

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met through video conference on Monday, January 25, 2021.

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

The flag salute was made.

Mayor Pontieri welcomed everyone to the Board meeting.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from January 11, 2020.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and carried by majority with Trustee Felice abstaining and all others in favor, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from January 11, 2020.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile asked the Board to approve the 2020-21 report of the Receiver of Taxes.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the 2020-21 report of the Receiver of Taxes as follows:

REPORT OF RECEIVER OF TAXES 12/31/20

TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX ROLL		\$12,448,770.70
TO CHANGES	Increases	\$ 3,371.01
	Decreases	\$ 26,391.58
PENALTY COLLECTED ON TAXES		\$ 19,836.52
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR		\$12,445,586.55
2020-2021 TAX RECEIPTS TO Ronald Krawczyk, Treasurer		\$12,314,464.41
Interest and Penalty		\$ 19,836.42
Unpaid Taxes due		\$ 111,285.72
TOTAL		\$12,445,586.55

Deputy Village Clerk Braile asked the Board to set the date for Tax Grievance Day.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board set Tax Grievance Day for Tuesday, February 16th, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile asked the Board to set the date for Tax Sale Day.

Upon a motion by Trustee Devlin, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following resolution:

NOTICE OF TAX SALE VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE

WHEREAS the Receiver of Taxes of the Village of Patchogue, New York has this day returned his Warrant and Tax Roll for the year 2020/2021 and had delivered to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Patchogue herein an account of the taxes remaining unpaid, amounting to \$111,285.72

without the penalty and fees of \$10,351.55 and descriptions of the upon the list together with the amount of taxes so assessed and interest thereon.

RESOLVED THAT THE UNPAID TAXES OR TAX LIENS AS SET FORTH IN THE ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIVER OF TAXES OF THE VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE NEW YORK DATED DECEMBER 31ST 2020, SHALL BE COLLECTED BY SALE OF SUCH TAXES AS PROVIDED BY SECTION 1452 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW, SUCH SALE TO BE HELD ON THE 25th OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT TEN O’CLOCK IN THE COURTROOM SITUATED AT 14 BAKER STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE, NEW YORK. THE PROCEEDINGS THERE UNDER TO BE PROVIDED IN SECTION 1452 AND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION CERTIFIED BY THE VILLAGE CLERK SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE TREASURER OF THE VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE, WITH ACCOUNT, AFFIDAVIT AND CERTIFICATION OF SUCH UNPAID TAXES.

Trustee Keyes inquired if the Tax Sale would be held via Zoom. Village Treasurer Krawczyk stated that he did not anticipate many coming, so he believed that those wishing to participate could come in person and be socially distant. Mayor Pontieri concurred but also indicated that a Zoom presentation could be set up to accommodate those unable to attend in person.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk stated the total bills for the period ending January 11, 2021 were \$460,894.77. The five largest bills were as follows: \$36,687.70 for Town of Brookhaven; \$32,270.70 for Russell Reid; \$22,740.22 for PSEGLI; \$9,750.00 for Site Specific; and \$9,748.20 for VHB Engineering.

General	\$ 271,406.73
Trust & Agency	\$ 8,402.85
Cap Projects	\$ 9,498.20
Sewer Fund	\$ 161,781.71
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 2,699.50
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 4,719.28
General Bills	\$ 2,386.50
Totals	\$ 460,894.77

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

Village Treasurer Krawczyk indicated that the living shoreline project would be paid for through a grant.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk reviewed the cash balances as of December 31, 2020 as follows:

General Fund	\$ 8,223,056.26
Trust & Agency	\$ (\$15,735.54)
Sewer Fund	\$ 2,475,426.19
BID Fund	\$ 105,381.10
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	\$10,788,128.01

Village Treasurer Krawczyk expressed hope for all to stay safe.

Mayor Pontieri stated that one of the requirements during the pandemic was for all municipalities to create a health and emergency plan to have in place for this current and any future situations. For the Village, this included such items as a list of essential workers and their functions and protocols for non-essential workers such as staggered work shifts. He noted that all of the Board members should have received a copy. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the union had also received a copy and submitted a letter stating that they concurred with the plan. He inquired if any of the Board members had any questions or concerns. None did. Mayor Pontieri then asked for a motion to approve the plan.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the adoption of the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for the Village of Patchogue.

Trustee Ferb inquired as to who had written the plan. Mayor Pontieri stated that Peter Sarich had researched it and put it together. He indicated that he would provide a copy to the Suffolk County Village Officials for their review and as a reference for other communities to use if they needed to do so. Mayor Pontieri indicated that it followed all of the CDC, Suffolk County, and New York State protocols and was a very impressive document. Trustee Ferb concurred and indicated that Mr. Sarich had done a great job in preparing it.

Trustee Brinkman stated that she did not see Mr. Smith or Mr. Kennedy as attendees of the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Krieger requested approval to remove some signage at the request of neighbors on the noted streets. He indicated that some concern had been expressed about the quantity of signage, and one individual in particular was upset that a sign was located in the front yard. Mayor Pontieri indicated that the person asking for removal of the sign could not call to complain if someone parked there. Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that the signs that had been installed seemed to be helping the parking situation.

Upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Krieger, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to remove the following signs; Parking Permit Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. 4 p.m.: NE corner of Lake Shore Drive and 8th Street, No Parking Stopping Standing Anytime: North side of 8th Street between Park Place and Lake Shore Drive, No Parking Stopping Standing Anytime: South side of 8th Street between Park Place and Lake Shore Drive.

Trustee Brinkman stated that Mr. Smith had messaged her that he was experiencing some technical difficulties in signing into the meeting.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if there were any updates on the Theatre. Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that work was continuing on a virtual schedule. Normal day to day operations were ongoing to be sure that the Theatre was ready to go whenever that go ahead was given with planning for reopening continuing. Hopefully, that would be soon. The whole industry, including Broadway, remained shut down. Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that even though this was not a good time for theatres in general, the moment they were able to open, the Theatre had plans to move ahead with disinfection procedures and a clean air system.

Trustee Keyes indicated that he wished to offer a note in remembrance of a long time Village employee, TJ Benanti. He noted that Mr. Benanti had been with Public Works for approximately twenty years when he left the Village six or seven years ago. Trustee Keyes noted that he had been a nice guy and a good worker, and he was sad to hear of his passing. He offered his condolences to Mr. Benanti's mom, family and friends.

Trustee Keyes noted that he had heard from St. Joseph's College that the students had completed their review of the microplastics collected from the Village waterways. They were now working on compiling the data. The ultimate goal was to turn this data into educational material for venues such as schools in order to change some mindsets and provide information as to how the public could better protect the local waterways. Trustee Keyes noted that even though it was probably not possible to accomplish much this year, work was continuing with the Parks and Recreation Department to set up a park cleanup for the spring. The Town of Brookhaven used to do that clean up but had stopped. Hopefully, with PEP support, it could get going again. Perhaps there could also be a community clean up in the fall in conjunction with the river clean up. This might send a message to other residents to stop throwing garbage out their windows. In addition, early discussions were occurring concerning a new project, in addition to expanding on previous ones' which would be an attempt to engage downtown businesses to consider rooftop gardening. He noted that there might already be one prospective interested business owner.

Trustee Keyes continued by noting that the Recreation Department was working on the spring brochure and putting the budget together. Hopefully, things would be more open soon. Several prospective projects were in the works. The department had been pretty busy, and Patchogue always drew much attention.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve Lu Ann Koenig to receive donated benefit time. He indicated that Ms. Koenig had been experiencing some personal and health issues recently, and other employees had agreed to donate some sick time for her to use.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Devlin, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Lu Ann Koenig to received donated benefit time.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to adopt the 2020 Suffolk County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. He thanked Marion Russo for working on this. There was a chapter in the plan that specifically covered the Village of Patchogue and described the mitigation efforts for various emergencies such as lightning strikes, storms, and other incidents. Participation in this document helped the Village and other Village entities such as the Patchogue-Medford Library to apply for grants.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to adopt 2020 Suffolk County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve use of the tennis courts by South Ocean Middle Schools.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the South Ocean Middle School to use the Tennis Courts for the Girl's Tennis Program from Monday through Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. from March 22, 2021 through May 8, 2021.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve the Hope House Ministries annual 5K Run/Walk at Shorefront Park.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Hope House Ministries to hold their annual 5K Run/Walk at Shore Front Park on Saturday, May 15th from 6:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Trustee Keyes indicated that all of these event approvals were tentative. Mayor Pontieri asked for confirmation that these actions were being taken to hold the dates. Trustee Keyes stated that this was correct.

Trustee Felice asked that with the expectation of inclement weather tonight into tomorrow that residents park in driveways if possible and keep vehicles off the road. This would make the Department of Public Works' job easier if it does snow. He asked that residents please take care when traveling.

Trustee Felice indicated that Mayor Pontieri had received a letter from PSEG today which he had forwarded to him. This concerned a project being conducted in and around the Village over approximately four months. New poles would be installed with stronger wiring and a narrower profile to try and prevent damage from trees falling on them. In addition, trees would also be trimmed. This would impact approximately three miles of main poles, most of which were located in the Village. The time frame for the work to begin was for the middle of February with work being done between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday with limited hours on Saturdays. No work would be done on major holidays. Trustee Felice continued by noting that traffic and parking issues were to be expected on some of the streets where the work would be conducted including on Medford Avenue between Sunrise Highway and Montauk Highway, Montauk Highway between Rider Avenue and South Country Road, the intersection of Rider Avenue and Terry Street, South Ocean Avenue between Academy Street and Baker Street, Baker Street between Rider Avenue and South Ocean Avenue, and River Avenue between Electric Street and Underwood Street. He reiterated that this would be a four month project, and hopefully, would not cause too many parking and traffic issues. This would be a desperately needed upgrade to the system.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to retain Cullen and Danowski for audit services.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board retained Cullen & Danowski for audit services for the year ending May 31st at a cost not to exceed \$32,500.

Trustee Ferb the offered a public service announcement for those trying to get an appointment for a vaccination. He noted that he had spent hours on the internet before calling the contact number listed. Using that method had gotten him an appointment for February 3rd. His friend who was a first responder had obtained four appointments by calling. He strongly recommended calling instead of using the internet to obtain a vaccination appointment.

Trustee Devlin indicated that the Planning Board had heard the presentation for the revised Cornerstone application last week. For anyone interested who had not yet done so, that presentation was available for viewing on YouTube. On Wednesday, January 27th, a Zoom hearing would occur that was designated specifically for public comment on that application. This hearing would begin at 7:00 p.m. with information on accessing it available on the Village's web site and Facebook page.

Trustee Devlin indicated that the Patchogue Arts Council was presenting a new exhibit on limited hours. Anyone interested in viewing it should please make an appointment to do so. February was Black History Month, and the exhibit "Generations of Color" would be celebrating the wisdom, tradition, and powerful voices of African American women in the United States. A round table Coffee with a Curator discussion would be occurring on February 6th beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom and Facebook Live. All the artists would be participating and speaking about their works. The information for this event was available on the Arts Council's web site.

Trustee Brinkman stated that Mr. Smith sent his regrets for not being able to participate in the meeting. Unfortunately, he could not fix his technical difficulties.

Trustee Brinkman asked the Board to appoint an intern in the Building Department.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to accept Devin Carpenter for an internship as an Archive Assistant in the Building Department for 20 hours per week effective January 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that Mr. Carpenter would be assisting with reorganizing and preparing items for archiving in the basement.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone else wished to speak at tonight's meeting. Trustee Brinkman stated that several individuals were requesting to speak. She would promote them, one at a time, to panelist to speak.

Kaitlyn Jackson, 19 Grenville Avenue, requested that the Board consider implementing a moratorium on extensive developments, such as the Cornerstone project, which would greatly impact the Village. She stated that the pandemic had impacted everyone's lives and hindered the Village and community from fully engaging. The first hearing on this revised application had to be postponed due to the impact of COVID-19. Having meetings by Zoom or on YouTube assumed that everyone had access to the internet, a computer, a Facebook account, and the knowledge and ability to use them. This was not always the case and could prevent some residents from actively engaging in comment on a proposed application. Without the ability to hold in person meetings, the solution would be to wait a small period of time until people could safely attend meetings in person at Village Hall. In addition, she was concerned that there had been inadequate public notice of these meetings. Ms. Jackson noted that the Village's Facebook notice of the most recent presentation had been posted on January 14th at 10:00 a.m. which was the same day of the meeting. This limited participants to those with access to the internet, a Facebook account, and the ability to follow the meeting notices. She noted that the posted Planning Board signs were incorrect due to changes being made in the meeting's schedule. These concerns were highlighted by the fact that over 200 individuals had attended the last meeting held in person on this application while only 20 were present on the online meeting. Ms. Jackson then expressed concern of the need to be sure that the Village was complying with all of the requirements of the New York State Open Meeting Law. She indicated that she had only discovered the date of the last meeting from her Planning Board contacts. Ms. Jackson stated that she felt that these meetings were being held secretly and were being hidden from the public. She reiterated her request and suggested that a

six month moratorium should be sufficient to ensure that a small number of people could safely attend this type of hearing.

Village Attorney Egan indicated that, in general, many of the current restrictions make meeting the Open Meeting Law requirements somewhat problematic. He recognized that Ms. Jackson had raised some good questions with regard to internet access and noted that those in the educational field were also experiencing the same issues. Access to the internet during the pandemic was not only an issue for governmental functions but also for educators and across all social strata. Village Attorney Egan stated that he would review compliance with the Open Meetings Law and how the public notice of the meeting was presented. Ms. Jackson observed that it could be challenging to keep up with technological demands these days.

Trustee Brinkman stated that as soon as the meeting information was received it was posted on the Village's web site and Facebook page. The second meeting's information had been posted immediately and had been displayed on the web site for several days. She stressed that every effort was being made to try to ensure that residents were kept as aware as possible. Ms. Jackson indicated that she had not seen this information posted on the Village's calendar. Trustee Brinkman indicated that it was posted under the COVID 19 alert area. She noted that the calendar function on the web site had some issues which needed to be addressed. The alert section was the best place to look for the most up to date information.

Mayor Pontieri expressed his appreciate for her comments and stated that the Board would review her request.

Casey Stewart, 216 West Avenue, stated that she wished to concur with Ms. Jackson's request for a moratorium. She noted that tonight was a perfect example of the issues which could occur with a Zoom meeting in that Mr. Smith had experienced technical difficulties trying to participate in the meeting. Ms. Stewart indicated that friends and relatives residing at 226 North Prospect Avenue and 220 West Avenue were also in favor of a moratorium. This would give the public more time to review and comment on the proposed application. Ms. Stewart noted that she lived within the radius of receiving a notification of the meeting and had received the initial notification letter but had not been informed of the updated meeting date and time. Luckily, she had been able to navigate through Facebook to find the information, but she was sure that not everyone could do so.

Tiffany Bowman, 38 Grenville Avenue, stated that Ms. Jackson had been well spoken and summed up how the community felt regarding the Cornerstone proposal. Seeking a six month moratorium would provide the community with a chance to recover and allow attendance at meetings in a more functional way.

Trustee Brinkman read from the chat function on behalf of Regina Bykov, 11 Mulford Street, who had lost her video and audio connection. Ms. Bykov indicated that she supported Ms. Jackson's remarks and indicated that her lost connection and the issues Mr. Smith had experienced displayed the problems with online meetings. She hoped that the Board would consider enacting the moratorium.

Kat Biggs, 18 Mulford Street, expressed her support of Ms. Jackson's request. This was a project she was watching closely as she was looking out for the best interests of the neighborhood.

Daniel Pembert, 45 Cedar Avenue, stated that he supported Ms. Jackson's remarks and noted that she had voiced his concerns perfectly.

Dave Bowman, 38 Grenville Avenue, stated that he was also in support of the moratorium request as read by Trustee Brinkman from the chat feature of the meeting.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone else wished to speak at tonight's meeting. Trustee Brinkman stated that she did not see any other participants in the meeting wishing to speak or ask questions on Zoom or YouTube.

Mayor Pontieri then thanked all who had joined the meeting online.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

vp

Signed _____
Valerie Braile, Deputy Village Clerk