

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met through video conference on Monday, February 22, 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 February 8, 2021.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from February 8, 2021.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk stated the total bills for the period ending February 22, 2021 were \$696,993.44. The five largest bills were as follows: \$168,684.23 for NYS Health Insurance; \$133,958.05 for Adjo Contracting; \$28,967.75 for Town of Brookhaven; \$28,154.00 for Eagle Chevrolet; and \$22,212.30 for Russel Reid.

General	\$ 472,855.48
Trust & Agency	\$ 10,300.61
Cap Projects	\$ 39,643.62
Sewer Fund	\$ 64,735.13
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 2,735.34
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 4,359.26
General Bills	\$ 2,364.00
Totals	\$ 696,993.44

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

Deputy Village Clerk Braile read notice of a public hearing as follows: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., by video conference, by the Village Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Patchogue, TO AUTHORIZE A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C, a copy of which proposed local law is on file at the Office of the Village Clerk and may be accessed at the following link: <https://patchogue.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/>. Members of the public may view the public hearing live on the Village's YouTube Channel located at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi4ied6ovcIjay2uBK1a7w?view_as=subscriber. Members of the public may participate in the live meeting to ask questions by registering as an "Attendee" for the Zoom Webinar. Please visit www.patchoguevillage.org for specific directions. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Village website after the meeting.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk indicated that this was an action which had been taken in previous years and did not necessarily mean that the Village intended to pierce the tax cap. However, if this was not approved, and the Village had to break the tax cap later on, it could be subject to extensive fines and penalties. These could be assessed even if a mathematical mistake was made resulting in the tax cap being exceeded. Authorizing this proposal would protect the Village. He stressed that this did not mean that the Village would necessarily need to exceed the tax cap. Deputy Mayor Krieger asked for confirmation that this had been done previously. Village Treasurer Krawczyk stated that the legislation was adopted every year. Mayor Pontieri concurred that this legislation had been adopted previously and would protect the Village. Failure to pass this would prohibit the Village from exceeding the tax cap should the need arise and result in penalties should miscalculations result in an inadvertent piercing of the tax cap.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone wished to speak with regard to the public hearing. Trustee Brinkman stated that comments would be for this public hearing only, and she asked that anyone interested in commenting to raise their hands or contact her via chat. She stated that she did not see any participants in the meeting wishing to speak or ask questions on Zoom or YouTube regarding the public hearing. Mayor Pontieri then asked for a motion on the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following local law:

A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of Patchogue to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2021 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Patchogue, County of Suffolk, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2021 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Mayor Pontieri noted that most people knew that Patti Seal, Village Clerk for fourteen years, had retired this past June. Since that time, Deputy Village Clerk Braile had been filling in in that position, and the Village had been fortunate to have her services. If she was a Village resident, a different discussion would be occurring now. She had done a great job filling in. The action being taken now was no reflection on the job she had been doing. However, the Village Clerk position had always been held by a Village resident, and Deputy Village Clerk Braile was not one. The discussion this evening would concern current Trustee, Lori Devlin. Mayor Pontieri noted that she had served as a trustee for fifteen years, and prior to that, served a couple of years on the Planning Board. He indicated that she had served as the Commissioner of Planning and Zoning for the last few years and had been very involved in all of the recent major projects in the Village included Copper Beech, Artspace, and Bay Village. Thanks to Trustee Devlin’s efforts, the Arts Council came into being and brought much to this community over the last dozen years by becoming a linchpin organization within the Village. Mayor Pontieri noted that he had many discussions with Trustee Devlin with regard to the designs of various projects, including Bay Village and Copper Beech, to make them look less like apartment complexes as well as ensuring that New Village maintained the look and feel of the old Swezey’s Department Store. Trustee Devlin was very involved in the name change of the Patchogue Arts Council Museum of

Contemporary Art in order to obtain grant funding. Mayor Pontieri indicated that Trustee Devlin was also a grant writer. She brought skills to the table that were different. Trustee Devlin had been a resident of the community for over 35 years and had moved here at a time when people were running away from the Village. He indicated that she was one of the few people he knew who could step into any meeting and give something back. She had been the manager for a wine and spirits operation and had developed valuable management skills for the last 25 years. Mayor Pontieri noted that during the course of any day at any given time, developers could come in to discuss projects. It was often difficult to have someone available as most of the trustees were busy during the day. He needed someone with planning and zoning experience to provide input, especially someone who understood where the Village had been in the past and where it was now. All of the trustees had come from other boards or community organizations, and the Village was lucky to have their experience. The job he was asking Trustee Devlin to do was one that he and the Village needed as it was not easy to find someone who had the time and experience to handle what had to be done. This appointment was tough, but Trustee Devlin was someone who was a long time Board member who understood the common goals of this Board, the Zoning Board, and the Planning Board. She also understood that certain public requests could not be accommodated, such as the recent request for a moratorium, and could answer questions if he was not available. Trustee Devlin understood budgetary questions and had the institutional knowledge gained by sitting with this experienced group. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he had said many times that there were only a few things truly important when looking to fill an administrative position such as trustee or Village Clerk - experience, loyalty and trust. Trust was necessary for decisions and comments to be made in the best interest of the Village of Patchogue even if there were disagreements with him. Most importantly, the Village Clerk was a confidential position as every piece of paper that came through this office crossed that Clerk's desk. His belief in their confidentiality and his ability to trust in their decision making abilities made Trustee Devlin and Deputy Village Clerk Braile extremely important to the Village. Mayor Pontieri stated that he felt confident having conversations with them with regard to personnel or projects and debating answers that these conversations would remain confidential. He trusted them and all of the trustees and was comfortable with his decision knowing what he had in the past and what he would have for the future.

Mayor Pontieri then asked for a consent vote from the Board for this appointment. He noted that Trustee Devlin would continue to serve as a trustee until April 5, 2021, and take the oath of office for the Village Clerk's position that evening.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to appoint Lori Devlin as Village Clerk starting April 1, 2021.

Mayor Pontieri indicated that the second half of this action would require the appointment of a new trustee to fill her seat. He indicated that looking at the talent which was now on the Board, as well as the skills that they brought with them, would be an important factor in his decision. On the job training could present some trouble, so experience and/or an understanding of Village government would be helpful. Experience, loyalty, and trust would play a large role in determining who was recommended for appointment. For example, Trustee Brinkman had served as chief of staff to Brian Foley and had experience in government and understood the needs of government prior to her appointment as trustee. Mayor Pontieri stressed that every candidate must at least have a proven track record of participating with some kind of community organization. He noted that he had held many jobs over the years including running his own business and serving as a school principal. Individuals interested in applying for the trustee position should bring something to the table that was different from someone else. Letters of intent and comprehensive resumes should be submitted via email no later than March 5th. Resumes should include the individuals background, experience, interests, beliefs, and any involvement in community service organizations. He was looking for a young person who would grow with the community. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he had first served on the Village Board in 1986 when he was 39. He recounted how he had been recruited by Mayor Lehtrecker while he was an active member of the Lions Club, a Board member of the New Interdisciplinary School, and a business owner at that time. The individual being sought for a trustee would need to have experience that he or she wanted to take from and give back to the Village. He reiterated that a letter of intent and resume including the individual's background and all experiences needed to be submitted by March 5th. Interviews would probably be set up between March 8th and 19th with resumes to be reviewed by three trustees. Then he and the three trustees would do a final candidate interview, and one last interview would occur before the entire board. Trustee Keyes asked for confirmation that resumes

needed to be submitted by March 5th. Mayor Pontieri stated that this was correct. He continued by noting that prior to April, the final appointment decision would be made, and the new trustee would take the oath of office at the Reorganizational Meeting where Trustee Devlin would become the Village Clerk. This position would then be up for election on March 15, 2022. Mayor Pontieri stated that he was looking forward to this process and working with Trustee Devlin and Deputy Village Clerk Braile in the office. He was not looking forward to losing Trustee Devlin on the Board as she had been tremendously important serving in this capacity.

Trustee Devlin stated that she was honored that this decision had been made, and she was excited to get started. She noted that she and Deputy Village Clerk Braile had been discussing a lot of ideas already. Trustee Devlin indicated that she aspired to be as good as Pattie Seal was as a Village Clerk.. She noted that this was her last week at her job in the wholesale business as she was retiring after 36 years and was excited to take the next step in the Village.

Deputy Mayor Krieger congratulated Trustee Devlin on her appointment and wished her luck. He stated that he would miss serving with her on the Board. Deputy Mayor Krieger then inquired as to where anyone interested should send the letter and resume. Mayor Pontieri stated that letters and resumes should be emailed to Deputy Village Clerk Braile at the following email: vbraile@patchoguevillage.org. Trustee Ferb congratulated Trustee Devlin and thanked Deputy Village Clerk Braile for doing a great job. Deputy Village Clerk Braile stated that she was looking forward to working with Trustee Devlin and felt that she would do a great job. Trustee Felice indicated that he was excited for Trustee Devlin as he felt she would be a huge asset to the Village. He also noted that whoever was chosen to fill her shoes as a trustee would face a tall order as he did not know where she found the time to do all that she did. Her experience would be a huge asset as she moved from the Trustee position to the Village Clerk position. Trustee Felice noted that she was smart, articulate, and had a personality that would serve her well in her new position. He congratulated her and wished her good luck. Trustee Keyes indicated that years ago, before he came to serve on the Board, he had been skeptical of the original discussions of a cultural arts district and arts council. Now, he was thankful for what the Arts Council had brought to the Village and impressed by all of Trustee Devlin's accomplishments and her positive influence on the Village. He thanked her for her service as a friend, not as a fellow Trustee. Trustee Keyes also thanked Deputy Village Clerk Braile for filling in so well. He noted that she had always been available any time he needed anything and been proficient and efficient in her actions. Trustee Brinkman indicated that Trustee Devlin had been gracious and helpful to her when she was new to the Board and helped fill her in on all of the intricacies of the position. It had been a great ride so far, and she felt that this was a fantastic move in the right direction for the Board and the Village. The individual taking her place as Trustee would have big shoes to fill.

Trustee Devlin thanked everyone for their kind words. She then inquired if she could serve on the PEP Committee. Trustee Keyes stated that she absolutely could do so.

Trustee Brinkman stated that Dennis Smith had messaged her that he was experiencing technical difficulties and had asked that Trustee Keyes review his remarks.

Trustee Keyes indicated that he and Mr. Smith would be meeting with Johnson Controls shortly. He noted that the closing on the financial agreements had been conducted with Sterling National Bank, and he thanked the Treasurer's Office staff for their work in obtaining a great agreement with a low rate. Trustee Keyes expressed excitement to see this project begin and noted that both Mr. Smith and Village Treasurer Krawczyk had been named as partners of PEP. He expressed his belief that the Village would have a great experience working with Johnson Controls and indicated that work was scheduled to begin March 1st. All were excited to move forward and were ready to roll.

Trustee Brinkman indicated that someone had asked for confirmation through the chat feature that all resumes for the trustee position had to be submitted by March 5th. Mayor Pontieri stated that this was correct.

David Kennedy reviewed the Chamber of Commerce report. He indicated that he was proud to be here for this historic occasion. Mr. Kennedy congratulated Trustee Devlin and stated that he believed she would be an awesome Village Clerk since she had been an awesome Trustee. Her shepherding of the arts in this community had been a huge component of making Patchogue special and had made the arts a signature aspect of the community. Artspace and the Arts Council

had done so much for the Village. Mr. Kennedy expressed hope that she would still find time to be involved with the Patchogue Arts Council. Trustee Devlin indicated that she believed that she would have even more time for the Arts Council now. He wished her the best in her new position.

Mr. Kennedy continued by indicating that winter was normally a quiet time for the Chamber and expressed hope that this was the beginning of the end of the pandemic. The Chamber was looking ahead to the summer and fall seasons as things started to slowly open and was waiting for guidance on what a festival would be able to look like. He hoped that outdoor dining could occur as had been done last year with additional improvements. Mr. Kennedy indicated that the Restaurant Committee had raised funds over the past few years and would like to invest in creating ambience for outdoor dining. Several discussions had been taking place, and the Committee was in favor of having outdoor dining on Thursday nights but was concerned with Sunday afternoons since the heat in the summer was a bit of a deterrent. However, it was up to what the Village felt was the proper way to go. Mr. Kennedy asked Mayor Pontieri and Deputy Mayor Krieger to meet with the Restaurant Committee at their convenience to create a plan for this year. He noted that last year's plans had been thrown together in a couple of weeks, whereas this year, there was time to carefully plan the events. Mr. Kennedy indicated that the Chamber now had a template for outdoor dining events, and other things could now be added in as permitted. He noted that vendors were waiting to apply for events, but this was on hold for now. However, farmers' markets were permitted, so perhaps this type of activity could be added to the outdoor dining events. If so, this would be a step up from last year and a move towards normality. He stressed that he wanted to engage all entities in the Village involved in these events in the discussion and was looking forward to doing so. Mr. Kennedy noted that the next membership meeting would be held the following day, and the Board were all invited to attend. The presiding officer and Legislator Calarco would be attending in order to provide an update on COVID-19 from the county. Legislator Calarco would also be taking questions and hearing what the Chamber members needed from the County. Mr. Kennedy indicated that the additional hour that the governor had given for restaurants to remain open was a welcome development to the restaurants. Many of the restaurants had only been able to fit in one evening seating with the reduced hours but could now fit in two which would make a huge difference to their bottom lines. As of last count, only eight of the 120 businesses in the downtown area had permanently closed. Though some were not out of the woods yet, most were holding on strong and hoped to pick up their pace. Mr. Kennedy continued by noting that Patchogue was proud to have been one of the new communities connected to Winterfest even though it had been a scaled down event. Usually, it had only been held on the east end, but this year thanks to the connection with Diane Tucci from Riverhead, Patchogue as well as Port Washington had been added and businesses had received nice extra advertising. As of now, the St. Patrick's Parade would not be happening in March, but rather on Sunday, September 9th instead as part of a planned cultural heritage weekend. Tentative plans called for a weekend celebrating Hispanic, Italian, Irish, and African American heritage. As a way of honoring St. Patrick's Day and Grand Marshal Dennis Smith in March, an Irish Soda Bread contest would be held on March 21st. This would be a ticketed event with a limited number of people attending and some Irish entertainment such as bag pipers. It would be similar to the passing of the sash event and remind everyone that the Grand Marshal would be leading a parade in a unique half way to St. Patrick's Day event in September. Mr. Kennedy indicated that the Greater Patchogue Foundation's Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries Committee continued to do an amazing job with many restoration efforts in the cemetery continuing. He expressed his appreciation for Trustee Ferb serving as a leader of the group and indicated that he had put together a great team. Mr. Kennedy then congratulated Trustee Keyes on leading the environmental efforts in the community. He was amazed at how far Patchogue had come in leading Long Island on environmental issues, and he believed that it was a prerequisite for the Village Clerk to serve on the PEP Committee. Trustee Keyes thanked Mr. Kennedy for his comments but indicated that the PEP Committee members had done much of the work as well.

Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that parking stickers were still available at Village Hall, even though it was closed to the public. He inquired as to what the public needed to do to obtain a sticker. Deputy Village Clerk Braile stated that there was a greeter at the front door who could provide an application for a parking sticker. Residents could complete the applications and show the greeter their registrations to obtain a sticker on the spot. Should residents prefer not to come to Village Hall, they could download a copy of the application from the Village's web site from the Clerk's page, print it, complete it, scan it in along with a copy of their registration, and email it to her so she could mail the sticker to them. If the registration did not reflect their Village address, a piece of first class mail could be used as proof of address instead to obtain the sticker.

Deputy Mayor Krieger reminded all Village residents to obtain a sticker so that they could park for free in the parking fields and in the spots requiring permits throughout the Village as well.

Deputy Mayor Krieger reminded all residents with sidewalks in front of their homes to please be sure that they were shoveled as they were responsible for doing so. He noted that recently an individual was killed while walking down the street outside of the Village limits. This individual might have been in the street due to unshoveled sidewalks. Shoveling sidewalks would make things safer for everyone.

Deputy Mayor Krieger congratulated Trustee Devlin again and indicated that he was looking forward to working with her as Village Clerk.

Trustee Keyes stated that the Parks and Recreation staff were working on the 2021 summer brochure hoping for decisions from Albany that would allow for a more active spring and summer season. He noted that the first Resident Parent Committee meeting would be held on Wednesday. Several young moms in the community had accepted an invitation to get involved and let the Parks and Recreation Department know what types of activities they would like to see for their kids during COVID-19 restrictions.

Trustee Keyes thanked Trustee Felice and the DPW staff for the job they had done during the last couple of storms in insuring that the roads were clear and passable. He appreciated all of their efforts. Trustee Felice thanked him for his remarks and indicated that the DPW staff went above and beyond in their jobs.

Trustee Felice stated that he was looking forward to Trustee Devlin stepping into the Village Clerk's position, and he could not wait to see who would be filling her position on the Board.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve an administrator for the Village's Stormwater Management Program.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Brian M. McCaffrey to administer the Village's Stormwater Management Program from March 10, 2021 to March 9, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$2,400.

Mayor Pontieri stated that this was a state requirement and noted that this was \$2,400 that would be well spent.

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

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Devlin, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for an out of district sewer connection to the property owners of 303 East Main Street, Patchogue, New York (The Manor).

Trustee Ferb congratulated Trustee Devlin on her new position.

Trustee Devlin noted that there were a lot of properties located on busy roads that did not shovel their sidewalks. She suggested that the Board needed to discuss this issue and determine what could be done to address this the next time it snowed.

Trustee Devlin indicated that she and Trustee Brinkman were working with a company, Civics Plus, that did the web site for the Town of Brookhaven. She noted that they had held a couple of virtual meetings, and a proposal had been distributed to the Board for their review. Trustee Devlin noted that Trustee Brinkman could speak more specifically about the benefits of the new program, but it basically would replace Novus agenda. From a cost standpoint, it would be close to what was being paid for the current web site. Trustee Brinkman noted that the new program had much improved capabilities. Trustee Devlin indicated that there were additional aspects that could be added in the future. They would start with the basic program and go from there.

Trustee Brinkman stated that she was most excited, after seeing the demo, for the ability of the Board members and Village department heads to post important information. There was a very interactive calendar function which was severely lacking in the current program. She noted that she had been working for a long time to improve the current calendar functionality to no avail.

With the proposed new design, department heads would be able to post and update forms and add to the calendar of events. This would make a huge difference and be much more efficient than having to wait for someone from outside the Village to do those updates. Trustee Devlin indicated that the new program would also have an alert system should residents want to provide email or phone numbers to receive direct notification when emergency messages were sent out. There was no ability to do this with the current system. Trustee Brinkman also noted that the new program would provide the capability of accepting electronic payments which would be a huge help to the Building Department in streamlining their processes. Trustee Devlin indicated that the process of revamping the Village's web site would take approximately six months from the time the Village committed to signing the contract with the new company. Though it would not happen overnight, the web site would be much improved once the process was completed.

Trustee Brinkman then asked, with a heavy heart, for the Board to accept the resignation of George Homfeld from the Zoning Board. She noted that he had been one of the most dedicated members of the Board, and she had the great fortune of sitting with him on the Zoning Board for many years. There had been an incredible team that she had the privilege of working with including Mr. Homfeld, Ernie Maler, Shelly Pace, and Charlie Burton. Mr. Homfeld's hard work and commitment had helped to make the Village what it was today, and she wished him and his family all the best and prayed for his return to health.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Krieger, and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the resignation of George Homfeld as a member of the Village of Patchogue Zoning Board with regrets.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone wished to speak at tonight's meeting. Trustee Brinkman stated that she did not see any 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 and expressed hope that the snow was over for the season.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Devlin, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

vp

Signed _____
Valerie Braile, Deputy Village Clerk