

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Municipal Building, 14 Baker Street, Patchogue, New York on Monday, September 13, 2021 with the public viewing through video streaming on YouTube and in person.

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

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

Village Clerk Devlin asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from August 23, 2021.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and carried, by majority with Trustee Felice abstaining and all others in favor, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from August 23, 2021.

Village Clerk Devlin stated the total bills for the period ending September 13, 2021 were \$1,037,988.34. The five largest bills were as follows: \$164,751.25 for NYS Employee Health; \$107,237.64 for Pilger Skidmore; \$94,005.00 for NYS Municipal Workers Compensation; \$48,081.97 for PSEGLI; and \$47,355.84 for Town of Brookhaven.

General	\$ 883,065.30
Trust & Agency	\$ 20,215.34
Cap Projects	\$ 25,029.42
Sewer Fund	\$ 89,319.44
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 6,938.10
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 9,242.84
General Bills	\$ 4,177.90
Totals	\$ 1,037,988.34

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

Village Clerk Devlin reviewed the cash balances as of July 31, 2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$13,990,760.16
Trust and Agency	\$ 213,362.32
Sewer Fund	\$ 2,897,658.02
BID Fund	\$ <u>172,404.48</u>
	\$17,274,184.98

James Bonanno from the Tap Room reviewed the plans they had to celebrate their 10-year anniversary and hold a fundraiser for IGHL.

Trustee Ferb congratulated him on their ten years in business and asked the Board to approve the proposed party and fundraiser.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Deputy Mayor Krieger, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Tap Room to hold a 10-year anniversary and fundraiser for IGHL on Railroad Avenue on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. including street closure, live music, food and beer truck. Also, the open container law would be lifted for the duration of the event and appropriate permits from the NYS Liquor Authority would be secured.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to ratify prior approval to hire a Public Safety Officer.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Bboard ratified prior approval of August 26, 2021 to hire Alex Cherney as a Public Safety Officer at \$17.60 per hour starting August 30, 2021.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve hiring a part-time Dispatcher.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hire Matthew Arcuri as a part-time Dispatcher at \$20 per hour (\$23 per hour for holidays).

Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that the Hispanic Heritage Night to be held at the Theatre on Friday night was sold out. The event was free, but the number of tickets issued was limited and all available tickets had been distributed. He noted that the Grand Reopening of the Theatre would be held next week.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Scavenger Hunt.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Scavenger Hunt at 380 Bay Avenue on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scarecrow Building Contest.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scarecrow Building Contest at 380 Bay Avenue on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve the Trunk or Treat event.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hold the Trunk or Treat event at 380 Bay Avenue on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve a Walk-Thru-Zoo.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hold a Walk-Thru-Zoo at 380 Bay on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

Trustee Felice noted that the Walk-Thru-Zoo had been a great hit and a fun event last year, and he was sure that this year's event would be equally nice. Trustee Brinkman observed that the Parks and Recreation Department staff did an extraordinary job on these events.

Trustee Felice indicated that the Department of Public Works staff were out paving streets and taking care of potholes. He noted that some of the smaller streets that had recently been addressed had not been paved in years.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board for approval to establish a Retirement Incentive Program for Village employees.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to establish a Retirement Incentive Program for eligible long-term employees of the Village of Patchogue.

Trustee Ferb noted that eligible individuals would need to meet certain requirements in order to qualify for the incentive.

Trustee Brinkman asked the Board to approve a new three-year agreement with CGI Company.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to enter a new three-year agreement with CGI Company for the purpose of updating the Community Tour Videos on the Village's website.

Trustee Brinkman noted that the Village's new web site was scheduled to go live by the end of the month. She indicated that all departments were working hard to update forms and enter dates into the calendar. Trustee Brinkman stated that she and Village Clerk Devlin had been trained as administrators and other staff had also been trained to work with their departments. All departments were working to ensure that their information was updated and ready for the web site.

to go live. It should be ready by the end of the month, and she would let everyone know once she had a set date.

Trustee McHeffey noted that the Building and Housing Department was busy issuing building permits. He took this as a good sign that people were continuing to do work on their residences. Trustee McHeffey also announced that scaffolding had been put up around the Tiffany Apartments as a protective barrier to keep pedestrians safe while repairs were being made there. All permits had been issued, and the department simply wanted to inform the public about the actions taking place in that area.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the Arts Council had put out a call for artists to participate in a mini MoCA sculpture garden located at that Patchogue Garden Club Garden at the corner of Terry Street and South Ocean Avenue. More information on this request could be found at the Arts Council 's web site. In addition, the exhibit "Learning to Look" which would focus on the art of the 1960s was scheduled to open on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Trustee McHeffey noted that the Arts Council was also seeking vendors to participate during MoCA Lights events. Any vendors interested in doing so should go to the Arts Council's web site for more information.

Trustee McHeffey asked the Board to waive a Special Event fees.

Upon a motion by Trustee McHeffey, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board to approve waiving the Special Event fees for the Patchogue Arts Council, Inc 501 (c)(3) for the following approved events: Arts on Terry, MoCA L.I.ghts 2021 and Ratgrl Vendor Circus at MoCA L.I.ghts.

Trustee McHeffey asked the Board to approve a bid award.

Upon a motion by Trustee McHeffey, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to award the bid for a handicapped ramp railing to Triton Builders at a sum of \$12,150.00 of which \$7,349.72 will be paid by the Village of Patchogue and \$4,800.28 will be paid by CDA.

Trustee McHeffey then asked the Board to authorize the Mayor to sign the CDBG agreement with the Town of Brookhaven. He noted that these block grants were used for projects throughout the community including sidewalk improvements. Mayor Pontieri noted that the handicapped ramp and railing behind Village Hall had been paid for through such a grant.

Upon a motion by Trustee McHeffey, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to authorize the Mayor to sign the CDBG agreement with the Town of Brookhaven for Public Improvements \$112,500, Public Services \$22,500 and Administration \$15,000.

Trustee McHeffey asked the Board to accept a resignation.

Upon a motion by Trustee McHeffey, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to accept the resignation of Edna Sztabnik, with regrets, from the Building Department.

Trustee McHeffey noted that Ms. Sztabnik had been a great employee of the Building Department, and all of the staff had conveyed their appreciation for all of her had work there.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean-Up would be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of September 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to volunteer should meet at the Watch Hill Ferry Terminal at 150 West Avenue at 9:00 a.m. to be provided with cleaning supplies and directions on where to go. It was expected to last until approximately 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone from the public wished to be heard.

Tara Lee, 10 South Village Drive, Bellport, indicated that she was an active member of the community and noted that, before she started, she wished to state that it was not her intention to try to convince anyone about the overall effects of cannabis. She was also not here to state how she felt about it or how the Board should feel as this was a personal matter which she respected.

However, she asked the Board to consider the possibilities and opportunities of allowing cannabis shops to open and operate within the Village. Intentional and bold action was taken by the NYS Health Department in July 2018 to begin the review process for regulating and taxing the production and use of cannabis in the state. Ms. Lee urged the Board to consider opting in, rather than out, to protect viewpoints and provide the opportunity for comprehensive, reality based, and holistic education for young people similar to what had occurred with the adoption of comprehensive sex education. Opting in would allow the education of consumers with regard to their options and encourage responsible use of cannabis products and allow the public to take control of their mental and physical health. This would also allow for the focus to be on small businesses and community participation which was a big part of Patchogue's success. She noted that the Village would have the opportunity to establish a licensing process and encourage entrepreneurial efforts as well as rewarding small farmers and local businesses. Ms. Lee indicated that this was a unique community, and regulation of cannabis could create jobs. With between 165,000 to 230,000 full and part-time workers currently in the industry in the United States, many jobs, consumers, and tax dollars could be brought to Patchogue. She noted that approximately 1.2 million consumers were expected to consume cannabis products with approximately \$3.5 billion in taxable revenue. Patchogue should be able to participate in receiving a share of these funds that could be returned to the community for the greater good including public health initiatives, transportation, and many other options. Opting in would provide the community with many possible opportunities and effective resources. Choosing to opt out would leave a minority of the community out of the conversation and deny them the opportunity for social equity that cannabis retail could bring them. She reiterated that she wanted to focus on the possibilities and opportunities that opting in could bring and stressed that the Village had the chance to economically profit, increase health, promote social equity, and create a blue print for other communities on Long Island and in New York State to follow. Ms. Lee stated that she was currently serving as the social responsibility and business associate development manager for Hemp Farms of New York and noted that she would be willing to discuss any questions that the Board members might have or to provide them with a tour if they wished. She believed that taking positive action would help to bridge the gap of understanding with members of the public. Ms. Lee also asked the Board to keep in mind that the cannabis industry had been and would always be present in communities. Opting out would simply force existing industry to continue operating without regulation and taxes.

Mayor Pontieri stated that a public hearing on this issue would be held in two weeks at the next Board meeting. He indicated that he would take her statement from this meeting and put it in the minutes for that meeting. Ms. Lee stated that she would send the Board some additional information by email as she would be out of town and unable to attend that meeting. Village Clerk Devlin asked if she could please email her the entire statement she had made so that it could be added to the record of the upcoming public hearing. Ms. Lee stated that this would not be a problem.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Lori Devlin, Village Clerk

vp