

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Municipal Building, 14 Baker Street, Patchogue, New York on Monday, December 12, 2022 with 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, Carillo, Ferb, Keyes, McHeffey, Village Attorney Egan, Village Clerk Devlin, and Deputy Village Clerk Braile present. Village Treasurer Krawczyk was absent.

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

Village Clerk Devlin asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from November 28, 2022.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Carillo, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board Meeting minutes from November 28, 2022.

Village Clerk Devlin stated the total bills for the period ending were \$817,147.04. The five largest bills were as follows: \$112,494.88 for Rosemar; \$111,950.04 for Affiliated Agency; \$94,005.00 for NYS Municipal; \$17,307.66 for Carbitrol Corp.; and \$15,853.79 for Edmunds Gov Tech.

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| General        | \$ 730,331.82 |
| Trust & Agency | \$ 275.38     |
| Cap Projects   | \$ 3,186.93   |
| Sewer Fund     | \$ 66,770.77  |
| B.I.D. Fund    | \$ 6,096.96   |
| Housing Fund   | \$ 0.00       |
| CDA Fund       | \$ 4,750.68   |
| General Bills  | \$ 5,761.50   |
| Totals         | \$ 817,147.04 |

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

Mayor Pontieri noted that the Rosemar bill was funded by a grant, and the Carbitrol expenses were for the wastewater treatment plant which was a separate portion of the budget.

Mayor Pontieri then noted that the Board had been watching cyber security issues that had been occurring in Suffolk County but were satisfied with the Village's cyber security plans and processes. However, he felt the public should be informed as to how these issues were handled, so a representative from Sourcepass had been asked to make a presentation this evening on the Cyber Security Program for the Village of Patchogue.

Lisa Geran from Sourcepass, formerly Total Technology Solutions, stepped forward and noted that they provided IT services as well as cyber security for the Village. She noted that the company had been working with the Village for approximately twenty years. Ms. Geran indicated that Dan Levy, a cyber security expert, was also present and would be addressing the technical aspects that were in place to prevent the Village from experiencing cyber-attacks. She continued by noting that their company had been in business for over 30 years. They provided Help Desk support for Village staff, assisted with the installation of new technology, and offered suggestions for future improvements. Sourcepass had been associated with municipalities for quite some time and belonged to several related organizations such as the Long Island Village Clerks and Treasurers Association as well as the Suffolk County Village Officials Association and had done cyber security presentations for those organizations as well. They also were associated with several police organizations including the New York State Chiefs Association. In order to work on law enforcement agency computers, their company needed to follow CJIS, Criminal Justice Information Systems, requirements which included having all of their technical systems staff finger printed and background checked. All of their staff were required to take security training; and all of their equipment was physically secured, under video surveillance, and had limited access by appropriate staff. Their company also followed New York State Comptroller guidelines for security and technology. Ms. Geran then noted that Mr. Levy would provide additional general information about technology and systems that were in place to

provide cyber security without going into specifics for the Village's protection.

Mr. Levy stated that, for all of their clients, there was a specific framework which was followed in terms of overall protection and response to incidents. This layered defense covered various aspects including the CIA Triad (Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability) for the Village's data, employees, and residents which included secure email access, multi factor authentication, and ensured that staff visited safe web sites. Mr. Levy noted that there were various ways breaches in security occurred such as through desktop computers, email servers, or cell phones. The layered approach that Sourcepass followed ensured that access from both within and outside Village Hall was protected. One of these layers included backup and recovery processes that protected the Village's data no matter where it was stored. Ms. Geran agreed with this assessment and noted that data was constantly being backed up on a server and also to the cloud. Mr. Levy commented that one of the main problems experienced by Suffolk County was that when their systems went down, it had been difficult for them to restore their data. In addition, their data had not been segmented enough to prevent the initial infiltration from spreading quickly. Sourcepass ensured that the Village's back up locations were segmented from the initial data source. Mr. Levy reiterated that their layered approach provided comprehensive security; however, they were always looking forward to find ways to improve their service. Quarterly, annual, and bi-annual plans were constantly reviewed and updated as necessary. He noted that additional technology was going to be implemented to expand protection provided through end points such as logging into the system and accessing data. Ms. Geran noted that sometimes these actions might be considered inconvenient, but they were necessary. Mr. Levy indicated that though the current platform was secure, they would like to move to an even more secure platform. This would involve moving more aspects of the system to the cloud from existing servers.

Mayor Pontieri asked for an explanation as to how the cloud operated and how it was different from the existing system. Mr. Levy noted that there were a couple of different types of cloud. One concerned how the work stations and servers operated, and another concerned email. The benefit of utilizing the cloud rather than a physical server was that companies such as Microsoft and Amazon had huge budgets for cyber security which were unaffordable to individual towns and municipalities. Ms. Geran noted that the Village already had some applications which were running on the cloud, and the plan was to continue to transition in that direction. Mr. Levy noted that the Village's email systems were already running on the cloud since that was one of the most common areas where organizations get attacked.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone from the audience had any comments or questions on the presentation. There was no response. Ms. Geran and Mr. Levy thanked the Board for their time.

Mayor Pontieri asked the Board to approve awarding the bid for the Shorefront Park Living Shoreline and Little Creek Restoration Construction Project – Phase I.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to award the bid for the Shorefront Park Living Shoreline and Little Creek Restoration Construction Project – Phase I to Galvin Brothers, Inc./Madhue Contracting, Inc. for \$3,741,980.00

Mayor Pontieri indicated that a presentation by the engineers and architects of the project would be occurring at 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Smith reviewed the BID and Special Projects report. Mr. Smith noted that the Waverly Avenue circle had been successfully renovated in November. All vegetation had been removed and replaced with a lower maintenance, ground cover foliage which would help to keep maintenance staff safer. The hanging basket quote letters had been sent to local floral and landscape firms with quotes expected to be received by January. A meeting had been held last week with the committee to discuss what the baskets should look like, and they were looking forward to another successful season with the hanging baskets in 2023. Mr. Smith continued by noting that the new camera on South Ocean Avenue across from Taiko 360 had become operational last week and provided a view which had been previously unavailable. Johnson Controls continued to coordinate and resolve any loose ends connected to their project. There were still items at the Theatre that needed to be completed, and the parts needed to complete the EV charging stations in the Oak Street solar array and the DPW yard were still on back order and

were not expected to arrive until March. The monthly strategy meeting with Johnson Controls would be held the following Tuesday where the timeline for completion of outstanding projects would be discussed. Johnson Controls would be addressing broken streetlights over the next couple of days throughout the Village working off a provided list. Mr. Smith indicated that Johnson Controls would continue to provide maintenance services for the streetlights for the next eight months as noted in their agreement with the Village. He encouraged residents to contact Village Hall with any streetlights which needed repair, so that they could be added to the monthly list provided to Johnson Controls. More complicated problems would continue to be addressed by either DPW or PSEG. The Commercial Dumpster Permit Law had been modified by the Board at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, and application letters had been sent to the carters by the Clerk's Office. So far, there appeared to be good compliance with the new law. Identification and violation signage for the dumpsters still needed to be created by January. Some of the corral fencing had been removed in the Church Street parking lot. This seemed to have been a good move as the area looked cleaner and better maintained than in the past. Mr. Smith noted that work had begun last week on the Splash Pad Project at the Pool and Beach Club. This should be a nice compliment to the pool in the upcoming summer months.

Trustee McHeffey noted that Mr. Smith had stated that residents should contact him or the Village Clerk with regard to issues with streetlights. He inquired as to the number residents should use to contact him. Mr. Smith clarified that most complaints come into the Clerk's Office already and were then forwarded to him. Village Clerk Devlin indicated that there was an area on the Village's web site to send a message to the Village which could be used for this purpose. Mr. Smith reiterated that all of the issues with streetlights were compiled into one list by him that was submitted to Johnson Controls on a monthly basis and generally addressed in the second week of the month.

Mayor Pontieri observed that the large impact the Johnson Controls project had on the Village was evidenced by the fact that the PSEG bill was no longer in the five largest bills. Mr. Smith noted that the Theatre's electric bill had previously been in the \$11,000 to \$14,000 range, and the last bill in October/November had been \$2,700. This was a significant savings.

Deputy Mayor Krieger inquired if the Theatre's manager had provided Mr. Smith with the information he had requested. Mr. Smith stated that she had forwarded him the current bills, but he wanted to obtain copies of bills from 2018 and 2019 to provide a more comprehensive history of expenses. He was still waiting for some of this information.

Mr. Smith then wished the Board a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

David Kennedy reviewed the Chamber of Commerce report. He thanked the Village for the assistance provided with the recent Family Fun/Winter Wonderland event held on West Main Street. It had been a nice compliment to the Blue Point Brewery activities. Mr. Kennedy indicated that holiday activities were continuing and noted that today was the start of the 12 days of free parking. He thanked the Village for providing this service and allowing free parking on Main Street for shoppers during the day through December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber's Elf on the Shelf promotion was continuing to provide some fun sales and promotions. Information on this program could be found at Patchogue.com or the Greater Patchogue Foundation's Facebook page. Some promotions were out of the box thinking such as tomorrow's location at Village Walk where a free dinner for four at their dining facility was being offered as a promotion. The next Holiday Sip and Shop was being offered on December 15<sup>th</sup> after a successful premier on December 1<sup>st</sup> where a dozen or so retailers would be staying open later and providing light holiday refreshments for shoppers. Mr. Kennedy continued by noting that a successful meeting had been held with public safety organizations to discuss the Midnight on Main event which would hopefully be resuming this year after a couple of years on hiatus. Midnight on Main would be held on December 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the intersection of West Main Street and West Avenue. The ball drop would occur at 9:00 p.m. to be followed by Grucci fireworks. This would also be an opportunity to honor Louis Giancontieri owner of LFG Rigging, whose company had always provided the means to raise the ball. Mr. Giancontieri had passed away this year, but his family would be on hand to lead the countdown. Thirty Days of Dining had also returned. Two raffle baskets had been put together by the Chamber which were full of over 30 gift certificates from local restaurants and retailers which would be awarded at the event. Raffle tickets could be purchased at Patchogue.com. Mr. Kennedy then noted that a request would be brought before the Board this evening to lock in the 2023 Alive After Five dates, so that other

events could also begin to be scheduled. Since the Great South Bay Musci Festival was scheduled to be held around the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>, the requested dates for Alive After Five should not conflict with that event. Mr. Kennedy noted that he realized that these events would still be tentative until plans were finalized, but these were the dates that should be held. Though the requested range of hours were from 3:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., these might not be the final times needed. He noted that the earlier hours were generally slower for the restaurants with action picking up around 8:00 p.m. The thought from the Restaurant Committee was to start Alive After Five at 6:00 p.m. and run until 10:30 p.m. He realized that approval of the dates did not lock in this time frame as planning discussions needed to continue.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to approve to holding 2023 Alive After Five Festival dates.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hold the following dates and times for the 2023 Alive After Five Festival – Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> (Rain Date: Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>) from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with street closures from 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Main Street from Maple Avenue to West Avenue and South/North Ocean Avenue from Church Street to Oak Street; pending approval of the Special Events Permit application.

Mr. Kennedy thanked Don't Toss the Bouquet for hosting the recent Vigil in the Village which honored families who had lost children. It had been a beautiful event. He noted that this upcoming Wednesday, Harbor Crab would be hosting their annual Kris Kringle event from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where several families in need throughout the community would be supported. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza, and other happy holidays.

Deputy Mayor Krieger offered his congratulations to the Theatre on the success it had over the past few weeks. Attendance was increasing back towards normal. He expressed his appreciation to the Theatre Board for hosting a party for all of the volunteers last week.

Deputy Mayor Krieger reminded everyone that vehicles should not be parked in the street when it snows as this impeded snow removal efforts and could result in a vehicle being blocked in with snow.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve a resolution limiting the number of Special Events Permits issued on an annual basis.

Village Attorney Egan indicated that this resolution would be effective January 1<sup>st</sup> and limit Special Events Permits requested by commercial entities to four per year if the events required Village services such as street closures or Public Safety services. This would be subject to review by the Special Events Committee and the Village Clerk. Mayor Pontieri noted that any commercial entity requesting an event that would require Village services such as Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, the Parks Department, or street closures would be impacted by this resolution. In addition, any event that would greatly impact Village parking, was outside of the requesting business' Planning Board approval or other conditions issued by the Planning Board, or coincided with another special event would fall under this resolution. Mayor Pontieri stressed that this limiting of Special Events would help to prevent overburdening Village departments, especially Public Safety.

Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that he was in favor of this proposal as he received many complaints from residents due to excessive numbers of events.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval of a resolution limiting the number of Special Event Permits issued on an annual basis.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve recognizing the termination of a Public Safety Officer.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to recognize the termination of Public Safety Officer Derrick Rountree.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve accepting the resignation of a Public Safety Officer.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to accept the resignation of Public Safety Officer Jordan Wacholder.

Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that many Public Safety Officers were young and utilized this position to gain experience in law enforcement which often led to other positions resulting in a high level of turnover.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve awarding the bid for Machine Shop Service.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to award the bid for Machine Shop Service to South Bay Machine Shop.

Deputy Mayor Krieger asked the Board to approve accepting bids for the Sixth District Court Parking Lot Improvement Project. He noted that this project had been planned for many years. Currently, the court's parking lot had 120 parking spaces. Upon completion of this reconfiguration project, there would be 198 spaces. The previously proposed parking garage would have generated 225 parking spaces, so there was not much of difference in available spaces; but there was a huge difference in cost. Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that the parking garage would have cost over \$7 million. This would cost significantly less. Bids were due back at the beginning of February.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Carillo, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to accept bids for the Sixth District Court Parking Lot Improvement Project.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve ratifying prior approval to award the Splash Pad Project. He noted that the splash pad project had been mentioned to him by previous Trustee Bill Hilton seven years ago. Funding had become available about four years ago, and when a survey was done about improvements to the recreation program, approximately 70% of respondents had requested a splash pad. Trustee Keyes indicated that he felt that this would be an extremely popular feature once completed. He also noted that Norberto Pools, Inc. was a local business.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board ratified prior approval to award the bid for the Splash Pad Project to Norberto Pools, Inc. for the base bid of \$797,000.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve the 10 Mile Run to the Brewery for the Greater Long Island Running Club.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Greater Long Island Running Club to hold the 10 Mile Run to the Brewery on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> with a race start of 8:15 a.m. (rain date: Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>) pending the approval of the Special Events Application.

Trustee Keyes then wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza, and a happy holiday season

Trustee Brinkman indicated that all was running well with Planning and Zoning.

Trustee Brinkman indicated that the annual Menorah Lighting would be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Capital One Plaza beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Brinkman wished everyone a happy holiday season, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Trustee Ferb wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the Building and Housing Department was running smoothly.

Trustee McHeffey then noted that the next CDA meeting would be held on January 5<sup>th</sup> at which time the Audit Committee and Governance Committee meetings would also be held. Those were bi-annual meetings.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the Patchogue Arts Council would be holding an event called “Video Killed the Radio Star” on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Information on upcoming Arts Council events could be found on their Facebook page.

Trustee McHeffey then wished everyone happy holidays.

Trustee Carillo indicated that the Winter Wonderland had been a beautiful time enjoyed by many families. She also indicated that the Kris Kringle event to be held on Wednesday at the Harbor Crab should be a wonderful time. Her family did not consider it the Christmas season until they attended it every year. It was a great time to enjoy family and understand what Christmas was all about. Trustee Brinkman inquired if raffle tickets were still available. Trustee Carillo stated that they were. They could be purchased at Harbor Crab or online.

Trustee Carillo then wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that fundraisers were held throughout the year for the Kris Kringle event which often raised in excess of \$100,000. A half dozen families in some type of financial distress were then chosen to receive a helping hand which was delivered on the Kris Kringle date. The proprietors of Harbor Crab and Dublin Deck worked the entire year to put this event together. It really was an amazing event to participate in, and he encouraged everyone able to do so to attend.

Trustee Keyes indicated that it was such an overwhelming experience to see the joy in the families’ eyes when they received their check. Trustee Carillo concurred and noted that this was such a good example of the community working together to help those in need. It was a wonderful experience to have a couple of hundred people together and celebrating the joy of Christmas. She noted that the committee’s goal was to choose families who were working, and something unexpected happened outside their control that put them in a difficult position. Raising a \$100,000 every year was difficult and impressive to do.

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

James Grinko, 99 Lake Shore Drive, stepped forward. He also noted that his property was adjacent to East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Pinto indicated that he had moved here 25 years ago and enjoyed living in the community. However, in the past few years, his residential area had started to turn more commercial which it was not meant to be. He then showed the Board some photos from recent days showing the number of cars parked on the street. Mr. Grinko asked if “No Parking” signs could be installed to address this issue. Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that he had spoken with Mr. Grinko about this problem and had started taking photos of the situation as well. He noted that a public hearing would need to be held in order to create a “No Parking” zone. Everyone in the neighborhood would need to be notified of it. Mayor Pontieri inquired if there was a Village law which prevented commercial vehicles from being parked overnight in certain areas. Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that the vehicle in question would need to have commercial plates, and it did not. He believed that the individual in question ran a party rental company from their home. Village Attorney Egan inquired if Public Safety had evaluated this corner. Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that they had, but there was nothing they could do since there were no “No Parking” signs in place. Village Attorney Egan suggested that Public Safety evaluate what types of vehicles were using this as a parking area and whether a trailer qualified as a commercial vehicle under the existing Village Code. Cars parked in the wrong direction were already a violation which could be issued. He suggested that he and Deputy Mayor Krieger speak with Public Safety about the existing violations which were currently occurring and whether a public hearing should be scheduled to restrict parking in this location. Village Attorney Egan then quickly reviewed the Village Code and found that Section 415-16.1, Parking of Trailers stated “parking of trailers as defined by Section 156 of the New York State VTL is prohibited on all Village streets between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily.” This meant

that overnight parking of such vehicles was prohibited. Deputy Mayor Krieger inquired as to who could visit these individuals to tell them they were violating the Code. Village Attorney Egan stated that Public Safety officers could do so. Mr. Grinko indicated that the individual in question was not considerate of his neighbors. Mayor Pontieri inquired if creating a “No Parking” area would negatively impact other nearby residents. Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that this was a narrow street, but another problem was that the individuals in question were also operating a commercial business from their home. This also seemed to be a neighbor dispute. Mr. Grinko agreed but also noted that having “No Parking” signs would help to keep extra vehicles off the street and make the roadway safer. Trustee Carillo inquired as to when the street was busiest in terms of vehicles being on the road. Mr. Grinko stated that weekends were the worst time. Trustee Carillo questioned why the residents creating the issue did not use their garage for parking. Mr. Grinko stated that their garage was full of equipment used for their business. Trustee Carillo asked for confirmation that the garage was not being used for living space. Mr. Grinko stated that it was not but was being used to store business supplies. Trustee Ferb inquired if a commercial vehicle could be parked in a residential driveway. Village Attorney Egan stated that this could be done. Mayor Pontieri stated that the Village would review what could be done to address this problem.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 7:00 p.m. for a short time. Mayor Pontieri stated that when the Board returned, a presentation would be held to review the Shorefront Park Shoreline and Little Creek Restoration project.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Pontieri noted that the proposal to expand recreational opportunities in the Village was first made in 2015 when a private donation of \$5,000,000 had been made to be used to improve recreational facilities. Several items had been accomplished since then, but there were many more that were planned. The discussion tonight would focus on the redesign of Shorefront Park. Those present this evening to review this project were Marion Russo, Dennis Smith, and representatives from VHB Engineering, QRP Landscape Architects, and New York State Sea Grant. A review of what a living shoreline was and the benefits of having one would also occur.

A representative from QRP Landscape Architects stepped forward. She noted that this process had started in 2015, and it was nice to finally get the project moving forward. There was a four-step process they used to promote community engagement. The first was in 2015 when the project was first introduced to the public and requests for suggestions and concerns were made. This initial survey was for all the parks, not just Shorefront Park. The second step was the presentation of the master plan which was done about a year later. Tonight begins the third step in the process which is the Phase I of construction of the living shoreline which would involve construction in the water up to the proposed waterfront walkway. This would be discussed in greater detail later by representatives from VHB Engineering. The final step would involve planning and construction of the rest of the park and the other recreational facilities planned there. Hopefully, that phase would begin in 2023.

Mr. Smith stepped forward. He noted that, as the Mayor had referred to earlier, the Village had received a \$5,000,000 donation in 2015 to be used towards the improvement of recreational facilities. The Village had immediately started working with VHB Engineering to determine what could be done to improve the current park system. As had also been mentioned, a Scantron survey of the public was conducted to determine who used the parks and what improvements to the parks the public would want to see. Some of the requested items included more walking paths, picnic areas, shade structures, pickleball courts, a running/walking track, a kaya launch area, and a splash park. Mr. Smith indicated that while funding had been set aside to plan for and revitalize Shorefront Park, which would require more detailed planning and permitting, work had begun on improving the other parks. Much work had been accomplished in the past eight years with major improvements done to five parks. Father Tortora Park was one of the first which was completely rebuilt as well as having a walking/running track installed. Belzak Park was also rebuilt with a new surface and play equipment. Four Sisters Tennis Courts were completely renovated and converted to the Four Sisters Tennis and Pickleball Courts with brand new, state of the art tennis and pickleball courts which were constantly in use. Waldbauer Park had new fencing, irrigation, and dugouts installed, and Shorefront Park had new play apparatus

installed. The bigger changes to be made at Shorefront Park would be reviewed shortly. Mr. Smith also noted that three, brand new parks were created – Clemente Turf Baseball Field, the 9/11 Memorial Park, and a First Responders Memorial Park. This past week, ground had been broken on a new splash pad area which would complement the Pool and Beach Club facility. All of these had been great additions to the community Parks and Recreation system. Mr. Smith then indicated that the first inclination to improve Shorefront Park had been to repair the bulkheading, install a new boardwalk/walkway along the bay, add new walkways and plantings throughout the park, and rehabilitate Little Creek. However, the discussion soon turned to removing the bulkheading to create a small beach and living shoreline which would improve tidal flow and be better ecologically for the bay and shorefront. Since this was more complex than the original plan, it would take more time and engineering planning to accomplish including DEC and Army Corps of Engineer approvals. The project had originally been estimated to cost approximately \$4,000,000. However, as approvals took years to obtain and inflation raised the costs of materials and labor, the project's cost had risen to approximately \$7,000,000. At this point, plans had to be modified and additional funding found. The \$2,000,000 set aside from the original donation was not going to be enough. Mr. Smith then asked CDA Director and Village Grant Writer Marion Russo to come up and speak about grants for this project.

Marion Russo indicated that the first grant obtained for the project was from the New York State Department of State in the amount of approximately \$200,000 which was a 50/50 matching grant to be used for the design of the project. That grant project had been completed by creating the bid package and holding this presentation. Ms. Russo indicated that a second grant application for the construction phase of the project had been submitted to the NYS Department of State with \$2,189,000 awarded to be used towards the living shoreline project. Within this application, two other grants were able to be layered in – a NYS Parks grant for \$317,000 to be used towards such items as the walkways and kayak launch and a DEC grant for \$45,000 to be used for habitat restoration. She also noted that the Village had received a water quality grant from Suffolk County for \$250,000 to be used to rehabilitate Little Creek. This resulted in approximately \$3,000,000 in grant funding with the total project cost of the Phase I project being \$3,741,980.00 as awarded this evening. Thus, the Village's cost for this project would be \$741,980.00 which would come from the private donation funds. There would be no impact to the taxpayers. Ms. Russo noted that the main reason this project was so attractive to the Department of State was that once it was completed it would be largest permitted living shoreline in New York State. She also indicated that the delay was caused by this being the first time the DEC and Army Corps of Engineers were looking at a living shoreline to be designed in this manner.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that he believed most people wanted to know what a living shoreline was and why it was important. He asked Kathleen Fowler from the New York Sea Grant to step forward to provide this information.

Ms. Fowler noted that she wished to discuss resiliency and how it could be increased to combat future climate rifts as well as the difference between the current bulkhead and the planned living shoreline. She would also review the benefits of this specific living shoreline. Ms. Fowler noted that the south shore of Long Island was susceptible to flooding and erosion. These concerns would increase from storm impacts as sea levels continued to rise into the future. The impacts that had already been seen in Shorefront Park included the flooding following Superstorm Sandy in 2012. She also noted that she lived in Patchogue and often noticed flooding coming up through the storm drains. Ms. Fowler then proceeded to describe bulkheading noting that it was a vertical structure that could be made from various types of materials. The purpose of a bulkhead was to hold the land in and prevent it from washing away. These were manmade structures that needed regular maintenance and would eventually fail over time. In addition to needing maintenance, it had been shown that bulkheads would result in increasing erosion to surrounding properties. Ms. Fowler then noted that a living shoreline was a hybrid shoreline stabilization technique that utilized natural or nature-based features paired with structural elements to reduce flooding and erosion to the shoreline. They were constructed in a manner which would mimic natural features and processes by using native and living materials. Living shorelines had been documented to be self-healing and to increase the ecological function of the shoreline. Adequate space was necessary in order to install an effective shoreline. The most successful living shorelines were in marshy environments with a gradual flow of water which was why Shorefront Park was an excellent location for one. Ms. Fowler then reviewed a photograph of the plan and noted the beneficial features including vegetation which would hold



sediment in place and attract additional sediment. Tidal wetlands would reduce flooding and provide habitat for plants and animals. The rock embedments along the shoreline would protect the park from storm surges and reduce the wave action decreasing the chance of erosion and flooding. Rehabilitation of Little Creek would improve the water quality and habitat of that area. Ms. Fowler then noted that the benefits to the bay as the living shoreline features were installed would include an increase in sea grass and shellfish beds such as oysters which would help reduce destructive wave action. Shellfish habitats would promote the increase in sediment retention and provide new habitats for other living creatures as well as improving the water quality since they were filter feeders.

A gentleman from VHB Engineering stepped forward to explain the details of the plan. He noted that the reason this plan was proposed was a result of the severe flooding and infrastructure damage caused by various hurricanes and storms and the need to provide for protection against future climate change. There had been an erosion problem with this bulkheading since its installation, both in front of and behind the bulkhead. The gentleman then reviewed various photos showing the force of wave action against the bulkhead even under calmer conditions. Their coastal engineers concluded that bulkheading was not appropriate for erosion control in this area under these conditions. The better solution would be the living shoreline which consisted of a mound of rocks running parallel to the shoreline with some gaps in them which would help to reduce storm surge and dissipate the wave energy more effectively than the bulkheading. Plantings and sand dunes would also be installed to further interrupt wave action. He proceeded to review a diagram of the plan. The project also included opening up Little Creek to the bay by removing the concrete culverts and piping which tended to become filled with silt. There would also be a kayak launch created at the west end of the park. Unlike a continuous rock construct, the intermittent gaps would allow water intrusions along with the tidal cycles which would help establish habitat for vegetation and wildlife. These types of installations had been used by their engineers along the east coast, particularly in the Chesapeake area. This was an exciting new application for Long Island, and it was hoped this would be used in other areas. There would be monitoring occurring throughout the installation and creation of the shoreline, and hopefully, be successfully used in other areas on Long Island. The gentleman proceeded to review specific techniques which would be used including 500 to 1500 pound armor stones used to create rockfill with planted areas sloping up to the park. Gapped areas would have cobblestones and gradual plantings to allow tidal action to take place and dissipate to create marshes behind the rock sill. Little Creek would be reshaped and replanted out to the bay after the piping and concrete area were removed. Existing pedestrian bridges would be replaced with pre-fabricated structures to allow pedestrian continuity throughout the park area.

The woman from QRP Landscape Architects returned to discuss the remainder of Phase I plans. A bio swell, a vegetated concave channel, would be created at the top of the living shoreline. This would improve water quality and provide additional protection against storm surges. Stormwater would enter the bio swells, fill them up, and slowly dissipate. Any pollutants should be filtered out through the bio swell. The living shoreline should slow down the influx of water with the bio swells handling anything which overflowed. This was also another way to add biodiversity and habitats for living creatures. All plants used there would be salt water tolerant and easy to maintain. A post and rope fence would be installed to keep people out of the bio swell area. A continuous walkway would be installed behind the bio swell which would connect to other walkways throughout the park which would be renovated during Phase II of the project. This would connect to the beach and a kayak launch area at the western end of the park.

The gentleman from VHB Engineering noted that there were three main components to the project – the stream reconstruction, the shoreline construction, and the park improvements. All of these elements would generally take approximately a year to complete; however, they believed that they could compress this time frame to approximately 9 months by overlapping certain work. He noted that a necessary waiver for in water construction had been received, so it was hoped that the start date could be moved up. All the work would need to coincide with the planting season to be sure that the upline plantings were given sufficient time to take root.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that much had been accomplished in the past eight years as noted by Mr. Smith and Ms. Russo. It was impressive that this large of a project could be accomplished in the community with little use of taxpayer dollars. He was also grateful for the hard work of QRP Landscape Architects and VHB Engineering for getting the Village to this point. This is an exciting project to give back to the community as well as all of the previous projects which had

been accomplished.

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

A woman from the audience inquired as to what would happen to the access to the play and exercise equipment during construction. Mayor Pontieri stated that he believed that most of the equipment would remain accessible during construction with areas where active work was being conducted fenced off. The gentleman from VHB Engineering concurred with this observation and noted that fencing would be installed for safety purposes when necessary. The woman from QRP Landscape Architects observed that there might be some impact to the exercise equipment since it was adjacent to Little Creek. The gentleman noted that work would probably start in the Little Creek area of the project.

A gentleman from the audience congratulated everyone for the incredible amount of work which had been done. As a kayaker, he was glad to hear that there would be a place to launch his kayak safely.

Another woman from the audience inquired as to the height of the rock wall and sand dunes as well as to the types of plants which would be used. She noted that there were already bull rushes growing in the area that needed to be cut down in order for people to actually see the water. The gentleman from VHB Engineering indicated that the rock wall would only be about half a foot taller than the existing bulkheading. The woman from QRP Landscape Architects indicated that the elevation of the park would be remaining the same. She noted that the plantings would be from that elevation down to the water, and the bio swell plantings would be within a channel. Nothing should be much higher than 18 inches. The woman from the audience asked for assurance that the bull rushes would not invade this area. She was informed that this would not happen. The woman indicated that she had lived in Patchogue for at least half her life and seen many storms. She noted that this would not prevent flooding from major storms, and while she was glad that the creek was going to be opened to let the flood waters out, she was also concerned that the water would come in more quickly as well. The gentleman from VHB Engineering noted that this was why the creek was going to be reshaped as part of this project.

A gentleman from the audience inquired if the proposed changes were going to prevent the flooding which now occurred on a regular basis after only a small amount of rain. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the hope was that this would address these concerns as what was presently there was not working.

The woman from the audience inquired if there were any other communities which had a similar situation with a creek where this solution had worked. Mayor Pontieri indicated that there was no other location on Long Island where this had been done. The gentleman from VHB Engineering noted that they had used this type of project all along areas on the east coast, and it had worked well.

Another woman from the audience inquired if the presentation would be available online for public review. Trustee Brinkman noted that the pdf from the presentation would need to be put online. Village Clerk Devlin stated that she could post the pdf on the Village's web site. She noted that anyone interested in being notified when items were posted on the Village's web site could sign up for such notifications by email or text.

Another gentleman from the audience noted that there had been some nasty windy weather a couple of weeks prior. He had taken video of an area where there was no bulkheading, and this dramatically showed what had been discussed this evening in terms of no water pooling in this area.

Deputy Mayor Krieger inquired as to the expected construction time table. The gentleman from VHB Engineering indicated that they hoped to be completed within 9 months. They would be meeting with the contractor over the next couple of weeks to create this calendar. Deputy Mayor Krieger inquired as to when work would be expected to start. He was informed that it would probably begin in late summer.

Trustee Keyes expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Marion Russo in obtaining such a substantial amount of grant funding and refusing to give up on this project. Mayor Pontieri

concurrent and thanked Ms. Russo as well. Thanks to her efforts, the Village had obtained over \$100 million in grant funds over the years. All of these grants required a written application and follow up documentation, and he thanked Ms. Russo again for all of her hard work. He was very fortunate for the Board and staff he had working with him and for the support of the residents to improve the community.

Mayor Pontieri then wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, Happy Kwanza, and happy holidays.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Carillo, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

vp

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Devlin, Village Clerk