

Board of Trustees - Special Public Session

April 29, 2020 - 3:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Warren

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 adopted by the Governor of the State of New York on March 12, 2020, Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (Open Meetings Law), is suspended “to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed”.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs that the Administrator publish and post for a public hearing to be held on May 14, 2020 to hear any and all persons for or against a Local Law to repeal Local Law #1 of 2020 authorizing a tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Sec 3-c.

Mayor Warren made a motion to approve; Trustee Parash seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

DISCUSSION:

Staff updates regarding COVID19 related issues: Beaches, Benches, Parking, Parks, Organized Sports, Special Events, Meetings and Public Hearings.

Village Attorney Brian Egan lead the discussion.

Mr. Kratoville said that Village Hall operations were continuing with the staff on staggered schedules and many working from home.

Gary Goleski, Superintendent of Public Works stated that there were status quo with 50% staff on at a time, one week on and one week off. There are no new cases of Covid19 among staff.

Trustee Allan asked if the departments had enough PPE; Mr. Goleski said his departments were fine with PPE but were still waiting on some cleaning supplies and disinfectant products.

GOVERNMENTAL UPDATES and COMMUNICATION FROM PARTNERS:

Mayor Warren stated that there was a Suffolk County call with County Executive Steve Bellone and asked Russell Kratoville to provide details on the call. Mr Kratoville said that the purpose was to discuss issues that they will be looking for guidance from the State and get a feel for any special circumstances that nay municipality may have. Some of the items discussed were parking at beaches, whether municipalities would permit beach chairs, blankets, concierge services, concessions, how to maintain proper social distancing and restrooms. It was a fact gathering exercise so that the County can deliver to us from the State as specific guidance as possible.

Everyone on the conference call agreed upon the need to ramp up staffing in order to maintain whatever the rules are that are established in operating beaches. The Village may also need to look at increasing staff and make decisions as to under whose supervision some of these matters go, is it the Police, Code Enforcement, Highway, etc.?

The Mayor asked if any of the Board had comments and if they had any thoughts on how to approach, parking, beaches as they get busier and sales of beach passes to non-residents?

Trustee Yastrzemeski said that on the calls there are a lot of difference of opinions and each municipality is. Our main concern as far as staffing is Coopers which has concierge service – do we give out chairs and umbrellas? An area of contention is that people see a lot of cars at Coopers and presume it's very crowded which isn't necessarily the case it's a large beach and people can spread out. He reminded the public that enforcement is taking place, the police are patrolling and there are cameras around.

Mr. Kratoville said that an advantage is that the Village beach area is relatively small and the Village could have people in place to direct people which beaches to go to for social distancing and can monitor the beaches to keep them at a certain capacity.

Trustee Parash said, touching on what Mr. Kratoville and Trustee Yastrzemeski had said and after speaking with the Mayor over the weekend, that employee and public safety is at the top of the list. Suggested taking some of the items that had been discussed and reaching out to each other and put a plan together and work with the Police Dept., department heads and Village Administrator.

Mayor Warren said he would stay in close communication and brainstorm and then come back to the Board for next steps.

Mr. Kratoville mentioned that the Village has not cancelled any of the organized sports for the season and are in a holding pattern for Little League, Soccer, etc. He also said that most municipalities have postponed their Memorial Day Parade and the CVO was looking for direction from the Village as to what to do for their parade.

Mr. Kratoville said that feedback was needed from the Board on how to handle special events, such as walk/run benefits, etc. He asked Chief Cummings to give some thought on ways to cooperatively work and manage staff if additional monitoring at parks and/or beaches is needed so that we can efficiently and appropriately welcome the residents and the public to our beaches and parks.

The issue was raised about the benches throughout the Village and requests had been made to remove the yellow caution tape and the question came up if signage on the benches was needed.

Brian Egan noted that there had been no new guidance with regards to the Village elections scheduled for June.

Trustee Allan said some of the concerns she had heard from the public was that there would be pent-up demand for people to access the beaches and would there be sufficient parking?

Trustee Yastrzemeski said the view from the Eastern portion of Town who had experienced an influx of people are looking at limiting access to beaches whereas the Western part of Town has indicated that they would like to see all County parks open. Trustee Yastrzemeski said he would like to allow as much access that we can have as safely as possible.

Mayor Warren concluded by saying that the Board should stay in close communication and work together on the issues.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Trustee Allan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:26PM; Trustee Pilaro seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.