

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

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

Mayor Pontieri welcomed the newest Trustee, Patrick McHeffey, to his first regular Board meeting and also recognized that this was Village Clerk Devlin’s first regular Board meeting in her new position.

Village Clerk Devlin asked the Board to approve Board Meeting minutes from March 22, 2021.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from March 22, 2021.

Village Clerk Devlin asked the Board to approve Board meeting minutes from the April 8, 2021 Budget Hearing.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting minutes from April 8, 2021 Budget Hearing.

Mayor Pontieri then indicated that the Village had suffered a loss with the recent passing of former mayor, James Reese. As with all past mayors and Board members, the Village would not be where it was today without his service to the community. The Reese family, including James’ brother David, were well known in the Patchogue and Fire Island communities. Mayor Pontieri expressed his condolences to the Reese family and expressed that the Village had lost one of its iconic figures with James Reese’s passing.

Village Clerk Krawczyk stated the total bills for the period ending April 12, 2021 were \$720,850.96. The five largest bills were as follows: \$166,534.49 for NYS Employees Health Insurance.; \$44,038.50 for PSEGLI; \$11,105.41 for Egan and Golden; \$7,500.00 for Orrick, Harrington; and \$7,323.34 for Debra Brier.

General	\$ 602,950.87
Trust & Agency	\$ 20,898.70
Cap Projects	\$ 3,986.84
Sewer Fund	\$ 77,407.59
B.I.D. Fund	\$ 5,536.60
Housing Fund	\$ 0.00
CDA Fund	\$ 8,621.36
General Bills	\$ 1,449.00
Totals	\$ 720,850.96

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

Village Treasurer Krawczyk reviewed budget transfers.

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

**GENERAL FUND**

**FROM:**

1010-0414	TRUSTEES-MAT/SUPP	\$ 50.00
1110-0456	COURT-POSTAGE	\$ 1,000.00
1990-0500	CONTINGENT ACCOUNT	\$ 50,000.00
1325-0414	TREASURY-MAT/SUP	\$ 250.00

1325-0416	TREASURY-PRINTING	\$ 500.00
1355-0465	ASSESSOR-POSTAGE	\$ 250.00
1410-0419	CLERK-MAIN&REPAIRS	\$ 7,500.00
1640-0420	GARAGE-MAIN&REPAIR	\$ 500.00
3620-0415	BUILDING-FEES FOR SVCS	\$ 2,000.00
3620-0416	BUILDING-PRINTING	\$ 2,000.00
5110-0414	STREET-MAT&SUPP	\$ 4,500.00
5142-0428	SNOW-EQUPTMENT RENTAL	\$ 25,000.00
7110-0200	PARKS-EQUIP	\$ 2,500.00
7180-0414	POOL-MAT&SUPP	\$ 500.00
8015-0418	ARB-PUBLISHING	\$ 2,000.00

## TO:

1010-0465	TRUSTEES-CONF EXP	\$ 50.00
1110-0414	COURT-MAT&SUPP	\$ 1,000.00
1320-0415	AUDITOR-FEE SVCS	\$ 500.00
1325-0101	TREASURY-OVERTIME	\$ 500.00
1325-0200	TREASURY-EQUIP	\$ 250.00
1355-0200	ASSESSOR-EQUIP	\$ 250.00
1410-0414	CLERK-MAT&SUPP	\$ 1,000.00
1410-0415	CLERK-FEE SVCS	\$ 500.00
1410-0432	CLERK-COMP SVCS	\$ 6,000.00
1640-0450	DPW-MISC	\$ 500.00
1980-0494	COMP ABS-RETIRE	\$18,000.00
3020-0435	PUBLIC SAF-ALARM MAIN	\$ 1,500.00
3620-0414	BUILDING-MAT&SUPP	\$ 4,000.00
5110-0426	STREET-SIGNS	\$ 2,000.00
5110-0450	STREET-MISC	\$ 2,500.00
7110-0419	PARKS-MAIN&REPAIRS	\$ 2,500.00
7180-0420	POOL-MAIN&REPAIRS	\$30,000.00
7180-0450	POOL-MISC	\$ 500.00
8020-0418	PLANNING-PUBLISHING	\$ 2,000.00
5142-0414	SNOW-MAT&SUPP	\$25,000.00

## SEWER

## FROM:

005-1990-0500	CONTINGENT ACCT	\$52,500.00
005-1440-0415	ENGINEER-FEES	\$27,750.00

Village Treasurer Krawczyk asked the Board to approve a pay rate increase.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to increase the hourly rate for Teresa Riley to \$31.52 as of April 13, 2021.

Village Treasurer Krawczyk reviewed the cash balances as of March 31, 2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$6,553,377.84
Trust & Agency	\$ 229,240.67
Sewer Fund	\$1,726,524.84
BID Fund	\$ 84,490.41
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	\$8,593,633.76

Mayor Pontieri indicated that he was sure that many on the Board and in the community had heard about the incident which had occurred this past weekend near the intersection of South Ocean Avenue and Brook Street. He noted that a police officer attempting to pull over an individual who was driving erratically had almost been killed. His understanding of the situation was that the individual that the police officer attempted to pull over was driving erratically and took off at a high rate of speed after the attempt was made to pull him over. During the pursuit down South Ocean Avenue, that car hit another vehicle coming out of Brook Street which eventually resulted in a physical altercation between the police officer and the driver of the vehicle during which time

the officer was stabbed in the leg. Nearby resident, Guillermo Sandoval, and a retired New York City Police detective, Frank Recupero of Middle Island, came to the assistance of the police officer. The skills that both men had, Mr. Sandoval had served as a Marine in Iraq and Mr. Recupero had served in the New York City Police Department, provided them with the ability to take immediate action and save the officer's life. Mr. Sandoval retrieved a belt from his home immediately to form a tourniquet on the officer's leg since he had been stabbed in the femoral artery, and Mr., Recupero apprehended the perpetrator. Both gentlemen had experience that most did not have, and without them being there, the officer may have died. Though neither were present, Mayor Pontieri indicated that he had proclamations for both men and proceeded to read them. He thanked both men for their courage and service to the community. Mr. Sandoval then appeared at the meeting. Mayor Pontieri thanked Mr. Sandoval for all he had done and noted that both he and Mr. Recupero had been in the right place at the right time. Mr. Sandoval thanked the Mayor and Board for their recognition. He also noted that without Mr. Recupero's assistance, the situation would have been much worse. Mr. Sandoval then recounted what had occurred that night. Mayor Pontieri stated that it sounded like a terrible situation and thanks to the actions of himself and the other gentleman, the officer was able to survive that night. He then inquired as to how much time Mr. Sandoval had served in the Marines. Mr. Sandoval stated that he had served six years and had been lucky enough to only do one tour in Iraq. Mayor Pontieri observed that his son had served in the Army in a medical unit, and he had performed pretty close to minor surgery in that capacity. Mr. Sandoval indicated that one of the biggest things instilled by the Marines was to not think twice in difficult situations but just to move ahead. He noted that a few hours earlier he had just finished planting in front of his house and then it got torn up. Mr. Sandoval then expressed hope that the other gentleman whose car had been hit in the accident was okay. He had been unable to check on him more carefully due to the help the officer needed. Mayor Pontieri again thanked him for his selfless assistance and presented him with his proclamation.

Mayor Pontieri stated that the Village was lucky to have residents like Mr. Sandoval in this community. The retired police officer who stopped to help had also saved the officer by becoming involved in mortal combat with the suspect who still had the knife at the time of his involvement and was still resisting. He hoped to be able to get in touch with Mr. Recupero shortly in order to award him with his proclamation.

Mayor Pontieri then read through a letter he had received from the Superintendent of Patchogue-Medford School discussing the possibility of closing Main Street so the senior prom could be held there. He noted that the district had been having ongoing conversations with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure that this event could be held appropriately. The superintendent requested that the Village consider closing Main Street on June 21<sup>st</sup> between 4:00 pm. and 12:00 a.m. for the Patchogue-Medford School District's senior prom. The actual event would be held from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with the extra hours used for set up and break down. Mayor Pontieri indicated that he believed that this would be a nice idea and presented the Village with a unique opportunity. He noted that Deputy Mayor Krieger had been in some of the meetings as well. The principal of the High School had told him that the school was very excited about this event, and the people in the community were excited as well. Trustee Felice indicated that he believed there was a lot of buzz in the community about it, and other school districts had also been having discussions about how they could do similar events. Deputy Mayor Krieger stated the Theatre would be participating too, especially with providing restrooms. The Chamber was also involved. It should be a special event.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for Main Street to be closed from Maple Avenue to Ocean Avenue from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on June 21<sup>st</sup> for the Patchogue-Medford High School's Senior Prom to be held with rain dates of June 22, 23, 28, or 29.

Mayor Pontieri stated that he would keep the public informed as the planning process proceeded. He indicated that this should be a fun event.

Trustee Brinkman stated that Dennis Smith had texted her that he was experiencing some audio and video problems and would let her know if he was able to resolve them.

Trustee Brinkman stated that David Kennedy from the Chamber of Commerce was not in attendance.

Deputy Mayor Krieger reviewed the Public Safety report by noting that he had received a lot of reports from his neighborhood of cars being broken into. This appeared to be becoming more frequent in his neighborhood, but he was not sure if it was occurring anywhere else. He asked that anyone who had this happen to them to please call the police. Though many times people thought this was not a big deal, it was a crime. The police needed to be called so that a record of the incident could be put on file. Deputy Mayor Krieger also stressed that people should be careful and lock their cars. Most of those breaking into cars were not breaking windows but just opening unlocked doors.

Mayor Pontieri indicated he had received a call from the Chief of the Ambulance Co. thanking the public safety officers who had assisted at the scene on Saturday. There had understandably been a lot of chaos at the scene, and the Suffolk County Police had been a bit overwhelmed. The Village's public safety officers had worked with them to keep everyone safe. This had been a team effort. Deputy Mayor Krieger noted that public safety officers were first on the scene a lot of the time. He stated that they performed a great service to the Village, and he appreciated the work they did.

Deputy Mayor Krieger then commented on the code enforcement responsibilities of public safety officers. He noted that a neighbor had recently reported some suspicious digging at a nearby property. Investigation had revealed that digging was being done close to the foundation, and a report was filed with the Building Inspector who then issued a stop work order on the project. Deputy Mayor Krieger reminded everyone not to wait to call him and to contact him when they saw something of concern while it was happening so immediate action could be taken. He thanked the Building Department for taking quick action with regard to the digging issue and putting a stop work order in place.

Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that the Theatre board would be meeting again this week to discuss reopening which should hopefully be occurring within a month or so. They were still waiting for direction from the governor before final plans could be made. He noted that the programming staff were hard at work to get ideas for events. Hopefully, all went well and the Theatre could reopen soon. Deputy Mayor Krieger invited everyone on the Board to come to the first show. Trustee Felice stated that he was looking forward to it. Deputy Mayor Krieger indicated that they would still need people to attend shows, but there was a lot going on. The executive director was working hard to be ready to go and was also working on some new ideas like video streaming. He again expressed hope that the Theatre would be opened soon and that all could attend the first show.

Dennis Smith reviewed the BID and special projects report. He thanked Mr. Sandoval and Mr. Recuperero for their quick actions. Mr. Smith then congratulated Trustee McHeffey on his appointment to the Board and personally welcomed him on behalf of the BID Board of Directors. He stated that he was looking forward to working with him and congratulated Village Clerk Devlin for officially taking over that position and wished her luck going forward. Mr. Smith indicated that the BID Board would be holding their regular monthly meeting the next day and part of their discussion would concern the annual meeting scheduled to be held June 8, 2021. There would be an election of officers at that meeting, but since no new candidates had expressed interest in those positions, the BID Board would remain the same. He felt that they were all doing a great job and worked well together. Mr. Smith indicated that he was working on garden maintenance with Highway Superintendent Dean and the DPW staff to get the Village's green areas in order for the summer season. By early May, the BID would take over those duties with the assistance of DPW staff to get through summer. He indicated that a resolution would be requested later in the meeting to open the Sunday Market on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with six to eight vendors. This was earlier than it usually started, but a few vendors had greenhouses going and wanted to start earlier this year at the market. The regular opening of the market would occur on June 6<sup>th</sup> with the normal number of vendors in attendance. Mr. Smith continued by noting the Riverfront Committee would be launching a huge promotional campaign within the next couple of weeks for the summer season. He indicated the BID provided stipends to various organizations and would be supplying the Riverfront Committee with \$7,500 to spend on promotional material. Mr. Smith stated that he had met with that committee this morning and informed them that those funds needed to be spent by May 31<sup>st</sup> since that was the end of the BID's fiscal year. This campaign would be similar to the Main Street campaign from the fall with focus on social media. He indicated that a drone had been used to get some nice video footage of the river. Hopefully, the campaign would continue throughout the summer. The BID supported this initiative and would appropriate \$7,500 in the new fiscal year.

beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> to continue the campaign. Hopefully, this would provide a very successful summer season which was needed after last year. Mr. Smith indicated that ten to twelve years ago, the BID had funded the installation of two kiosk signs, one at the railroad station and the other at the ferry terminal. These were looking a bit tattered now, and it was on the BID's agenda to refresh these kiosks and put a new schematic on them to look better for those visiting the community this summer. It would help to put the Village's best foot forward for visitors.

Trustee Keyes offered another official welcome to Trustee McHeffey for his first regular Board meeting. He also echoed the condolences offered to the Reese family. Trustee Keyes indicated that Mr. Reese had dedicated a lot of time in service to the Village, and his family had also been instrumental to the Village's success.

Trustee Keyes then stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Bunny Run had been held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. It had been a spectacular event, and the kids who attended had a ball. He had brought a couple of his grandkids, and they had a wonderful time. Trustee Keyes thanked all the volunteers at the event, especially Joanne and Emily from the Treasurer's Office, who came when Parks Director Giustizia had requested for help. Mayor Pontieri thanked all of the volunteers for their help as well. Trustee Keyes noted that Earth Day was on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He encouraged everyone to observe a car free day on that date and walk as much as possible; especially those who lived in the Village, worked at Village Hall, and were able to walk or ride their bikes to work. Trustee Keyes indicated that the PEP Committee, in conjunction with Save the Great South Bay, had organized a neighborhood clean-up for April 25<sup>th</sup>. Parks Director Giustizia had originally scheduled a clean-up for Shorefront Park on April 24<sup>th</sup> but had decided to work together with the other group for one large community clean-up event on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It would begin at 9:00 a.m. at 380 Bay Avenue. Trustee Keyes encouraged everyone, including the Mayor, to attend and expressed his appreciation for the partnership between PEP and the Parks Department.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve hiring dock staff.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to hire Robert Dono, Nicholas Constantino, Joseph Abate, and Nicholas Christoforo as dock staff at \$13 per hour starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Keyes asked the Board to approve use of Shorefront Park.

Upon a motion by Trustee Keyes, seconded by Trustee McHeffey, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the EOC of Suffolk Women's Veterans to hold their 5K 4 Fighters race at Shorefront Park on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Trustee Felice expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the two heroic gentleman who stepped up and probably saved the officer's life. Thank goodness they were there to deal with that situation.

Trustee Felice indicated that DPW staff were still doing spring cleaning in the flower beds throughout the community and preparing the Village for the summer season. He reminded everyone that the Recycling Center was free for residents each Saturday in April for all of those who were cleaning out their yards or homes. Trustee Felice also noted that DPW staff were doing an excellent job patching potholes throughout the Village.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to approve an Out-of-District sewer connection.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Out-of-District sewer connection for Mercy Center Ministries at 296 River Avenue and to waive all Key Money sewer charges.

Mayor Pontieri noted that this was a residential use.

Trustee Felice asked the Board to ratify prior approval to hire Seasonal DPW workers.

Upon a motion by Trustee Felice, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board ratified prior approval to hire James Vocht and Nicholas Giammarella as Seasonal DPW workers at \$15 per hour starting April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Ferb complimented the Mayor for all of the efforts being made to control spending in the Village. He especially appreciated the reduction in cost for adding parking spaces to the courthouse parking lot rather than constructing a parking garage. This would save millions of dollars.

Trustee Ferb asked that Board to approve the Sunday Farmers and Artisan Craft Market.

Upon a motion by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Felice, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval for the Sunday Farmers and Artisan Craft Market to operate at the eastern end of the LIRR station parking lot from Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, October 31, 2021. All existing COVID 19 protocols would be followed.

Village Clerk Devlin noted that Trustee Brinkman's report should have been listed prior to Trustee McHeffey's on the agenda and apologized for not making that change. Trustee Brinkman noted that it was an arduous process to make corrections to the Board agenda utilizing the exiting NOVIS agenda program. She noted that once the move was made to Civics Plus, the redesigned web site would be much more interactive for Village staff and the public.

Trustee Brinkman indicated that the Planning and Zoning Boards were meeting in person in the Board room with the attendees participating virtually on Zoom now. She noted that she was training an individual to handle those meetings.

Trustee Brinkman then asked the Board to approve an appointment to the Zoning Board.

Upon a motion by Trustee Brinkman, seconded by Trustee Ferb, and unanimously carried, the Board granted approval to appoint Kristin Macaulay as Alternate for the Zoning Board from 2021-2022.

Trustee McHeffey thanked everyone for their kind words of welcome to the Board, including those he had received from the community. He indicated that he was looking forward to working with everyone.

Trustee McHeffey noted that he had met a lot of the Village's staff, including the Building and Housing Department staff, and he was looking forward to working with all of them.

Trustee McHeffey then indicated that the Patchogue Arts Council would be running a new pop up exhibit from April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup> called, *It Begins with a B(ee)*. This exhibit would represent members of the Long Island Beekeepers Club through vibrantly painted portraits which shared their stories, trials, and tribulations through beekeeping. Trustee McHeffey also noted that the Arts Council was currently seeking two artists, one for an outdoor sculptor and one for a mural artist. The deadline to apply for either of these positions was May 1<sup>st</sup>, and he encouraged any interested artist to visit the Arts Council web site for additional information.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that the CDA had met on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The CDA was currently improving the handicapped ramp located behind Village Hall. This project was moving along nicely. He noted that the CDA budget for fiscal year 2021 had been finalized and submitted. Exciting sidewalk and crosswalk improvements would be coming up shortly. Trustee McHeffey noted that the next CDA meeting would be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Audit and Governance Committee would be meeting at that time as well. He indicated that he was not sure if that meeting would be held at Village Hall. Trustee Brinkman stated that plans were moving along to bring the CDA meetings back into Village Hall. She was presently training Theresa Riley to run those meetings via Zoom from Village Hall.

Trustee McHeffey continued by noting that the Village Clerk and various Department heads had met to put together a reopening policy for Village Hall. He indicated that Village Hall had been closed to the public since March of 2020. The reopening policy would commence on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Trustee McHeffey reviewed the policy as follows:

- Departments would be limited to one visitor at a time;
- Waiting area in the hall would be restricted to one seat available for every three;

- Visitors may leave their phone numbers and wait in the car to be called if the waiting area was full;
- Visitors must enter and exit from the front door which would have an attendant stationed at all times;
- Visitors must sign-in and out;
- Individuals needing handicapped access would be accommodated by Village Hall staff (new ramp would be completed within 2 weeks and this would be the only exception to the front door only policy)
- There would be a tag notification system installed on the wall near the front door which would indicate whether a department had a visitor or not;
- Those departments which would be receiving visitors were the Clerk, CDA/Tax Department (treated as one due to close proximity to each other), Building Dept and Court;
- CDA was currently accepting visitors by appointment only;
- Public Meetings remained off limits to visitors;
- Planning and Zoning Board meetings would permit applicants to attend in person with appropriate measures to ensure social distancing.

Trustee McHeffey indicated that it was exciting news that the public would once again be able to visit Village Hall, and the Village's staff could interact with the public once again. He thanked all involved with the development of this policy.

Mayor Pontieri thanked Village Clerk Devlin and Deputy Village Clerk Braille for putting this policy together. He noted that they had met with representatives of the Accounting Department, Building Department, and CDA to develop this policy; and he and the Board had reviewed and approved the policy as well. Comments had been received and appropriate changes made as the policy was developed, so he felt that this had been thoroughly vetted and should work well.

Mayor Pontieri inquired if anyone wished to speak at tonight's meeting. Deputy Village Clerk Braille 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 viewed the meeting online.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Ferb, seconded by Trustee Keyes, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

vp

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