

**VILLAGE OF EAST HAMPTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIDEO CONFERENCE WORK SESSION & SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
APRIL 2, 2020 MEETING, AT 11:00 A.M.**

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.2 (COVID19 Pandemic) meeting was held via video conference online and published by Local TV, Inc. (Channel 20/22 LTV – public access) Call in was available.

Mayor Richard T. Lawler: Good Morning everyone. Welcome to our first ever tele-conference Village Board Work Session. So, I think we'll all get through this alright. We might have a few glitches along the way, but I hope you'll understand and we'll get through this together. First, I'd like to do a roll call, just to make sure everyone is here:

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| R. Lawler: | Barbara Borsack? | B. Borsack: | I'm here. |
| R. Lawler: | Arthur Graham – are you on? | A. Graham: | Yes |
| R. Lawler: | Rose Brown – are you on? | R. Brown: | Yes |
| R. Lawler: | Becky Hansen – are you on? | B. Hansen: | Yes |
| R. Lawler: | June Lester – are you on? | J. Lester: | Yes |
| R. Lawler: | Beth Baldwin – are you on? | B. Baldwin: | Yes |
| R. Lawler: | Chief Tracey – are you on? | Chief Tracey: | Yes |

R. Lawler: Thank you. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

R. Lawler: Just to remind everybody, if you're not speaking please mute your microphone, it will help the situation. I understand Hugh King is not here this morning, but Barbara has a message from him, I believe –

B. Borsack: I do. Because he isn't here, he wanted to make sure everybody went to the LTV website and pulled up the Historic Society's Winter Lecture Series of 2018, and it was on the Flu Epidemic of 1918, and it was done by Hillary Malecki – Hillary Osborn Malecki. It was a great lecture, and it was fascinating, especially in lieu of what we're going through right now. He wanted everyone to make sure they went to the LTV website – it was actually on LTV last night. I think they are showing it regularly, but if not, they can pull it up and watch it on their computers at home.

R. Lawler: Thank you very much for that. I just want to remind everybody that you'll have an opportunity to speak, that's tuned in and would like to speak, we have a phone number that's going to be broadcast along the bottom of our screen and that call-in number will be 351-888-6331. Just to repeat: that number is 351-888-6331.

COVID 19 UPDATE

R. Lawler: So, first thing on the agenda – I just want to give an update on the situation with the Corona Virus. These are the latest figures as of yesterday afternoon, but they are changing on an hourly basis. I won't have the new numbers until later this afternoon, but again, as of yesterday afternoon: The total number of positives for COVID 19 in Suffolk County is 7,605. Unfortunately, 69 of those were deaths. Currently 897 people are hospitalized throughout the County. East Hampton Town now has 26. East Hampton Village still has 4, but these numbers are changing almost hourly. I'm not sure if the number for Village is accurate until it's confirmed this afternoon.

Something new I can announce: They have opened a mobile test site in Riverhead. It is privately run. It is not state run. So, I am told, that in order to avail yourself of this test site you have to have health insurance, but it is run by the Riverhead Pro Health Facility. It's by appointment only. It's at 1149 Old Country Road in Riverhead. It's open from 8 am to 5 pm, 7 days a week. If you call 1-516-874-0411 they will triage you over the phone and if you meet the criteria you will be given an appointment to go in.

I also want to remind everyone that the state testing site at Stony Brook is still open. That's at Stony Brook Campus South Lot P and the telephone number for that is 888-364-3065, and again that number is 888-364-3065.

Another important number that everyone should remember is 311. You can call that number with any issues that you may have with the Corona Virus, particularly those smaller businesses that are going to be negatively impacted by this. If you call that number they will refer you to the proper agency that can give you help.

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COVID 19 UPDATE (continued)

Again, to go over what we've done at Village level, we of course have limited our non-essential staffing to fifty percent or below. Village Hall and all of our buildings, other than the Emergency Services Building – Police and Fire – are closed to the public. We would prefer, if you can, you do whatever business you do with us via e-mail or by phone. But if you absolutely have to interact with us you can come to Village Hall either call the number or knock on the door – someone will come and assist you with what you need.

I just added an addendum to my Emergency Declaration this morning allowing us to have this teleconferencing for village board meetings, and hopefully this will be extended to all public meetings in the near future. We are working on that as I speak.

Again, to re-coup – All permits that would have expired in the last sixty days are extended for sixty days at no fee so it will not cost anybody any money to renew and we will revisit that as case requires. Herrick Park is still open, but the playground equipment in the park is closed and will be closed until further notice. They are asking now that nobody gathers even in public places; no gatherings, no birthday parties – nothing like that. You can get most of this information on our website or Facebook Page.

Again, they are expecting the worse of this crisis to peak in about two to three weeks, and so, keeping that in mind, you should all remember to keep social distancing, also asking if you have one, wear a mask. Obviously, cover your mouth if you have a cough or a sneeze. And, even if you don't have a commercial mask or pre-made mask you can make your own or just use a scarf to cover your mouth and nose when you go out. It would be very helpful. Of course, wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least twenty seconds. Use anti-bacterial wipes, but most importantly, please stay at home for this next fifteen days and hopefully we'll get through the worse of it by then.

In order to remind people about that and not gathering, we have removed some of the benches from the village business core and our beaches. We have also cordoned off the permanent bench on the deck of the pavilion at Main Beach. Again – just to remind people that they shouldn't gather and loiter even if it's in a public place.

If you feel sick or if you recently travelled here from New York City they are asking everyone to please self-quarantine for fourteen days. Again – if you feel sick with cough, fever or congested lungs call your doctor and take whatever advice he gives you.

One other reminder – since this has been going on and people have been wearing rubber gloves and masks when they go out and particularly when shopping a lot of people have been just dropping them on the ground. That has become a real issue for us. So, I will remind everyone, to please dispose of your rubber gloves and masks in the proper receptacles when you're finished with them – that would be a big help. Thank you very much.

Also, I want to remind everybody in an effort to thank our healthcare workers and our first responders there is going to be a – I guess you would call it a "clap-in event" at 7 pm this Friday night and every Friday night so we are asking everyone to go out in their yards at 7 pm and have a loud round of applause for all our healthcare works and first responders so we can show them how much we appreciate them. I think that's a great gesture.

Anybody else have anything?

R. Brown: I have something that I'd like to reiterate and echo some of what you said Rick, and express my gratitude to everyone on the front lines: our doctors, our nurses, our healthcare professionals. I was also going to mention the 7 o'clock acknowledgement of those people by coming out and clapping – a shout out to them. Also thankful for our police department, our fire department – just the other night they had a pretty substantial fire which required mutual aid. I thank those departments as well. I'd also like to thank the E.M.S. – a shout out to Lisa Charde for her leadership and what they're doing every day for us. All of our village workers, our Department of Public Works – we know schedule has been modified but still they're doing the essential work.

We want the Village to know we are continuing with our work, in a couple minutes we will be talking about budget issues, regarding the tax cap and truck traffic on North Main Street, but really our highest priority right now is the health and safety of all our residents and employees in our community and that's of paramount importance. We are closely monitoring the situation. All of us have a daily call with the County – Steve Bellone and his office along with other supervisors and mayors and board members just to be apprised of the situation. We are closely monitoring the situation. We'll get through this together and I want everyone, as you mentioned, to be really diligent and continue being diligent adhering to all those CDC guidelines and measures. Thank you to everyone involved.

R. Lawler: Thank you.

A. Graham: I would like to add in this time of social distancing we can all feel isolated from our friends. I was pleased to participate in a virtual cocktail hour a couple of days ago where a friend of mine who lives by herself had set up a Zoom phone call and invited a whole bunch of friends and we all sat around and chewed the fat for an hour, safely ensconced in our own homes. We don't have to be alone, we just have to be away from each other. For what that's worth, it was interesting and fun to do.

COVID 19 UPDATE (continued)

R. Lawler: Thank you.

R. Brown: Its nice to reach out to your neighbors, you're right. A little kindness will go a long way in these times.

R. Lawler: Anyone else?

OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS ON NORTH MAIN STREET & ACCABONAC ROAD

R. Lawler: Alright, so first thing on the agenda is overweight trucks. We all know the recently completed project of raising the bridges at Accabonac and North Main Street create the ability for larger trucks to come down Main Street, where they used to go down Cedar Street. Now they're able to come down Main Street and turn left and go up North Main Street or wait and turn left on Accabonac Highway and get under that bridge. The problem that we're are concerned about, and which was very evident last summer and I'm sure will become more evident this summer is that the left turn lane from Main Street onto North Main Street backs up very quickly when we have high traffic volume that we have in the summertime. It backs up into the intersection of Newtown Lane and then very often, people on Newtown Lane are unable to get out at the green light and sometimes takes one or two cycles of the light for those people to get out, so it's going to be felt even worse now with big trucks coming down – that are 65 feet long – if you get two of those trucks in the queue to turn left it will virtually make it impossible for anybody else to get into that lane. And then, if cars don't realize, you know, our visitors that are not so familiar with the area, if they don't realize they can go right and go down a little bit further and make their turn or get into that area through access in Amagansett on Abrahams Path, then they're going to stop and back up the intersection. It's going to become much worse. So, that's what this proposal is about. Does anybody else have any thoughts? Barbara?

B. Borsack: Sorry, I have to unmute my mic there. Yeah, we've definitely have seen a huge increase in the number of trucks that go on past our house since the change in the bridges, and you know, especially Accabonac when you get under the bridge is a very narrow and windy road, so I think it's a good move. I don't think it's something we want to see - an increase in truck traffic on either of those streets, so I think it's a good idea.

R. Lawler: Thank you. Tiger?

A. Graham: Yeah, Ricky. I think that the Accabonac Road, unless it's to local delivery, I see no reason why heavy trucks should be on Accabonac or turning left by the light at CVS. However, the issue that I have is the left turn not the truck traffic on Main Street. I think North Main Street is a good way for the trucks to head north into town. I think you're absolutely right that the left turn off the highway is really problematic. I think the trucks coming from the east can circle one of the other roads – Abrahams or whatever – I think that they probably will still, because they'll want to stay away from the village as much as they can, especially if we restrict that left hand turn for trucks. I don't know if we can keep the truck traffic off North Main Street. They can still come down Cedar Street onto North Main to get up into the northern parts of the Town. I'm just not sure if a weight limit, per se, is what we need to do, but frankly, I would defer to Chief Tracey – who knows more about traffic – forgotten more about traffic than I've ever known. So, I'd like to see what Mike says.

R. Lawler: OK. Rose? Any comments? Rose, can you hear me?

R. Brown: Yes, I can. I agree with you. The left hand turn, you know – by Citterellas, is an issue. It does get backed up. That queue, I've seen it, we've all sat in it. So that's an issue, but I'm interested to hear what Chief Tracey and perhaps our Superintendent of Highways as well, you know, has to say about that and I assume that this would also be a public hearing that we will be having in the near future or people to weigh in about it as well. I know we got a letter indicating that the Town was in favor of the limitation for the trucks, the heavy trucks for only local delivery – which would mean D.P.W. would still be able to use North Main and Accabonac, so would school buses, but again, yes, I think it is something for us to consider.

R. Lawler: Okay. Thank you. Just a reminder, we're talking about only North Main Street only in the village. Trucks would still be able to come down Cedar Street as they have been and make the left on North Main Street to continue up on Springs Road or Three Mile Harbor Road.

R. Brown: We're considering Accabonac and North Main.

R. Lawler: Yes. Chief Tracey are you on? Chief Tracey? Ok, so we're having a little bit of technical difficulty with Chief Tracey – just give us a minute.

Chief Tracey: You can hear me?

OVERWEIGHT TRUCKS ON NORTH MAIN STREET & ACCABONAC ROAD

R. Lawler: Yes, I can hear you now.

Chief Tracey: We had spoken about this in the fall - the possibility of looking at both bridges or one bridge. I agree that the turns off of Route 27 onto Accabonac would be pushing a tremendous amount of traffic through the residential district. Currently, as you know, the bulk of the large truck traffic comes down Cedar Street. The primary concern that I had was getting the Town Board's approval and their input and the Town Supervisor and Board and also Steve Lynch, who is extremely knowledgeable about heavy truck traffic and he's extremely knowledgeable about the mount of commercial industry down there on Springs Road, which is where the bulk of the trucks go. So, given the fact that the Board, the Town Board and the Supervisor and Town Highway Superintendent are on board I don't think it's a bad idea to give this a try. If you put the law into effect, if it passes, I would assume that by summer we would have this legislation in play. If it turns out that it is hardship or a bad move the law could be suspended, replaced or modified. The problem with not putting it into play now would be if we have a large problem at the intersection at North Main and 27 in the middle of the summer we will be virtually powerless to do anything about it. I think this would be the time if we are going to act on this – this would be the time to do it – try it and move forward.

R. Lawler: Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody else?

R. Brown: It's a good point that Chief has, that we get it out there and we can always modify it and adjust it if necessary, but at lease we have the mechanism to mitigate the traffic in some way,

A. Graham: I think that's correct. I certainly, as I said, I will to the Chief, we can have it in place I wouldn't mind – we are going to have to have a public hearing on this and at that hearing I would love to hear from some of those folks who drive those trucks, to see, because they don't want to stuck in traffic more than anyone else – if they're not moving they're not making money. So, I think that we should certainly go to through on this and get it in place, barring a huge public outcry.

R. Lawler: Okay. Thank you very much. So, are we in agreement, should we notice it for a public hearing?

B. Borsack: Yes.

R. Brown: Yes.

A. Graham: Yes

R. Lawler: Okay. Becky? Becky are you on?

R. Hansen: Yes. So, you can put a resolution at the meeting on April 17th to notice the hearing for the May 15th meeting.

R. Lawler: Okay. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Chief Tracey: Mr. Mayor, can I interrupt for a second? I just can't stress enough how important it was and is that our partners in the Town and Town Highway have weighed in on this and are in agreement. I think that was key, this has an impact on their infrastructure and has impact on the businesses they are working with – it was very good getting their opinion on this – that we did it jointly between the two municipalities.

R. Lawler: Thank you for your comment. I appreciate that.

FISCAL YEAR TAX CAP

Next on the agenda is the Fiscal Year Tax Cap. Just a note: we do this every year, we've done this every year that I can remember since the tax cap has been required, as I recall, Becky can probably confirm this – she'll give us information on this. I believe we've only used this twice, but for a very little bit and they were for extremely good reasons; One saved us some money on financing, actually – I think both of them did at the time, and it was only for a very small amount as I recall - \$20,000 or \$30,000 – I think, when we did it. This has been advantageous for us. Just because we pass it, if we do, doesn't mean we're going to use it. Like I said, we've only used it twice, as I recall. Becky – you may be able to correct me on that, but I think it was twice, so I'm going to ask Becky if she'll give us the information on this please.

R. Hansen: The current fiscal year, the year in your budget, is actually under the tax cap by about \$10,000. So, what is proposed for this year and you see the calculation that you have. It's not just calculated as a two percent over the amount of your levy in your prior fiscal year but there are a number of factors that go into the calculations. One of them is known as your tax base growth factor – which is, as it says, the growth in your tax base – there is new construction within the village, and then the other factor – which is tied to inflation, and so if that number is less than two percent then you use that number. If the growth factor is over two percent then you are limited to two percent. You can see the calculation for the upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year, with those numbers in addition to pilot payments the village receives, which are payments in lieu of taxes for properties that are not in the tax roll. Those amounts are removed from the calculation and you'll see, based on this year's tax levy with all those factors in, the tax levy increases proposes to be limited at \$363,515, so that is less than the current year limit. The current fiscal year was capped at \$372,000. You currently are under that as your tax levy under this year's budget.

As I am starting to develop the tentative budget with the department heads that number will be important moving forward especially, continuing reviewing revenues, whether there is going to be any changes, any decreases – we are watching all those things closely, in addition to how that may impact the Village's contributions to the retirement system next year. I provide you these numbers to think about whether or not passing the legislation to over-ride the tax cap, which the Mayor indicated – the village has done every year since the State legislature implemented this a State Law. Not every year has the village surpassed the tax cap, but in recent years it was a very small amount, again, as the Mayor indicated. As the village would not incur any long-term borrowing debt for capital projects. The questions here is if the Board wishes to adopt the local law to pass the cap, over the next couple weeks as the tentative budget is developed, we'll have a better idea whether or not the \$363,000 is a reality or not, but least you have the legislative mechanism in place that if it does happen it's already done.

You could notice, because this is subject to a public hearing, at the April 17th meeting for the May 15th meeting. The only requirement under state law is that, if you are going to adopt it, is that it must be adopted before your budget is actually adopted.

R. Lawler: O.K. So, we would notice it at the April 17th meeting for the first meeting in May?

R. Hansen: No, for the May 15th meeting, not the work session, you can notice it on April 17th for a hearing on May 15th. Your budget doesn't get adopted until the month of June.

R. Lawler: O.K.

B. Borsack: I think it's important to do it, we've done it every year. It's more of a release valve, if needed. We don't always need it. We haven't usually used it, but if at the last minute we find out we're going to have some kind of expense we weren't prepared for we can put it in the budget that way. So, I think it's a good idea.

R. Hansen: Some of the revenue, is again – what we're looking at – mortgage recording tax, sales tax, state legislature is supposed to vote on a budget bill today or tomorrow and as I mentioned yesterday, we are watching the transportation monies that we get from the State. It fluctuates from \$200,000 to \$300,000, fingers crossed that there's no cuts in that aid as well, because if you want to continue with certain projects you might have to raise that thru property tax revenue. We are closely watching the revenues.

R. Lawler: O.K. Thank you.

A. Graham: I'm in favor of it. As Barbara says, sometimes you need a safety valve. In uncertain times like this, we really have no idea what's coming at us.

R. Brown: I'm in favor of it as well. It's a good mechanism to have in place, especially in light of the circumstances if some of our revenues might be in flux and so forth.

R. Lawler: O.K. Thank you. Becky, can we put that down? I appreciate that.

R. Hansen: Yes.

R. Lawler: Now, we only have one resolution left; I make a motion to adopt Resolution #18-2020 to accept & acknowledge the gift of \$83,333.33 from Ronald S. Lauder towards the Dominy Shop Restoration Project. Do I have a second?

A. Graham: Second.

R. Brown: Aye.

B. Borsack: Aye, with a big Thank You.

R. Lawler: Just so everyone knows, this is the last part of a \$250,000 donation and Thank you very much to Ronald Lauder. O.K. No we're at the public comment portion, before that, does anyone else have something to say?

A. Graham: First, the relaxing of the sign rule to let restaurants put Take Out signs in their windows – I believe that expires on April 8th and I think we should extend that – we need to help small businesses as much as we can. Maybe we just decide to extend it until the State relaxes the rules on restaurants.

R. Lawler: Yes, that's my prerogative and my intention, we will extend it.

R. Brown: I think it's very helpful for the public to know they're open, so I'd be in favor of extending it as well.

B. Borsack: I'm totally in favor of that. I assumed you were going to since things have been extended.

R. Lawler: Absolutely. I haven't extended our Executive Order yet, but I intend to.

A. Graham: Another thing that was mentioned, since our building inspectors are no longer doing any interior inspections – I understand there are several C of O's that need to be closed out and they can't be closed out without an interior inspection. It was suggested to me that we might have the ability to do video inspections internally directed so that contractors can be inside the house with a video camera or an I-Phone or whatever – the inspector can be outside the house directing the contractor with the camera what he wants to see, so we can actually close out some of these C of O's. A lot of things depend on them and we can get these closed out. It would be good for everybody. We can't totally stop what we're doing as a village. We have a responsibility to do this stuff. I understand, or I've been told, for a fact, that Sag Harbor has been doing this to close out some of these. That is something I think we should consider. I don't know if it would require a change in the code or not, but we could then, as soon as we're able to physical inspections we can go in, and if the building inspector finds someone was pulling shenanigans on the video inspection there could be substantial fines.

B. Borsack: I'm not sure if it's necessary to do video inspections if the job sites are pretty much shut down. It seems like they should be able to go inside and do interior inspections, if, you know, a contractor in charge could meet them there. They stopped doing inspections because of the number of workers that were on the sites. Isn't that right?

R. Lawler: That's true.

R. Hansen: They are doing inspections inside – interior inspections on properties that are vacant.

B. Borsack: O.K. So that should be easier to do now. I don't think they need to do video, they can just do the inspections.

R. Lawler: Yes, there has been discussions with village building inspectors and Becky and Beth about this subject. We've checked with Sag Harbor. They are – in fact, not doing video inspections, they are doing exactly what we are doing. If the house is vacant we do an on-site interior physical inspection. If not, then we don't. But I think Barbara is right, now these construction sites are shut down – it's very possible that we can do a few more of these inspections, maybe get more of these C.O.'s issued. But certainly, we can discuss this. I think there are various issues with allowing someone else who's not a village employee or village inspector do this – even if the inspector is on the outside. I'm not sure he can see everything he needs to. We can certainly have a discussion about it.

R. Lawler: Anybody else?

R. Brown: I can't hear anything.

A. Graham: You were broken up there, Rick.

R. Lawler: Maybe we're having a little bit of a problem. Basically, Sag Harbor is not doing video inspections, just to confirm that. Now with the job sites shut down we should be able to do a lot of our inspections because we're able to do that. When there is no one at the house for sometime we should be able to catch up on these inspections

A. Graham: O.K., good. And I have one last thing. I know you, Rick, as Mayor, have done some interviews with LTV, with WLNG and WPBB and you're up on the Elms Party website. I think it would be a really good idea for you to put some of these videos on the village website and village Facebook page because not everybody can get to your website. I mean it makes it sound political and I don't think that was your intent.

R. Lawler: Sure. I'll talk to Becky about it. That's not a problem.

A. Graham: There 's very good information in there. I'm done.

R. Brown: I agree.

R. Lawler: O.K. I'm going to open it up to public comment, if we have anyone. Again, the number is 351-888-6331. Anyone who would like to comment and call in.

B. Borsack: Mr. Mayor, maybe you could do a little song and dance while we wait.

R. Lawler: Not my forte. I will however, as a result of a meeting about a month ago between myself and the Chief of Police with representatives from OLA. They indicated to us that it would be nice if we could purchase some cell phones and make them available to sector cars, so if there is a problem with language we can use them to call a language line and get an interpreter almost immediately. They would have to call an interpreter in. We have in fact done that and we have these phones now and they should be active in the next few days. There will be one in at least two of the patrol cars so we can better serve our Latino community. Anybody? We'll give it another minute or two.

R. Brown: I'll just mention that we were supposed to talk about the Herrick Park Improvement Plan. LaGuardia was supposed to give a presentation today, but we figured in light of the situation and we're using new technology that it would be better to postpone it to the next meeting. I just thought I'd mention that as well.

R. Lawler: I guess we have no one calling in, so I'll make a motion to adjourn.

A. Graham: Second.

R. Brown: Be well, be safe.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

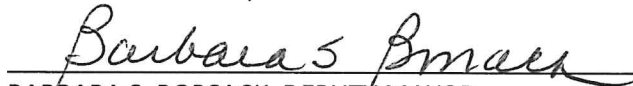
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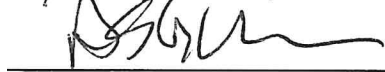
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