

The Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees met in the Municipal Building, 14 Baker Street, Patchogue, New York on Monday, March 22, 2021 with the public viewing through video streaming.

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

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

Mayor Pontieri recognized the contributions of George Homfeld, who had recently passed, noting that he had served as a long-time member of the Zoning Board. Trustee Brinkman stated that she had served with Mr. Homfeld on the Zoning Board for many years, and it had been a joy to do so. She noted that Trustee Ferb had also served with him. He had been an incredible man, and she could not believe that he was gone. Her thoughts and prayers went out to his family and friends. Mayor Pontieri indicated that Mr. Homfeld had served on the Zoning Board for over 25 years. He noted that residents often wondered why people served on boards for so long. In his opinion, there was institutional knowledge gained by long serving members that was invaluable. Those long serving members could remember similar applications that had been approved 15 years ago or also remember negative impacts that had occurred when a particular type of application had been approved. Mayor Pontieri stated that he felt it was extremely important to recognize the value of this type of longevity. He also offered his condolences to Mr. Homfeld’s family and friends.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from March 8, 2021.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from March 8, 2021.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile stated the total bills for the period ending March 22, 2021 were \$1,115,214.64. The five largest bills were as follows: \$166,534.49 for NYS Employees Health Insurance.; \$96,335.82 for Pilger Skidmore; \$27,520.90 for Russell Reid; \$25,702.79 for Town of Brookhaven; and \$19,798.56 for PSEGLI.

General	\$ 871,893.65
Trust & Agency	\$ 30,116.32
Cap Projects	\$ 23,157.25
Sewer Fund	\$ 114,145.88
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 7,014.31
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 8,716.66
General Bills	\$ 1,014.00
Totals	\$ 1,056,058.07

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

Mayor Pontieri indicated that the work being done by Johnson Controls should, hopefully, help to bring the exorbitant electric bills from PSEGLI under control.

Deputy Village Clerk Braile reviewed the cash balances as of February 28, 2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$6,898,586.74
Trust & Agency	\$ 217,512.57
Sewer Fund	\$1,890,016.11
BID Fund	\$ 91,240.75
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	\$9,097,356.17

Trustee Brinkman stated that Dennis Smith had messaged her earlier that he was having some technical issues and did not have a lot to share with regard to the BID or special projects. He had

indicated that if he was unable to sign in, then he would provide updates to the Board at a later time.

David Kennedy reviewed the Chamber of Commerce report. Mayor Pontieri inquired as to how the Board looked meeting in person but onscreen for other participants. Mr. Kennedy stated that it was nice to see the Board members meeting together again, and he viewed it as a step forward in moving back to the normal world again. He indicated that the Chamber was working on plans for the summer season while still trying to figure out what activities would be permitted moving forward. Recently, past grand marshals and the St. Patrick's Committee members had gathered at the Brickhouse Brewery to do something which had never been done before – a retention of the sash ceremony for Dennis Smith, most recently named grand marshal. This was a celebration of Mr. Smith as the longest tenured grand marshal in the Village of Patchogue, and he hoped that this would be a record that would stand forever. None deserved that title more, and all who had participated had a great time and lots of fun. An Irish soda bread contest was held with several local restaurants and Dave Rogers from the Patchogue VFW entering. The Brickhouse Brewery had won the contest, and he congratulated them for doing so. This had been a great kick-off to the halfway to St. Patrick's Day parade scheduled to be held during the Patchogue cultural heritage weekend in September. A celebration of Hispanic heritage would be held on that Friday, followed by the St. Liberata celebration on Saturday, and the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday. He reminded everyone to stay tuned for more information on this event. Mr. Kennedy indicated that the Chamber was planning for the upcoming summer season with at least outdoor dining planned. Once those plans were settled with the Board, he hoped that discussions could take place with regard to additional activities that might be permitted in coordination with the outdoor dining. He noted that Peter Sarich and Bill Hilton had attended the last Restaurant Committee meeting where obtaining permits for sidewalk eating had been discussed. Applications would need to be submitted for these permits, and Mr. Kennedy expressed appreciation that the application fee for doing so had been cut in half. He also noted that the restaurants were interested in continuing on street dining with Main Street closed on a periodic basis. The conversation had started with Mr. Sarich and Mr. Hilton as to the timing of these closings, and a suggestion had been made to begin the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend. He hoped that these closings could continue every Thursday, if possible, through the warm season with street closures between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and dining from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. allowing for an hour to set up and break down. Mr. Kennedy indicated that he realized that this would be a big commitment for the Village to make and additional details would need to be discussed, especially since people were much more active this year than last. He asked that the Village let him know the next step that needed to be taken. Mayor Pontieri stated that his main concern was that this not turn into people coming down to Main Street with 5,000 people showing up for only 500 seats. There needed to be a plan as to how things would be kept under control. Mr. Kennedy stated that this would be for outdoor dining only. No on street drinking would be permitted as this was inappropriate at this time. However, he would like to discuss adding an approved use to the outdoor dining aspect, perhaps a farmer's market on select Thursdays. This would add a bit more to the dining and encourage retailers to participate as well. If the street was closed, all Chamber members should be able to have the opportunity to use that space to their advantage. He was anticipating that by summer, approved use of restaurant might be closer to 100% capacity. Businesses had a lot to make up for due to the past year. Mr. Kennedy asked if a meeting should be arranged with Mr. Sarich and Public Safety to create a workable plan for this proposal. Mayor Pontieri stated that he would set up a meeting. Mr. Kennedy indicated that planning for Alive After Five was usually well under way during this time of year, but things were at a standstill for that event. The farther into the year it got, the more it became obvious that the event would not be able to be conducted as usual. As a result, discussions had occurred that the event should be paused for this year given the circumstances. He noted that even pre-pandemic, discussions had been taking place that this event needed to be changed as perhaps it had become too big and rambunctious. If a year was going to be taken off, he was advocating that the Chamber and the Alive After Five Committee hold public hearings so that all of the stakeholders and public could review feedback as to what Alive After Five should look like in 2022, how it could be made better, and what people liked and did not like about the event. This was a unique event to Patchogue and meant a lot to the community, but the world had changed and normal would look different. He hoped taking a year to have these serious discussions would allow the Chamber to be ready to do something new next year.

Mr. Kennedy continued by noting that a couple of ribbon cutting events would be held shortly. This Friday, the first ever wedding chapel business in Patchogue would be opened on Route 112. The owners of the business had already started working with the Village to highlight outdoor

spaces. He indicated that they had promised that Elvis would be there and would even perform some of the weddings. The ribbon cutting would be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and he invited the Board to attend. This would be a unique business. The next ribbon cutting would be for Gallo to celebrate their recent renovations and would be held on April 1st from 4:00 pm. to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Kennedy then reminded everyone that the Friends of Lakeview Cemeteries would be holding a community clean-up event on March 27th and 28th beginning at 10:00 a.m. until midafternoon. All were invited to attend and asked to bring rakes, gloves, and equipment to pick up debris. This was a great group working to revitalize these historic cemeteries. Mr. Kennedy noted that it was great to see all of the Board members together behind the dais again, and he was looking forward to being there in person himself soon.

Deputy Mayor Krieger stated that it was great to be back meeting in person with the rest of the Board. He noted that he had a brief Theatre report indicating that the Theatre staff were gearing up for reopening soon. The Board would be discussing these plans, and he thanked the Mayor and the Board members for their input. Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that the Programming Committee had met last week to discuss the various acts which could be brought in to perform. He was hopeful that the Theatre could be lit up shortly. Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that the Theatre Board was working with Johnson Controls to schedule the work there as shows could not be held while that work was being done. He was grateful that Johnson Controls would be saving the Village a lot of money and welcomed their input.

Trustee Keyes indicated that the Village's annual bill for electric for the various buildings was approximately \$500,000 a year, and Johnson Controls expected to get that amount to net zero over time resulting in a great savings to the Village. He noted that Lindenhurst had recently had a ground breaking ceremony for their Johnson Controls; project and had expressed that they were very happy with their services.

Trustee Keyes indicated that PEP would be partnering with Save the Great South Bay for a community clean-up to be held on April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Those interested in participating would meet at 380 Bay Avenue and be provided with gloves and bags. More information would be available as the date got closer.

Trustee Keyes noted that the annual Bunny Run would be taking place at Fr. Tortora Park on April 3rd. He indicated that things were constantly changing with the Recreation Department in regards to restrictions which made it difficult to establish a solid plan. Trustee Keyes asked everyone to keep checking the Recreation Department's Facebook page for updates. He indicated that it appeared that August outdoor concerts including the kid's concert would hopefully be able to be scheduled.

Trustee Felice indicated that the DPW staff had been doing some spring cleaning on the flower beds throughout the Village in order to encourage new flowers such as daffodils and crocus to bloom. He reminded everyone that the DPW yard would be open every Saturday in April, so people could dump for free while doing their own spring clean-up.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve entering into the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program. Taking this action would provide savings in time allocation and purchasing, allow for shared administrative costs, improve response from vendors, and provide better product specifications.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Brinkman, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Village to enter into the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

Trustee Ferb reminded everyone to pay attention to the bypass property north of the Bluepoint Brewery by the lake. He noted that Paula Murphy and other members of the Beautification Committee had planted 10,000 bulbs there that should be blooming shortly. Trustee Devlin stated that they were planning to finish their bulb planting this week.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to approve the 2020 LOSAP Program for the Patchogue Ambulance Company.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval of the 2020 LOSAP Program for the Patchogue Ambulance Company.

Trustee Ferb asked the Board to set public hearings for the annual budget.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board set a public hearing to review the tentative budget for Thursday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m., and if needed, another public hearing to review the tentative budget for Thursday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Devlin indicated that the Arts on Terry sponsored by the Patchogue Arts Council which was generally held in June had been cancelled for last year. This year, the Arts Council was considering September 26th as a possible date. Just like Alive After Five, the event would need to be held on a smaller scale than the last few had been depending on what transpired with the pandemic. She hoped that it could be brought back in some form as many in the community loved this event. Trustee Devlin also noted that the Arts Council would be moving forward with the sculpture garden this year and was working with the library on creating a new mural as well. She was looking forward to these actions.

Trustee Devlin noted that the Planning and Zoning Board meetings were still being held via Zoom, but she hoped that those boards would be able to meet in person here soon. Trustee Brinkman indicated that she hoped that this transition would occur in April.

Trustee Brinkman stated that the CDA meeting on April 1st would be held via Zoom. She hoped to transition the CDA Board meetings to Village Hall for the May meeting.

Village Attorney Egan stated that it was nice to see the Board members meeting together after 12 months. He was glad that all were healthy and safe.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone 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 viewed the meeting online.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Signed _____
Lori B. Devlin, Deputy Village Clerk

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