a bid now because of diesel prices, which Conway said might be lower in the spring.

MacKinnon said the Village of Cove Neck's garbage prices have gone up by nearly 15%, and said village households are paying $75 for garbage, when it was previously paying about $62.

The village's current provider is Emmi Waste Services, which the village renewed for a contract last year. Village Clerk Tracy Lynch said the village paid $64 for garbage this year. MacKinnon said Emmi's current bids range from $70 to over $90.

Conway said everyone living in the village will be part of the garbage district but will be billed on a separate line in their taxes. He said residents will not have a choice whether or not to pay the garbage district tax.