

**VILLAGE OF SHOREHAM
BOX 389
SHOREHAM, NEW YORK 11786**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF SHOREHAM HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM ON APRIL 14, 2020 AT 7:30 O’CLOCK PM.

PRESENT:

Brian C. Vail	MAYOR
Sherry Neff	TRUSTEE
Mariann Coogan	TRUSTEE
Laura Baisch	TRUSTEE
Edward Brickley	TRUSTEE
Cathy Donahue Spier	TREASURER
Laura Spillane	CLERK/DEPUTY TREASURER
Cathy Silverstein	CLERK’S ASSISTANT

Commissioners, Officials, and Residents present: Brian Adams, Neil Baggett & Nancy Delagi, Lee Chinalai, Laura & John DeTemple, Mimi & Joe Falco, Larry Kogel, John & Laura Miller, David Madigan, and Rob Minarik.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Brian Vail opened the Regular meeting at 7:33 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prior to making his opening comments, Mayor Vail asked if there were any comments from residents.

COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS:

Clerk Laura Spillane reported on voicemail and email messages received since the Village Hall was closed mid-March due to COVID-19. A Rocky Point resident said his neighbor was burying garbage with a bulldozer on our western shared border. Judy Buyar reminds residents to clean up stacked wood, branches, etc. as they can become a fire hazard when the weather gets warm. A few residents called regarding the refuse pick-up or lack thereof. A resident called to report people playing doubles tennis. John Weiss informed us the beach trampoline is broken and will need to be replaced. A handful of residents called to report on trees they were worried about or to ask about the trees that were cut down bordering the western side of the parking lot.

Mayor Vail asked Trustee Laura Baisch and Dr. Joe Falco to give a COVID-19 update.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEE LAURA BAISCH

COVID-19 Update: Laura Baisch stated that in this unprecedented time of uncertainty we want the Village to know as a Board we are doing all we can to insure the health and safety of our residents. We participate in a daily conference call with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. This daily call includes all Suffolk County mayors, trustees, police commissioners, and county staff. The meeting begins with medical reports and the daily numbers of those who have tested positive for Covid-19. Every day, we go over the different needs of the towns and Villages throughout Suffolk County. Steve Bellone and his staff are in communication with Albany every day, representing the needs of our County.

On March 12th, County Executive Bellone declared a state of emergency in Suffolk County after 14 new patients tested positive for the coronavirus. On March 13, Governor Cuomo reported that NY State had the highest number of cases in the US, with 421 positive cases. That number has drastically changed in a month and the governor's guidance has continued to change as well. In March he was recommending social distancing and today social distancing is the law in New York, with the Executive Order, "New York Pause".

On April 10th, Trustee Coogan, Roxanne Grunheid, our Commissioner of Code enforcement, and I participated in a telephone call-in with the Suffolk County Police Commissioner, Chief Cameron, and Town and Village officials throughout Suffolk. The topic was Public Safety and Enforcement of the NY State Executive Orders for social distancing, (keeping six feet apart), essential v. non-essential workers, and everything from parks, playgrounds, to golf courses and construction. The most important message was that we (towns & villages) are stronger working together, and that Public Safety is #1. We need to educate our residents regarding the Executive Order and ask for voluntary compliance, but violation of the executive order can result in a fine of \$1,000.00

As a Village, we have closed most of our facilities. We don't want to close the beach, but social distancing (keeping six feet apart) must be enforced to flatten the curve and stop the spread of this virus.

The big question now is how do we know when we can open things back up? Governor Cuomo and County Executive Steve Bellone are looking at the data from all countries impacted by this virus. We don't want to have a rebound. Gov. Cuomo has joined with six other adjacent state governors to form a state task force which includes health professionals and economists. Their common purpose is to determine when it will be safe to get things going again. Right now we are on pause. May 15 is being considered as a potential date for us to reopen the Village Hall, but we will revisit that idea as we get closer to that time.

Dr. Joe Falco stated the important thing now is where we are in terms of the epidemic. It looks like it's leveling off. New cases are down to around 800 in the last few days. The use of ventilators has leveled off also. We're looking at models as to what will happen next. The one we use at BNL is IHME (covid19healthdata.org) so May 15 sounds reasonable, but we may still have new patients by May 1st. We're a social Village, but as painful as it is we've had to do

these things to stay safe. You really can't have public gatherings of any sort yet, as hard as that is. We are all doing the right thing by social distancing and that's good.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Vail thanked Trustee Laura Baisch and Dr. Falco for their informative reports.

Trustee Laura Baisch added Suffolk County and NYS Departments of Health are suggesting cloth covering face masks should be worn. All essential employees are now mandated to wear face masks beginning 8pm tomorrow. Stony Brook University Hospital is starting a program of serum testing and is looking for people who have tested positive for Covid-19. The program is just like the one at Mt. Sinai Hospital in the city.

Dr. Falco added that cloth face coverings mutually protect us from each other as well as frequent hand washing and social distancing because any of us can potentially be infected without knowing we have the virus. Trustee Mariann Coogan asked if someone tests positive, are they informed as to how long they are infectious and should quarantine. Dr. Falco answered that the protocol is still evolving, but that the Health Departments (New York and Suffolk County) do not require retesting to release a COVID positive patient from quarantine in accordance with CDC guidelines. If no follow-up testing is performed, they can be released from quarantine after at least seven days if they are fever-free for three days and have significant improvement in symptoms. Some individuals have positive follow-up virus tests beyond seven days, but it is not known whether these individuals are still infectious if their symptoms have resolved. We thought people were infectious seven days from the onset, but a person could still be shedding the virus a week after that. You may still be infectious even though it seems like the disease has remitted.

David Madigan brought up the statistics of the communities to the east and west of the Village. Shoreham Village only had one known positive test while Wading River was in the forties and Rocky Point in the 70's or more. He observed a lot of folks he doesn't recognize are walking in the Village without protective masks and we need to be mindful of the neighborhoods on either side of us.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS / CLERK/TREASURER REPORT

Minutes: Approval of March 10, 2020 Board meeting minutes.

Approved
(Neff - Brickley 5-0)

Grievance Day April 25, 2020: Grievance Day cannot be postponed. The Grievance forms are on the website.

Village Election Update: Nominating petitions are currently suspended as part of the Governor's Executive Order. Candidates who are up for re-election will keep their posts until a new election date is set. Mayor Vail stated May elections have been pushed back until June and he will find

out if we can vote by mail. Trustee Coogan asked if we can obtain signatures by email. Mayor Vail will look into that.

Financials and Approval of Expenditures:

Operating Fund

March 20th payroll and taxes – \$4,807.93

April 3rd payroll and taxes – \$5,158.07

Utilities - \$1,179.41

Bills received since last board meeting \$ 21,146.08

BP Gas - \$89.97

Total: \$32,381.54

Capital Fund - 0

Approved

(Coogan - Neff 5-0)

Winters Brothers Refuse Contract: Winters Bros. contacted the Village and stated they are raising their rates from \$21 to \$24 per household beginning in May. This is a \$612 increase per month. The Village attorney stated that there was no effective recourse for the Village. However, this rate is less the second lowest bid received during the 2018 bidding process.

Bank Status Report: Mayor Vail stated we are transitioning from HSBC (which has closed its nearest office in Miller Place) to Bridgehampton National Bank which has an office in Wading River.

Notice from Village Assessor: Village Assessor Leroy Barnes, Jr. has submitted a letter stating that, due to personal commitments, he will not be able to accept another appointment as Assessor after his term expires on June 30, 2020.

Fire Suppression Proposal: After testing the Village Hall fire suppression system, the vendor submitted a \$1,700 proposal to replace signage and some sprinkler heads. This work will be scheduled shortly.

Personnel Additions:

Trustee Mariann Coogan stated we will be hiring two additional Code Enforcement officers for the summer at the rate of \$20.00 per hour. The new hires are George Romano, who has worked for us previously, and Chris Vaughn who is a retired NYC police detective who also works in Port Jefferson.

Resolution to Authorize the hiring of two additional Code Officers:

Whereas the Board of Trustees of the Village of Shoreham have identified a need to hire additional code officers to address the increased scheduling needs created by pandemic COVID 19; and,

Whereas the Board of Trustees of the Village of Shoreham have reviewed the background and training of two prospective officers, George Romano who has been previously employed as a code officer by the Village of Shoreham, and Chris Vaughn, who is a retired New York City police detective and currently employed as a code officer in the Village of Port Jefferson, and found that they possess the necessary training to fulfill their duties as Shoreham Village code officers;

Therefore, Let it be Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the hiring of George Romano and Chris Vaughn as Village code officers to be paid at a rate of \$20 per hour.

Approved
(5-0 Coogan – Neff)

Public Works Commissioner Larry Kogel asked whether we are going forward with the proposal from Louis McLean and Assoc. to update the Village storm water drain inventory mapping. Mayor Vail responded we haven't had time to discuss it and we will have to postpone it until the May meeting. Trustee Coogan inquired whether they are considered essential workers. Larry Kogel explained that the engineers work remotely from their homes and access data from their main office. Trustee Coogan clarified she meant the actual workers who clean our street drains. Mayor Vail responded that S & S does our drain cleaning as needed and a separate firm cleans out the basins (which was done last fall).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REPORT FROM TRUSTEE SHERRY NEFF:

Landscape Update: Trustee Sherry Neff reported that Longmeadow has started its spring work and has mulched the garden beds by the Village hall. Trustee Neff will reach out to the Shoreham Village Garden Club to ask if they will continue maintaining the herb garden as they did last year. She then addressed resident concern about the three big Norway Maples that were taken down.

Trustee Neff explained the tree project was months in the making and apologized for not speaking about it at a prior meeting. The decision to cut trees was made after consultations with Long Island Invasive Species Management and the NYS Forestry Service. Included in the tree removal project were trees cited as dangerous, trees that could potentially damage the new curbs, and certain invasive Norway Maples (most of which were dangerous.). Our Parks Commissioner kept the three non-native trees on the west side of the parking lot alive a long time, but two of them were hollow and had become dangerous. The third was also old, and as these trees tend to become brittle and split, and they release toxins that prevent growth of other plants, it was removed so that it would not interfere with the growth of replacement trees. The three trees that

were removed adjacent to the parking lot will be replaced with three native trees and a memorial tree donated by the Shoreham Country Club will also be planted in honor of Colleen Piscak.

After Trustee Neff's report, resident Lee Chinalai thanked everyone on the Board for taking care of removing the precarious limb hanging over their driveway and for removing a dangerous tree by the sump.

Resident David Madigan noted that spider cracks are already appearing in the new pavement. He recalled when he was growing up in the Village the roads were concrete and were tarred every year to prevent cracks. He said the new spider cracks will become big problems next winter and a number of the drains seem pretty full too.

Mayor Vail thanked Trustee Neff for her report and thanked the residents for their comments.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEE MARIANN COOGAN:

Code Enforcement Update: Trustee Coogan reported that she was on the Saturday conference call that Trustee Laura Baisch mentioned and that Code Commissioner Roxane Gruenheid also participated in the discussion of how to enforce social distancing. The main point Trustee Coogan wanted to impress upon residents is that if you see something that makes you uncomfortable, do not call our code enforcement officers. Call the police on the non-emergency line: 631-852-COPS. You can also call the non-emergency 311 number. Our code officers cannot enforce social distancing. They can remind people, but they cannot issue a summons. However, police officers need to see the infraction with their own eyes in order to issue a summons. The current ticket for not obeying social distancing guidelines is \$1,000. Our code enforcement officers have been asked to do more on-foot patrolling between the Village hall, beach area and ball field since so many more people, including children, teenagers, and non-residents, are walking around the roads and grounds. Code officers can remind people to maintain social distancing and call the police if necessary.

Parking Update: In addition to their other responsibilities, our code officers will be issuing parking tickets to any vehicles that do not have a green Shoreham parking sticker affixed or a Visitor's pass on their dashboard. An email went out to all residents last week explaining that even though the Village Clerk's office is closed to the public, we are monitoring email and telephone messages and can mail a parking sticker to you when you email a copy of your vehicle registration (proof that the vehicle has a Shoreham Village address) to Clerk Laura Spillane at lspillane@shorehamvillage.org.

Access to Village Property Update: Trustee Coogan explained that due to social distancing law, platform tennis is closed and singles, not doubles, tennis is allowed. The ballfield is open but social distancing has to be observed. The same is true for the beach and the playground. Residents are adhering to social distancing pretty well.

Mayor Vail stated that there is only limited parking access for those who have difficulty walking and/or have handicapped parking permits. He will discuss with the Board the possibility of

having certain hours for these residents to use the parking lot with the help of code enforcement opening the gate for those residents with handicapped tags. His goal is to start this in May.

Nancy Delagi said that there have been people down at the beach flying loud obnoxious drones and asked whether our code officers or the police should be called. She is concerned that drones present a privacy issue. Trustee Coogan responded that drones are prohibited in other places but we do not have it in our codes yet and maybe it is time for the BOT to discuss a drone policy. She reiterated that our code officers can only enforce our written codes. For example, dogs are prohibited from the beach in the summer months, but dog-walking on the beach is permitted in the off-seasons. David Madigan mentioned we should take into account that roofers and realtors use drones for commercial purposes.

Mayor Vail announced that we will have code officers on duty seven days a week from now on. We had an incident last Saturday where two men started a fire on the beach close to the bluff and that resulted in our code officer calling the police to intervene.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEE EDWARD BRICKLEY:

Gate Update: Trustee Ed Brickley reported that at the last meeting he stated the gate was fully functional, but then he found additional malfunctions. But he is repeating it now: the gate is fully functional. There is a plastic gate across the front of it to keep the parking lot closed, but the gate has a circuit that responds to sirens so those vehicles can always get through.

Update on Outdoor Sprinklers: Trustee Brickley reported that he took a tour of the ballfield, ball courts, and the area around the building with MVP, the sprinkler company (a subcontractor of S & S Landscaping), and they are “very competent guys.” They replaced 44 rotating heads around the ballfield and the building. Heads sometimes stop rotating because they are stuck or leaking or malfunctioning. Thirteen mist heads were also replaced and 6 in-ground leaks were found. All those problems were fixed. The basement leak last year was caused by a leaking pressure reducing valve and it will be replaced. The total cost for this project is just under \$3,000. Trustee Brickley stated he is “very satisfied” with the work MVP did. The plan is to turn the sprinkler system on in late May.

Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Trustee Brickley reported that he and Treasurer Cathy Spier had a 1:00pm conference call scheduled with Chris Huch from Suffolk County earlier today (April 14) but it did not take place. They will follow up later this week. All of our paperwork is in regarding the DEC report and storm water management. We are waiting for the OK that Suffolk County is satisfied with our submission.

REPORT FROM MAYOR BRIAN VAIL:

Mayor Vail stated our goal is to leave the tax rate the same for the next fiscal year even though we will be collecting less money with the fire district reduction. Due to Covid-19, rental revenues from the building may be lower and we may not receive some state monies we anticipated. Our big project for next year is the final phase of the road work which has already

been planned for. We are not planning any additional capital expenses until we have a better understanding of the financial impact the virus will have.

Review Draft Budget: Mayor Vail stated this evening we are going to review Operating Expenses. Those are items with a life of one year or less. Capital Expenses will be discussed at the May meeting. Those are expenses we assume for longer than a year. Mayor Vail then spent quite a bit of time reviewing the draft budget for operating expenses. At the end he asked if there were any questions. There were none. A copy of the draft is attached to these minutes.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Brian Adams asked if anyone knew why PSEG was installing new meters. Mayor Vail and Trustee Coogan briefly commented on the new smart meters.

David Madigan questioned if the budget would go up despite the reduction in fire district cost. Mayor Vail answered we will try to keep it flat. The new cost will be phased in over two years because our fiscal year starts in the middle of their fiscal year.

Larry Kogel inquired whether our expenditures kept to our current budget or were we running over. Mayor Vail replied that before the pandemic we were under the budget due to no significant snow removal costs this winter, less security on duty, the \$55,000 reimbursement for the lift, and not much capital construction. The only increase currently has been additional hours for code enforcement due to the impact of the virus keeping everyone at home and taking strolls around the Village and to the beach. However, Mayor Vail believes we will still be in good shape by July's end of this fiscal year. He noted that seven years ago we had 600K in reserves and we are still above 300K. Our next major item expense will be to replace the building's windows and doors and to replace the deck's flooring and railings.

Nancy Delagi asked about the residents who have tested positive for Covid-19. For quite a while there was only one, but now there are three. She wondered if they were all in the same household.

Dr. Joe Falco responded we have to balance public health concerns with protection of residents' privacy. We are all potentially sources of the virus, but the names of those who tested positive are not for publication. We must assume our neighbors will act responsibly. We shouldn't be creating new "lepers."

Nancy Delagi clarified that she wasn't seeking the names of the people, just whether or not they were in the same household or whether the virus was spreading to separate households, which is more worrisome.

Neil Baggett said the upside is we hope they all get well and then we will hear about it. Dr. Joe Falco added that there have been COVID cases among BNL employees, but fortunately all have recovered or are recovering.

Trustee Laura Baisch reminded everyone to please complete their census forms as soon as possible even though the reply time has been extended. Mayor Vail admitted he hadn't gotten to it yet himself. Joe Falco added that the Village was undercounted by 100 in the year 2000 so every response makes a difference. Someone then suggested perhaps Clerk Laura could send a reminder email to all.

Neil Baggett thanked Mayor Vail and the Board of Trustees for all they are doing.

MAYOR'S CONCLUDING REMARKS: Mayor Vail expressed gratitude to everyone in attendance noting it has been an exhausting month and everyone has been working extremely hard. He specifically mentioned his appreciation to Trustee Laura Baisch for Covid-19 updates and thanked Nancy for her kind note, concluding we have more hard work ahead but we will get through this.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: 9:10 PM

Approved
Neff-Coogan (5-0)

Next meeting scheduled Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:30 pm.

Submitted,
Cathy Silverstein, Village Clerk's Assistant