

VILLAGE OF SOUTHAMPTON - BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PUBLIC SESSION I – May 26 2020 - MINUTES

Due notice having been given, the Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held via videoconferencing at 6:00PM.

Present were Mayor Warren, Trustees Allan, Parash, Pilaro and Yastrzemski; Village Administrator Russell Kratoville, Attorney Brian Egan, Assistant Village Attorney Alexandra Halsey Storch, Southampton Village Police Chief Tom Cummings.

Mayor Warren opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Kratoville said there were 2 letters submitted via email:

Denise Simpson a Village resident regarding beach passes and asking the Village to limit purchase of permits to Village residents and not allow them to purchase any beyond the 3 that they are eligible for at no cost.

Evelyn Konrad, a Village resident, sent a letter asking the Board to look at submitting a new comprehensive Village plan as soon as possible. Ms. Konrad then joined the meeting and provided further detail on what she referred to in her letter and asked that there be a new plan created. The Mayor said he was also in favor of this and referred to James Lima, Frank Fish and Paul Travis.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS: NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Health Insurance for Elected Officials

Mayor Warren said after doing research he realized that any elected official that serves 5 years on the Board of Trustees, at the age of 55 and over, is entitled to health benefits for life. He would like this Board to say that they don't need that, they are volunteers and when they finish their terms they are not extracting benefits from tax payer dollars. Mayor Warren said that it is something that does not affect the past elected officials.

The Mayor asked the Board for their opinions which were:

Trustee Pilaro said it was something that the Board could look at it and discuss it as one piece of a greater totality.

Trustee Allan said if the Board is looking at ways to save money then she'd like to look at everything, not just one piece, and would be happy to analyze that as well as many other items including some business revitalization measures to help the businesses. Trustee Allan asked that the Board discuss protocol on when items get added to the agenda.

Trustee Yastrzemski said it had been discussed in the past and it never went any further.

Trustee Parash asked the Mayor what the history of the matter was and why it originally came about. Trustee Yastrzemski responded that the public had recognized that a lot of hours were put in by Board members and this was a type of compensation; he noted that some Board members choose to accept the benefits and others do not.

Mr. Kratoville said that the rule of being an active participant in the plan is stated in the NYSHIP health insurance plan and that the last change to the policy as regards health benefits for Trustees was 8/21/84.

Attorney Egan said the Board should have a discussion on protocol for how items get placed on the agenda. With regard to benefits, he said that many Villages do it, and many do not – it is a litigated question with regard to people who qualify and is considered a valuable recognition of their service to the Village.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD:

1. Southampton Town Trustees – Resolution Authorizing Lake Agawam Conservancy to Renovate and Replant the Rain Garden at the South End of Agawam Lake
Mr. Kratoville reviewed the matter saying it was authorized by the Southampton Town Trustees at the May 18, 2020 meeting.
2. Comp Alliance – Workforce Reduction Credit: \$10,010.00
Mr. Kratoville reviewed the matter and working with Cook Maran they reached out to the Workers Compensation Company and because the Village cut down in their staffing due to Covid19, the Workers Comp company has given a refund for part of the annual invoice.
3. SFAH – Annual Fireworks: July 3, 2020
Mr. Kratoville reviewed the letter from Thomas Naro, Executive Director of Southampton Fresh Air Home.
4. Southampton School District – Request for banner on Leland and Hampton
Mr. Kratoville reviewed the letter from Timothy Frazier, Principal for banner for 8th graders moving up to the High School.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Local Law: Repealing Local Law # 1 of 2020 – Exceeding the Tax Cap

Mayor Warren made a motion to open the public hearing, Trustee Yastrzemski seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

The Mayor turned the discussion over to Village Attorney Egan who explained the law. Mr. Kratoville said there was no public comment received other than the communication which was read into the record at the May 14, 2020 meeting.

Mayor Warren made a motion to close the public hearing; Trustee Pilaro seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Mayor made a motion to approve the resolution; Trustee Yastrzemski seconded the motion. A roll call vote took place as follows: Trustee Yastrzemski: Aye; Trustee Allan: Aye; Mayor Warren: Aye; Trustee Parash: Aye; Trustee Pilaro: Aye.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTIONS:

1. ***RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes for the Public Session of May 14, 2020 be dispensed with and that those minutes be accepted as filed by the Village Administrator and that the actions taken at that meeting be and hereby are ratified and approved.***

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

2. ***RESOLVED, that the claims for the warrants dated May 26, 2020 totaling \$136,809.04 (Warrant #15 - General Fund), \$159,397.78 (Warrant # 12 - Capital Reserve Fund and the Village payrolls for the period from May 8, 2020 to May 21, 2020 be audited and approved.***

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

3. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the attached schedule of budget transfers to eliminate line item overages for the period ending May 26, 2020.***

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

4. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby appoints Satty Levine as independent auditors for the Village for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2020***

Trustee Yastrzemski made a motion to approve; Trustee Parash seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

5. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby appoints Satty Levine as independent auditors for the Village Justice Court for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2020.***

Trustee Pilaro made a motion to approve; Trustee Yastrzemski seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

6. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Sound Actuarial Consulting to prepare the 2019 – 2020 GASB 75 interim update at a cost of \$3,000.00***

Trustee Yastrzemski made a motion to approve; Trustee Parash seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

7. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby retains the Comp Alliance as the Village Workers' Compensation carrier and authorizes the Village Administrator to purchase the 2020 - 2021 Workers' Compensation Policy.***

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

8. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves Nicholas Maddock as a probationary member of Hook and Ladder Co. 1 effective May 26, 2020.***

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

9. ***RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby amends the start date of Camryn Highsmith to May 21, 2020.***

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

TRUSTEE YASTRZEMSKI – Comments:

- Wanted to commend people involved with Memorial Day weekend. The Village and employees were prepared for the crowds to come out and due to weather many did not come out.
- Memorial Day service was very nice and everyone abided by the requests to wear masks – speeches well received. Thanked the departments working through this.
- Tomorrow begins Phase 1 and he has confidence in the Village departments.

TRUSTEE ALLAN - Comments:

- Complimented Trustee Yastrzemski on his daughter Lane who sang beautifully at the Memorial Day ceremony.
- Long Island is on track to open Phase 1 tomorrow and said the public can go to <https://forward.ny.gov/> for details.
- Reminder to the there is a summer restriction for gas leaf blowers in effect from 5/20 – 9/20, 2020.
- Coopers Beach was voted #3 best beach in the United States by Dr. Beach.
- A good event took place at Lake Agawam with the Lake Agawam Conservancy with remarks made by Dr. Gobler that climate change is effecting us greatly.
- The Village added over 700 leeching basins to catch run-off over the last 12 years.
- Reminder to the public that voting on the Southampton School Budget will take place on June 9th and ballots have been mailed.

TRUSTEE PARASH - Comments:

- Memorial Day ceremony was very nice and thank you to all who worked on that.
- A shout-out to DPW and Highway and Parks Department who came off half-staff about 2 weeks ago with a long list of items: road striping, getting Coopers Beach ready, signs being made; streets cleaned, flowers out; dog park was opened on Saturday.
- A shout out to Village Hall staff – amount of paperwork from beach permits in the past week was amazing.
- A shout out to Coopers Beach receiving #3 ranking and a Thank You to all those who work on Coopers Beach including Matthew Weeks, Coopers Beach Manager and his staff. Also the restrooms at Coopers have now been changed to touchless sinks for greater protection to visitors.

TRUSTEE PILARO - Comments:

- Echoed what everyone said about Memorial Day. It was a wonderful event and thank you to the Veterans that attended and those individuals that stayed home to protect themselves and others and watched it live streaming on Facebook.
- Spoke with Fr. Patrick after the ceremony and churches are now considered essential and they want to get back up and running and are working with the other ministries to see how they can protect the congregations.
- Excited to move into Phase 1 reopening and look forward to seeing how we move forward with beaches, businesses, etc. must go forward with kindness and compassion.
- Heart of the Hamptons has seen a huge need for support for the residents. Hopes that we'll have the patience and wherewithal for industries that come back in Phase 1 and then go from there as we try to resume a sense of normalcy.
- Thank you to Simone & David Levinson and SAC for the great work putting on the Drive-In at Coopers Beach.
- Spoke with the Budget & Finance Committee and one of the tasks put forward is to look at where expenses are and depending on what revenues do in the next 6 months, to have the Committee present ideas on how to look at an austerity program for the Village and how we can keep expenses in check until we know where the revenues are for this year.
- Congratulations to Boo Pilaro on his graduation this week.

MAYOR WARREN - Comments:

- It was a very successful Memorial Day and Memorial Day celebration
- The Southampton Arts Center Drive-In Movie was very successful. Thank you to the Levinsons and to Amy Kirwin, Tom Dunn and Godfrey Paiolo at SAC.
- Long Island is moving into Phase 1 tomorrow – and there are a lot of businesses that are deemed non-essential including his business. Businesses are hurting. The Mayor has reached out to Governor Cuomo to ask him to consider allowing appointment-only shopping for nonessential retail. He has also reached out to County Executive Bellone and hopes that will become a reality.
- He is hoping that we will move to Phase 2 quickly and that he feels the pain that the businesses are going through. Many want to do more than just curbside pickup. The Mayor will continue to push for the businesses.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Trustee Parash made the motion to adjourn the Public Meeting at 7:02PM; Trustee Pilaro seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Russell Kratoville, Village Administrator

5/26/20