

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Municipal Building, 14 Baker Street, Patchogue, New York on Monday, June 28, 2021 with the public viewing through video streaming.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pontieri with Deputy Mayor Krieger and Trustees Felice, Ferb, Keyes, McHeffey, Village Attorney Egan, Village Treasurer Krawczyk, Village Clerk Devlin, and Deputy Village Clerk Braile present. Trustee Brinkman was absent.

The flag salute was made, and the safety message was given.

Mayor Pontieri stated that it was great to see people back attending meetings in person.

Mayor Pontieri asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from June 14, 2021.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from June 14, 2021.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk stated the total bills for the period ending June 28, 2021 were \$827,846.51. The five largest bills were as follows: \$250,000.00 for Hometown Firefighters.; \$54,625.00 for More Contracting; \$36,707.25 for Town of Brookhaven; \$29,337.00 for Russell Reid; and \$25,919.77 for American Recreational.

General	\$ 478,802.99
Trust & Agency	\$ 0.00
Cap Projects	\$ 0.00
Sewer Fund	\$ 23,808.38
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 5,265.39
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 4,707.04
General Bills	\$ 15,262.71
Totals	\$ 827,846.51

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of the bills as presented.

Mayor Pontieri asked the Board to implement Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.36.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to implement Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.36 to extend the interest-free period for the payment of property taxes to July 22, 2021.

Mayor Pontieri noted that there would be a 5% penalty instituted as of July 23, 2021 for any taxes remaining unpaid after that.

Trustee Keyes indicated that after a lot of work and a long interruption the results of the study of microplastics in the waterways of the Patchogue area (MARBLE) were finally ready to be presented. Kaetlyn Jackson from the PEP Committee and Dr. Rountos from St. Joseph's College were here this evening to review this project with the Board and public. Some of the students who had compiled the results had been invited to attend as well, but as they were recent graduates, they were unable to do so due to other commitments. Trustee Keyes thanked all of the members of the PEP team who had helped collect the samples from the Patchogue waterways which were tested for microplastics. None of those individuals who had participated had any experience in this type of work but had been glad to learn.

Kaetlyn Jackson of the PEP (Protecting the Environment in Patchogue) and Dr. Constantine Rountos from St. Joseph's College stepped forward to review the presentation slide show. Ms. Jackson stated that she would discuss the beginning of the project and the field work which had been conducted, while Dr. Rountos would review the evaluation of the data that had been collected. She noted that microplastics came in different sizes and forms including fibers, pellets, noodles, and fragments. They came from many sources such as larger plastic products like water and soda bottles. These larger items were broken down by wind and other environmental factors into smaller and smaller particles. Plastic did not dissolve. It only broke down into different and smaller shapes. Aside from plastic products such as bottles, sources of microplastics also included

fibers from synthetic clothing which entered the environment through laundry wastewater and plastic pellets, also known as cleansing beads, from personal hygiene products. Ms. Jackson indicated that changing to more natural products that would biodegrade would help eliminate some of the sources of these microplastics. She noted that people should care about these microplastics because of the potential harm which could occur to people and wildlife being exposed to them. Once they were in the environment, they could enter food sources and the food chain. In a 2019 study conducted in Europe, all participants were found to have microplastics in their stool samples. Plastics were made with harmful chemicals which could negatively impact fish and shellfish populations in waterways, as well as potentially impacting the health of anyone who ate those fish or shellfish. Ms. Jackson noted that the PEP Committee had done some research and discovered that no formal study had been conducted on local waters to determine whether microplastics were present and if so, what their concentrations might be. Patchogue Lake, the river, and the Great South Bay were chosen as test areas, and the theory that the sewer treatment plant might be adding microplastics to the waterways was tested as well. She noted that discussions had been held with regard to the use of a manta trawl versus a zooplankton net. The trawl was more expensive and less common. The goal of PEP's involvement in this project was to educate the public about microplastics and encourage behavioral changes such as switching from using personal hygiene products with plastic beads to more natural substances. If policies could be changed, the effects of microplastics could be improved. Ms. Jackson stressed that regular people from the community became citizen scientists by collecting the samples with a bit of help due to access to scientific equipment. An equipment loan grant was used to obtain a manta trawl and the zooplankton net was borrowed from Stony Brook University. The intent of the research was to establish a baseline for future researchers to work with. She noted that sample locations included the Great South Bay, Patchogue River, and Patchogue Lake. Both types of nets were used at the same time in order to compare samples collected from the different types of equipment. Nets were tied to the back of a boat and pulled through the water for 15 minutes at a time at low speed. This process could not be done at Patchogue Lake due to limited boat access so the zooplankton net was hung from a banister next to the Blue Point Brewery. Samples were collected once a month by volunteers from July 2019 through October 2019. Ms. Jackson thanked the National Parks Service for donating the use of their boat over the weekends the collections were done. She then reviewed the presentation slides of the two different types of nets that were used as well as the sample locations and photos of the samples being collected. Some constraints to the sample collection were the availability of the boat and wind and weather issues on the waterways.

Dr. Rountos expressed his appreciation for the group effort of the volunteers and all of the organizations which had contributed to this project. He noted that once the samples were collected they had been placed in the St. Joseph's College refrigerators for study by his students. There had been a long pause when no research could be conducted due to COVID restrictions. Ultimately, the students were allowed back in the lab and followed COVID protocols to process the collected samples. He noted that students Molly Feinburg and Christian Fouche had analyzed the data from these samples for their senior biology thesis. Dr. Rountos proceeded to review some of the findings. He indicated that no statistical difference had been found between the manta trawl and zooplankton net with regard to the samples collected. As the zooplankton net was much easier and cheaper to use, this would be effective to use in any future microplastic studies. Based on the data, it appeared that there were more microplastics per kilometer squared in the Great South Bay as compared to the Patchogue River, but the amount found was not a huge number. Dr. Rountos noted that it was important that some microplastics were discovered including fragments, fibers, and beads to show that they were present in the local waterways. Microplastics were not found in every trawl, but the majority found were fragments. Fragments were formed when larger plastic items were broken down. Other types found included microbeads and threads from synthetic fibers. In context, a study performed in New York and New Jersey waters in 2016 had shown much higher concentrations in the harbor area compared to Patchogue waters. Dr. Rountos indicated that there had not been many studies done on local Long Island waters with the most recent one being a masters study done by a student several years ago. He then proceeded to review some of the data shown on the presentation slides. One interesting fact was that zero microplastics had been found in the Patchogue Lake samples. He noted that he felt future studies should be conducted to determine if microplastics increase after a rainfall or are geographically dependent. Dr. Rountos confirmed that the main goals of this study were to increase awareness in the public about microplastics and why actions should be taken to transition away from their sources. He hoped that this pilot study could be used to obtain funding for additional research in the future. Dr. Rountos then distributed copies of the study to the Board members.

Mayor Pontieri inquired as to what type of testing cycle would be recommended for future sampling. Dr. Rountos indicated that the sampling should be done at least monthly but would be dependent on the budget for the project. It would also be dependent on the type of study being done such as more frequency or sampling in smaller versus broader areas. Focus could be on a targeted area such as the Patchogue River or in the Great South Bay for a larger area. Mayor Pontieri inquired if Patchogue should be concerned since there was a sewer plant here and whether what came out of the plant could be controlled by any method. Dr. Rountos stated that he was not aware of anything which could be used to stop microplastics completely as they were such tiny particles. It would be extremely difficult to do so. Mayor Pontieri noted that the sewer plant was the only source of microplastics that the Village had control over. Dr. Rountos noted that educating the public could result in changes in consumer behavior so that individuals could start thinking of ways to eliminate plastic sources and transition back to the way life was lived before plastic use became so widespread. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he had been in a discussion the other day regarding the use of reusable bottles in the past. Now, everything was disposable and using cheaper bottles had resulted in these types of issues. Dr. Rountos agreed and indicated that particles in the water meant that they could also be found in the seafood, such as clams, which were used as food sources. Microplastics could threaten the cultural heritage of Long Islands as well as the health of humans. While it was not known how much microplastics could impact the health of humans, additional studies should be done to find out. Trustee Keyes indicated that the PEP Committee wanted to start small and begin with educating the public. Trustee McHeffey inquired if Dr. Rountos felt that further research would help find ways to lower microplastics. Dr. Rountos indicated that educating the public to limit their uses of plastics would go a long way in reducing the amount of microplastics in the environment. He felt that this study was enough to confirm that microplastics were out there locally, especially since the small amount of sampling done had shown their presence. Mayor Pontieri asked for confirmation that these microplastics were caused by larger plastic items such as bottles breaking down. Dr. Rountos stated that this was correct. He reiterated that plastic items such as bottles, toys, and even fishing line would crack and break into smaller and smaller particles when exposed to the environment.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone from the audience wished to comment on the presentation.

A gentleman from the audience inquired if the project had involved trawling for any particles other than microplastics. Dr. Rountos stated that they had only been researching microplastics.

Adrienne Esposito, Riverwalk, indicated that additional research would be very helpful as she believed that good science plus good advocacy would lead to good policy. Even though filters might not be able to help with the sewer treatment plants, perhaps filters on washing machines could help on a smaller level. More data would provide additional information as to how this problem could be addressed. Dr. Rountos agreed that additional studies would be beneficial. Ms. Jackson also indicated that she would like to see this project duplicated by other university students.

Village Attorney Egan inquired as to whether they had been surprised by anything that was found during the sampling process. Ms. Jackson indicated that she was surprised by how many jelly fish had been collected as well as how smelly the collection jars got. Dr. Rountos agreed that the sample jars were not pleasant to smell. Ms. Jackson indicated that many small crabs had also been collected. Village Attorney Egan inquired if there had been any particular frequency of types of floating garbage. Ms. Jackson stated that there had not been any specific type of garbage consistently seen. Village Attorney Egan observed that he was surprised at how low the level of microplastics was in the Patchogue waters based on the comparison charts provided in the study. He inquired if Dr. Rountos had expected that level to be higher. Dr. Rountos indicated that he had been surprised that Patchogue's waters had lower levels than those found in Shinnecock Bay, but he was not surprised that the levels had been lower than Jamaica Bay and New York City's harbor since there was a much higher population there. He noted that he felt that the number of marshes and impervious land in this area probably played a large role in keeping microplastics out of the waterways. Ms. Jackson stated that she was surprised at the lower level found in the Patchogue area. She felt that a more robust study should be done. Village Attorney Egan indicated that he thought Patchogue would have a higher level than Shinnecock as well. Dr. Rountos indicated that there could be many reasons for this including cesspools versus treatment plants and salt marshes keeping microplastics from getting into the water. Mayor Pontieri inquired as to the cost of the two collection methods used. Dr. Rountos indicated that a zooplankton net generally cost less than \$100 while a manta trawl was much more expensive. Ms. Jackson agreed that the manta trawl

was a heavy piece of equipment. Mayor Pontieri inquired if any of the collections had been done after storms. Ms. Jackson stated that they had not as the collections were done by volunteers who had to schedule the collection process ahead of time. Dr. Rountos stated that he would like to see a more in-depth study done which would include weather events. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he was curious to determine whether filters installed in storm drains would help. If the Village could not control the outflow from the sewer plant, it should be able to control some of what came off the streets. Ms. Jackson indicated that the PEP Committee could encourage cleaning garbage off the streets as well as behavioral changes to limit the use of single use plastics. She felt public education was the best place to start. Dr. Rountos indicated that a student had also done a project to identify microplastics in sand sediments including samples which had been taken from Shorefront Park. Many small plastic particles had been found there and what was present on land would eventually find its way into the water. Mayor Pontieri stated that he would be interested to see if the amount of microplastics in the water increased after storms. Perhaps, there was a way the Village could address that situation. Ms. Jackson suggested that there might be an opportunity to work with Cornell Cooperative on such a project.

Ms. Esposito suggested that this might be a perfect grant application to submit.

Deputy Mayor Krieger welcomed everyone in the audience back.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board for approval to remove 10 Park Street from the Village Tax rolls.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to remove 10 Park Street from the Village Tax rolls.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve conference attendance,

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Debbie Newham, Nancy Auer, and Denise Burke to attend the Annual Conference for Court Clerks from September 12th through September 15th at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 per person.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve a seasonal full-time Parking Meter Officer.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to transition George Baer, public safety officer, to the title of seasonal full-time Parking Meter Officer at a rate of \$25.27 per hour for a period of time deemed necessary and not exceeding September 24th. Following this transition, employee George Baer will resume his duties as a public safety officer at his formerly established rate.

Trustee Keyes thanked the members of the PEP Committee for all of their hard work. He noted that they were currently working to schedule several community clean-ups over the summer, and he hoped to have those dates by the next meeting.

Trustee Keyes noted that Parks and Recreation was experiencing record numbers of people signing up for programs exceeding anything which had been done in the past. He indicated that the pool opening had gone well, and the Beach Club looked great. It was a nice start to the summer season.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve use of the Patchogue Beach Club.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Patchogue-Medford Youth Services to utilize the Patchogue Beach Club for their summer programs on July 14th, 15th, 28th, 29th, and August 11th and 12th.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve use of the recreation room at Parks and Recreation.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Town of Brookhaven Senior Group to use the recreation room at Parks and Recreation for their meeting space on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from July through December 2021.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve hiring summer staff.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hire final summer staff for 2021 as presented.

Trustee Felice welcomed everyone back to in person meetings. He then thanked Trustee Keyes and the members of the PEP Committee for all of their hard work on the MARBLE project. He indicated that the presentation had been great and noted that some additional research should be done to come up with a plan for the future.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve a point correction for the 2020 LOSAP Program.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for a point correction for the 2020 LOSAP Program for Patchogue Ambulance volunteer, Kathleen Arizaga.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve an out of district sewer connection.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for an out of district sewer connection for the property located at 400 East Main Street (Brookhaven sewer improvement area #1).

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to approve placement of a clothing drop box.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for American Recycling Resources to place a clothing drop box outside the American Legion Post 269.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to approve vendor fees for the Sundown Festival.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to set the Sundown Festival vendor fees at \$75 for a food permit and \$50 for a non-food permit.

Trustee McHeffey thanked the PEP Committee and Dr. Rountos for the report on microplastics in the local waterways. He felt that this information was useful and important going forward.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the Arts Council had held a closing reception for its latest exhibit along with a PRIDE celebration this past weekend. From all of the photos he had seen, it appeared to have been a huge success and shutting a portion of Terry Street to vehicular traffic had worked well. The next pop-up exhibit would run from July 1st through July 11th with a reception and performance on July 9th and Coffee with a Curator on July 10th. Another Coffee with a Curator event would be held on July 17th.

Trustee McHeffey continued by noting that he had met with Building and Housing Department staff on Friday. Not much was going on at the present time but inspections were resuming. These had slowed down during the pandemic for everyone's safety. As for the month to month permits, the only significant change he had noted was that the number of rental permits had increased. He felt, however, that this was normal and seasonal.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the CDA's Church Street paving project was moving along, and the handrail on the new handicapped ramp behind Village Hall had been installed. The next CDA meeting was scheduled for July 1st at 6:00 p.m. An interesting discussion would be taking place with regard to review of the agency's mission statement, and he invited anyone from the public who was interested to attend.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the last item on his agenda dealt with the trees located along Main Street. He noted that these trees were important for economic vitality and for providing stormwater retention. They also created a picturesque atmosphere. However, a serious problem was being caused by their roots destruction of sidewalk areas as well as creating tripping hazards for pedestrians. It had become necessary to consult with experts to deal with the liability created by these hazardous issues and come up with a plan to prevent replacing the trees with ones that would

also cause problems in the future. Since no one in the Village was a tree expert, they would utilize experts to determine what the next step should be.

Village Clerk Devlin stated that some of the trees had been planted during her tenure with the help of a grant from New York State, and some had been planted over 30 years ago. She noted that certain species consistently ripped up sidewalks. Under the advisement of the Village's volunteer arborist, several actions had been tried to solve the root issues including lifting up the concrete grates and shaving the roots. Unfortunately, none of these actions had resolved the problem long term. The creation of tripping hazards was an ongoing problem. Village Clerk Devlin stated that she had been in discussions with VHB Engineering for a year to come up with the proposal being considered now. She believed that it would be beneficial to the Village in the long run. Mayor Pontieri noted that Village Clerk Devlin had to deal with liability issues in her position, and the proposed cost of this proposal was much less than the costs created by tripping liabilities. It was important to address this matter and increase safety for pedestrians.

Upon a motion by Trustee McHeffey, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hire VHB Engineering, Surveying, Landscape Architecture and Geology P.C. to study, inventory, assess, and analyze existing streetscape conditions primarily focused on street trees in a 3,000 linear foot portion of the Main Street corridor at a cost of \$14,750.

Trustee Felice stated that he felt this was a good thing. He noted that Village Clerk Devlin had been working with Highway Superintendent Dean for a while to address the issues with the trees, and he felt that it was time for a plan to be developed.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that this past Monday the Patchogue-Medford High School had held its senior prom on Main Street. He noted that anyone who had the opportunity to see or participate in it had been part of an amazing event. Mayor Pontieri stated that the Village hosted many events including Alive After Five and the Great South Bay Music Festival which all had positive aspects, however, he felt that this had been the most well run event the Village had ever done. It had been unbelievable, and the participants had a wonderful time. Mayor Pontieri noted that this had been a class without memories who now had great ones. They had missed out on many normal senior events such as concerts and homecoming, but now had this wonderful event to remember. Mayor Pontieri thanked all of the Village departments who had worked together on this event, especially Highway Superintendent Dean and the Department of Public Works and Public Safety Officers. All things that the Village had control over had gone incredibly well. In addition, fourteen restaurants had come together to serve hundreds of kids a delicious menu. Those participating had the chance to walk down a red carpet. He reiterated that this had been one of the best events ever and also thanked the school district, security, and the Suffolk County Police Department for all they had done.

Mayor Pontieri then noted that the Village had submitted a grant to expand the sewer plant from 800,000 gallons to 1.2 million gallons in capacity. He indicated that the Village did not need the full 400,000 additional gallons but hoped to provide 200,000 to Village residents and another 200,000 to communities located to the east and west. Mayor Pontieri stated that the Village was fortunate to have a sewer plant, and the last time it was expanded it went from a capacity of 500,000 gallons to 800,000 gallons. When that expansion had been done, it provided for this potential addition. He noted that they were still waiting to hear about the grant award and stressed that the purpose for completing this project would be to protect the environment along the south shore as much as possible. Mayor Pontieri then noted that while Bellport might have a golf course, he felt that Patchogue's sewer plant provided the Village residents with more value.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone wished to speak at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Esposito inquired as to what the total price tag would be for the proposed sewer plant expansion. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the Village had requested approximately \$9.4 million from government resources, and the entire project would cost approximately \$11.2 million. However, he had been frustrated for some time now with the lack of action on hooking up south Patchogue homes to the sewer district due to other government actions. The Village had run sewer lines down Cedar Avenue and South Ocean Avenue but promised funding and assistance had not materialized as yet. Everything was on hold. Ms. Esposito expressed hope that the requested funding could be obtained. Mayor Pontieri concurred.

Dennis Ross, 17 Lager Lane, stated that he was glad to be able to attend the meeting in person since technical issues had prevented him from commenting during online meetings. He then expressed concern that he had observed issues with abatement at the new Starbucks project on West Avenue and Main Street. Mr. Ross noted that he had emailed Legislator Calarco and the Board members but had received no response. Mayor Pontieri indicated that Mr. Ross could contact him directly especially with regard to a project of this size. Mr. Ross indicated that the drains near the construction site were still uncovered, and he was concerned about the lead content of the previous building located on that site.

Mr. Ross then expressed concern about the proposed Cornerstone project overtaxing the sewer plant. He noted that when the Riverwalk complex had been constructed they had to add onto an existing line and construct pump stations to support their 83 units. Mayor Pontieri indicated that all of the engineering for the Cornerstone project had been reviewed and approved. It was the applicant's responsibility to do complete a study to ensure that existing capacity could handle the proposed maximum occupancy of the project. This study had been completed, and it indicated that existing capacity was fine. Mr. Ross questioned why the plant could not have handled the Riverwalk project but could handle the Cornerstone one. Mayor Pontieri stated that these were two separate lines. The Laurel Street line currently had fewer properties on it than the line that supported the Riverwalk complex. Mr. Ross thanked him for this information.

Mr. Ross again expressed his concern about open drains on construction sites running into the bay. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he understood his concerns and stated that he would contact the developer for the project in question.

Richard Kemp, Jennings Avenue, noted that he had been in correspondence with Village Attorney Egan with regard to the discharge of firearms at veteran services and at the local cemeteries. Village Attorney Egan acknowledged his correspondence with Mr. Kemp and stated that he appreciated the suggestions that Mr. Kemp had made. As a result of Mr. Kemp's suggestion, the Board would be scheduling a public hearing shortly to consider changes to Section 301 of the Village Code to provide an automatic exemption for these types of activities when conducted by charitable organization, veterans' organizations, historical re-enactments and other similar organizations. Discussion ensued between Mr. Kemp and Village Attorney Egan. Mr. Kemp asked for verification that there would be a public hearing to consider these changes to the Village Code. Village Attorney Egan stated that there would be. He expected the public hearing to be announced and set for August at a July Board meeting and reiterated that the Board would be considering eliminating the need for a special permit for certain types of ceremonial discharges of firearms. Mayor Pontieri indicated that Mr. Kemp would be notified of when the hearing would be held so that he could make remarks at that time. Mr. Kemp stated that he would also contact Dan Murphy of Cedar Grove Cemetery. He noted that there was often not time for a special permit to be obtained for veterans' services at the cemeteries in the Village, and he felt that the Code requirements were not being equitably applied. Village Attorney Egan indicated that he had made a good point and concurred that this section of the Code needed to be reconsidered.

Mr. Kemp then expressed concern that an attorney who had appeared before various Village boards and requested permits for certain building operations such as the Emporium had recently pled guilty to serious offenses in Federal court. He inquired as to why the Village did not conduct background checks on individuals who make applications for permits. Mayor Pontieri stated that the Village could not conduct background checks on every individual who made a presentation before a board. Mr. Kemp inquired as to why this could not be done for those who request special permits. Mayor Pontieri stated that the various boards heard at least 30 to 40 such requests every year. He understood Mr. Kemp's concerns, but it was not possible nor ethical to check the background of every attorney or individual who appeared before a Board. Mr. Kemp expressed concern for those who might have outstanding court orders. Mayor Pontieri reiterated that it was impossible to check the background of every individual and/or their representatives who submitted applications before any Village board. He noted that the gentleman in question was paying for his misdeeds.

John Bogack noted that he administered a Facebook page for Patchogue Village concerns and noted that many residents had inquired about whether the Village could prohibit chain restaurants or stores from coming here, especially with regard to the Starbucks project. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the Village had such a prohibition in place at one time, but the Chamber had

requested that this be modified when Kilwins had come into the Village. He reiterated that this change had been made at the request of the Chamber not the Board.

Mr. Bogack indicated that the Cornerstone proposal had been submitted to the Suffolk County Planning Commission for review, and he knew that they were meeting next week. He inquired as to what would happen to the proposal after this. Village Attorney Egan noted that, as he had discussed at the public hearing, this would not be an easy process. He indicated that the Suffolk County Planning Commission would review the proposal and make recommendations to this Board. The Board would then need to review and vote on the mandates and/or recommendations of the Suffolk County Planning Commission. If the Board decided to approve the application for a special permit, they would need to adopt all of the recommendations of the Suffolk County Planning Commission unanimously or override by super majority if they decided not to adopt some or all of these recommendations. Village Attorney Egan noted that if a special permit allowing residential use in an industrial zone was approved, the application would then be returned to the Planning Board for site plan and environmental reviews as well as Zoning Board review should variances be required. Mr. Bogack inquired if there would be another public hearing before this Board prior to the vote on a special permit. Village Attorney Egan stated that there would be no more public hearings on this application before this Board as the hearing was closed.

Mr. Bogack inquired as to what had happened to the funds that had been promised to the Village from the County for the sewer project in south Patchogue. Mayor Pontieri stated that the County had put the project out to bid, but the funds required to complete the project kept increasing. If the Village had spent the funds themselves without them being guaranteed, the Village would have had to pay back the County if something had gone wrong with the project. He did not believe that the County, State, or Federal governments were communicating with one another, and this had now become a political quagmire. Mayor Pontieri stated that he had now heard that discussions were taking place that the County would like to move these funds to construct a sewer plant in Forge River. It was a complicated business. Trustee Felice noted that it had taken years to complete the Oak Street paving project. Mr. Bogack asked for verification that nothing would be happening soon. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the Village was prepared to move forward as it had spent over \$100,000 preparing surveys and plans as had been requested. Village Clerk Devlin expressed frustration as well as her property was being impacted. She could not do any landscaping or make improvements that would be ripped up when the installation was ready to be done. Mr. Bogack inquired if there was any time frame as to when a decision to either move forward or not would be made final. Mayor Pontieri stated that he could not say, and this was very frustrating. He had told the public that this would happen, and now it might not be happening. It should never have been done this way. Village Attorney Egan noted that the Sunset Lane project had been a perfect example of a well-done sewer project. With this project, every layer of government had gotten involved and added their own regulations, some of which were impossible to meet. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the original projected cost of the project had been \$15,000 per house. This cost was now up to \$72,000. He expressed his frustration with the County, State, and Federal governments with regard to this project.

Mr. Bogack expressed some confusion over the comment period referenced at the last meeting with regard to the Shorefront Park project. Mayor Pontieri indicated that there had been a required 120 day public response period required for the DEC permit for the project. This 120 day period was now over, but the Army Corps was now requiring another 120 day comment period. He was not sure why these comment periods could not have overlapped. Mr. Bogack inquired as to what would happen once the comment period ended. Mayor Pontieri stated that he was not sure. Village Attorney Egan expressed hope that the project would not have to be redesigned. Mayor Pontieri observed that the Oak Street paving project had taken years to complete with the time involved causing increases in expenses that had resulted in much less work being done. He expressed concern that this might happen with this project and again expressed concern with the process of obtaining funding from State and federal sources.

Mr. Bogack indicated that he felt having the Board meetings on video archived was wonderful and inquired if this would be done permanently. Mayor Pontieri stated that the Board was discussing how this could be done. Village Attorney Egan indicated that there would no longer be a need for remote presentations. Mr. Bogack stated that he believed having video archives of meetings was very helpful, and he appreciated having them. Trustee Ferb indicated that once video archives were available they became subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. This would have huge cost implications for the Village. Mr. Bogack suggested that the videos of the meetings be archived

at least for a short period of time. Trustee Ferb stated that he was not opposed to considering this, but the cost implications also had to be considered.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

vp

Signed _____
Lori Devlin, Village Clerk