

**VILLAGE OF EAST HAMPTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING HELD ON  
January 7, 2021 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.*

**PRESENT:** Gerard Larsen, Mayor  
Christopher Minardi, Deputy Mayor  
Arthur Graham, Trustee  
Rosemary Brown, Trustee  
Sandra Melendez, Trustee  
Marcos Baladrón, Administrator  
Elizabeth Baldwin, Attorney  
Hugh King, Historic Site Manager  
Michael Tracey, Police Chief  
Christopher Clapp, Nature Conservancy  
Sara Davison, Friends of Georgica Pond  
Kevin McDonald, Nature Conservancy  
Billy Hajek, Planner  
Gerard Turza, Fire Chief  
David Collins, Superintendent of Public Works  
Robert Hefner, Director of Historic Services  
Kenneth Collum, Code Enforcement Officer  
Jody Gambino, LTV Moderator  
Jason Nower, LTV Moderator  
June Lester, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

**Mayor Larsen:** Good morning and welcome to the Village Board Meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup> and Happy New Year to everyone. This is our first meeting of the year and if we can stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Presentation – Hugh King**

**Mayor Larsen:** Our first presentation will be from Hugh. Good morning, Hugh.

**Mr. King:** Good morning everyone. We all have questions from last time, I just wanted to mention two other things. Trustee Melendez asked me when was the first Christmas Santa Claus parade in East Hampton Village, and we found out it was in October of 1951 when the Chamber of Commerce decided to have a Santa Claus parade, and, do you know how Santa Claus came? He landed on the Village Green in an airplane and then came down the street in the airplane, apparently, waving to everybody and then he got to the Edwards' Theater where he gave out candy. And the other question was that Trustee Graham asked me about Dunemere Lane, and I found in the Town records that in 1904, the Town hired the New Jersey Bridge Company to build bridges over Huntting Lane, on Dunemere Lane, and in Springs. And the one in Springs I think was over Pussy's Pond and Accabonac. There was a wooden bridge there. Now did Huntting Lane and Dunemere Lane end where the bridge started? I still do not know.

**Trustee Graham:** I think they did, Hugh. I have seen a map that shows going down about that far, maybe a little bit less.

**Mr. King:** Okay. Now we have questions, I gave everybody questions. Shall we start with Trustee Brown.

**Trustee Brown:** Sure, you asked me about Mrs. Epstein and she had a clothing store on Main Street, 75 Main Street, and apparently she was quite legendary because the store was filled with boxes and merchandise, boxes stacked to the ceiling apparently, it was quite in disarray, however, you would be able to walk into the store and she would be able to size you up and know exactly what you needed and be able to put her finger on it very quickly, and everyone seemed to adore her and the store did very, very well.

**Mr. King:** Where did you find that information?

**Trustee Brown:** From our family historian, my father-in-law.

**Mr. King:** I figured you could go to either your parents or your in-laws to get that one. Mrs. Epstein was also robbed twice.

**Trustee Brown:** Yes, because she walked to work, to and from every day from Sherrill Road.

**Mr. King:** Mayor Larsen, you and I talked about Edward C. Morford.

**Mayor Larsen:** But first, let me clear up, you had asked a question, and I knew the answer right off at the last meeting so then you called me and gave me another question. So, years ago when I was Chief, we actually tracked down all of the previous Chiefs of Police and you had given me Edward Morford who was the first Police Chief in the Village to do some research on it. So, every time I do this it gets more and more fascinating when you go back into the history of things. Edward Morford was actually one of the first Police Officers in the township in 1909, he came from Red Banks, New Jersey and he was the first night watchman in the Town of East Hampton because obviously the Village had not incorporated yet, not until 1920. So, in 1909, he becomes the first Police Officer in East Hampton to work nights. Very interesting, December 3, 1915, he is involved in an actual shootout on Newtown Lane and winds up arresting the subject after he shoots him, it is amazing, and later that subject was indicted by the County District Attorney's office.

**Mr. King:** Wow.

**Mayor Larsen:** Yes, very interesting. He becomes the first Police Chief in 1920 and then retires after serving 17 years of a combined service between the Town and the Village in 1925. He then became the owner of East End Hardware and then he went into business with E.T. Dayton in 1929 and actually was one of the people who developed Dayton Lane and all the properties that went between Dayton Lane, went between Main Street and Church Street, on Dayton Lane. And unfortunately, he passed in 1931 suddenly of a heart attack. Very interesting stuff, we still cannot find a picture of him though.

**Mr. King:** One of the places, Board Members, you can find information is if you go to the East Hampton Star archive on the Library's Website and then you type in Edward C. Morford and it will give you all the articles that have his name in it, and I found a picture of, he had a crash, he crashed his car, and there was a picture of the crash, and I thought we had Edward C. Morford but we did not.

**Mayor Larsen:** Just his car.

**Mr. King:** Okay, Trustee Minardi.

**Trustee Minardi:** Hi, good morning. You asked me about the reasoning behind Main Street in East Hampton Village being so wide or the explanation for its width, and the best I could come up with would be to accommodate horses and buggies. So, I guess the question for me I felt was fairly straightforward, but am I right?

**Mr. King:** Well, that is part of the answer, you are right but the other answer is every spring, they used to send all the cattle sheep and horses from the surrounding area down to Montauk for the summer to pasture and they would bring them back in the fall. I think that is the other reason why the street is so wide.

**Trustee Minardi:** I thought they started foreseeing the future for our diagonal parking maybe.

**Mr. King:** All right, thank you. Trustee Graham?

**Trustee Graham:** My question was about the prolific Village photographer who was also a Police Chief, and if walking around the Emergency Services Building is any guide, it was Chief Fritz Leddy and I actually have a story about Chief Leddy. My wife's great uncle, I guess, her grandfather's cousin, a man named Dr. Shepard Krech who owned what is now Chris Whittle's house on Georgica Pond was very fond of duck hunting and would set up a blind on his property in the Village where he could hunt and being that hunting was not legal in the Village at that time, he would always invite Chief Leddy to come shoot with him.

**Mr. King:** I do not think we have an image; you know all those pictures in the Emergency Services Building, right? They are all Fritz's, right?

**Trustee Graham:** Yes.

**Mr. King:** There was a beautiful exhibit at Guild Hall when they first came out. Doug Kuntz put that together. And Trustee Melendez?

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes, good morning, how are you?

**Mr. King:** Oh, there you are.

**Trustee Melendez:** My question was about three restaurants from the King family. I found out that Donald had Marmador on Newtown where Golden Pear is, Speedy had the Villa restaurant, and Rems and Florence King had Remsen Mills.

**Mr. King:** That is right. You got them. Now let us find out where they were.

**Trustee Melendez:** I know that the Marmador was where Golden Pear is...

**Mr. King:** That was one Marmador, the first Marmador was where the movie theater was and the movie theater burned down and so did the Marmador, so you are right, then they moved it over to where the Golden Pear is.

**Trustee Melendez:** So, I am not sure where they were. I know Newtown Lane I think that is where they were.

**Mr. King:** Okay well Remsen Mills was where Second Nature, what is it now, that famous historic landmark, that is where Remsen Mills restaurant was and then Speed's restaurant, if you are on Newtown Lane and the first store after the corner store of Elie Tahari is Aerin, that is where the restaurant was, these restaurants. Good, you got them.

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes, I have to thank my lifeline Mrs. Larsen, she gave me all the answers.

**Mr. King:** You are at a disadvantage if you have not lived here for a long time.

**Trustee Melendez:** Exactly.

**Mr. King:** You are doing great.

**Trustee Melendez:** Thank you.

**Mr. King:** Okay now next time everybody, you get to ask me a question.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right. I think the Police Chief could add a little more about Fritz.

**Chief Tracey:** There are some stories that are out there that are pretty comical, a long list of them. Fritz was my wife's great grandfather and Elaine, Fritz's daughter, lives with us so we get updates periodically of different stories that took place. One story that was out there for quite a while and I think it ended up being true. Fritz used to give driver licenses out and would write a note to somebody in need of a driver's license which kind of indicates the size of the town at that point and the size of the Village at that point. There are lot of funny stories and antidotes, and he was Police Chief for quite a long time.

**Mr. King:** Thank you Mike.

**Mayor Larsen:** Yes, thanks. Is that it, Hugh?

**Mr. King:** That is it.

#### **Presentation – IA Systems – Christopher Clapp, Nature Conservancy**

**Mayor Larsen:** All right so now we are going to go to Christopher Clapp and Kevin McDonald to give us a little presentation, from the Nature Conservancy, welcome.

**Mr. Clapp:** Thank you Mr. Mayor, I believe Sara Davison is on the line to join us.

**Mayor Larsen:** Oh yes, I am sorry.

**Mr. Clapp:** While I pull up my presentation here if Sara wants to say a couple of words, go ahead and jump on in, Sara.

**Ms. Davison:** Okay thank you Chris and thank you Mayor and Village Board for having us today. Water quality is of key importance to us in the Village, Hook Pond, Georgica Pond and our precious drinking water. Today's presentation is in direct response to questions and issues that the Mayor has risen and it is an attempt to address insufficiencies in the current law and to accelerate the process of upgrading to the low nitrogen septic system. So, take it away Chris.

**Mayor Larsen:** Thanks Sara.

**Mr. Clapp:** Thank you Sara. Okay, thank you folks and I will just jump right on in after that great introduction. So we know we have a problem with excess nitrogen, among other things, leaching from systems that were never designed in the first place to remove these sorts of contaminants. The main objective of installing a cesspool or even a conventional septic system was to dispose of our wastewater as quickly and as far away from the ground surface as possible. Unfortunately, what the outcome of that has been is that the wastewater does not get treated before it enters either our groundwater or our surface waters, and our groundwater eventually does lead to our surface waters as most of us know. So, I have the numbers here from Suffolk County so roughly 75 percent of the County is on-site sanitary systems, it is about 360,000 homes. Within the Village I believe it is 100 percent of the Village, there is no large-scale collection system within the Village so it is about 100 percent of the homes or the 1,600 or so housing units. I was not able to get the exact numbers and I was not able to actually get the numbers for how many installed IA systems yet but we could work through that all as we begin to work together on this project. So, the nice thing about this problem is there is a solution. So not every problem has a solution these days and we know what to do. There is modern technology that can be employed, that has been employed around the country and around the world for decades relatively new here in the last decade in Suffolk County and to help homeowners who did not create this problem themselves is that there are funding streams available which is a good thing. Not only do we have a solution but we also have financial tools to help people be part of that solution. The next steps here which the Village has already begun to take is to create some legislation and policies that move us toward those solutions a little bit quicker. So, what we are recommending for discussion or to begin a discussion around today is to require, amend the existing local law that requires sanitary systems upon a building permit that meet certain parameters but also to begin to expand that universe of requirements to failures of existing systems or any other replacement that might be occurring on a property. We do not want to see people replacing a conventional system that does not treat for these contaminants with something in kind when we know that there is ability to do something better; include commercial properties that will not be included in any proposed sewer areas upon site plan review or failure. There are town funds available for that as well through the CPF program and then begin the conversation around property transfer with some sort of grace period for people to comply. This last one here, property transfer, is has been talked about around the country, particularly up and down the east coast for some time. Many municipalities have come very close to passing a property transfer requirement and they just have not figured out the mechanisms to do so. These are three good starting points to see how we can begin to advance these new technologies a little bit more rapidly within the Village so that we can see those improvements within our lifetimes or hopefully even sooner. And then of course homes that already an Article 19 Compliant System would be exempt from these rules because that is what you are asking them to do. You are not going to ask them to re-do what they already did. So, people that have already done this would be exempt from these new requirements. And the why now is there is no outright cost to the Village, this is not coming out of your current budget or future budget. There is likely no cost or little cost to the homeowners with the amount of funding that is currently available through State, County, and Town funds depending on what tax bracket you are in and what type of system you are installing and what situation you are in, there could be upwards of \$50,000 of incentive funds available to you through those programs. The requirement could also request homeowners to upgrade in good faith and then we could talk about what to do if there is failure to comply. We do not have, this is the beginning of a conversation around some of these ideas and we appreciate you welcoming us in to begin this conversation. Kevin, do you want to wrap up.

**Mr. McDonald:** Thank you. Again, to the Mayor and the rest of the Trustees, we thank you for the opportunity, Sara and Friends of Georgica Pond, and we at the Nature Conservancy have been working on water quality for a while. Chris and I have been dealing with this issue in Suffolk County and Eastern Long Island for the last decade or so, and just to reiterate, so this is a global problem, too much nitrogen

in the environment and in water, it is a national problem, it is a problem up and down the east coast in Chesapeake Bay, in New England, and here and in the most local of all descriptions, it is a Village problem and the solution requires that we all do something a little differently and better. We have had a few preliminary conversations with Friends of Georgica Pond and the Village Administrator about what could some early steps be that would be appropriate, that would be meaningful, that would be relatively easy, and strategic, and the two principal recommendations are amend your law to require replacement on failure just like is done in the Town of East Hampton, and the second piece is a conversation that has been had in a number of other Villages and Towns about the requirement to replace on transfer. And let us clarify what we think that means because that could be misunderstood. It does not mean that before you sell your house there has to be an upgrade. What it means is the transfer itself is a triggering mechanism within some period of time where an upgrade should occur and that the upgrade can happen let us say within a year to 18 months after the transfer and that reflects and respects that sometimes a homeowner might want to make improvements to the property and they may need the time to think about where they would want to have their upgrade and how it would happen and there would be nothing imagined in any of this that would preclude anybody from seeking available grants that exist already and that frankly Chris and I and Sara and others have worked to actually create. So, the ballot measures that were approved in 2016 to allow this new water quality funding to even exist is the byproduct of our work and that of Assemblyman Thiele and Ken LaValle at the time. So we do agree that this is the beginning of a conversation. It is really important that this be done right and that it be done effectively and that the beginning of it be smoothly administered because there is nothing worse than a wonderful idea started in haste that blew up, and I have been on the side of the blowup side, it is really ugly, and I have been on the side of the ones that have gone into smooth implementation, it is much better being on the smooth implementation side. If I could be so bold and forward, I think it is a really good idea, I had some preliminary conversations with Fred Thiele about this and most of you know Fred was a Town Attorney, a Village Attorney, a Planning Board Attorney and we just want to be really sure that this is tight and clean and I asked him if he would be available for a longer consultation with the Village and your extremely talented planning and legal staff to make sure that we get this as good as it can be because if we do it right, it is very likely that other Villages and Towns, who have been talking about doing this, would copy it. So, you guys are the first ones moving on this if you wish to and we want to be as helpful as we can in that regard. So, I am happy to take some questions if you have any and look forward to following up with you about how we can all move forward in this direction.

**Trustee Graham:** Kevin?

**Mr. McDonald:** Yes?

**Trustee Graham:** It is Tiger Graham. I know that when we discussed the current law about upgrades to the IA's, we discussed replacement on failure at that point and the reason we did not add it then is because the engineering studies that the County required would indicate that perhaps there might be a failing system, failing for a longer period of time than anyone wanted. Has that problem been addressed and solved by the County?

**Mr. McDonald:** I am actually, Tiger, good to see you, Happy New Year and I do remember testifying at the Village hearing when this conversation came up and I am having the flashback to it as you raised that and the other issue that came up by, at the time, other Village Trustees which are great questions was that there was a concern that most people are in a crisis when their septic system fails on their property for a lot of reasons that are obvious especially when we are all homebound under COVID related conditions, so the County has found, and this is actually is found across the country, that people who are, I mean I have had two extra people living in my house since last March and my system failed, it is 35 years old and this is not a phenomenon unique to Suffolk County. This is happening all across the country so people whose systems were close to failing and might have last another year or two, they are accelerating their failure. So, the County now has a new procedure where you can get an emergency permit, the County will send out an engineer that day when you call with a consultant and you can get a grant expedited and a permit issued in a matter of days. So oddly enough, they are taking the grant program and directing it to these emergency conditions. So the County is very nimble on this and to the question directly, I think if we had a working meeting after this meeting and invited some of the County people in to have a discussion to answer all these legitimate-like questions about what is the procedure, how would it work, what is the Village's role in this, how can we help integrate this, I think it is a really good idea but they get it, they understand it, they are responding to this sort of more global problem and 50 percent of their grants that they have made around the last nine months, have been toward failures, failures that have accelerated in many cases because of more people being home, working from home, and things like that.

**Mr. Clapp:** I think it is worth noting that that failure program evolved at the County level out of the requirement of East Hampton Town to no longer allow conventional systems to be installed though people were saying if I cannot replace my cesspool in kind anymore, I cannot install a conventional system anymore, how am I going to get out of this failure situation. That nudge by East Hampton Town to no longer allow conventional system installs within the Town, moved the County to create this program which you can now also take advantage of.

**Mr. McDonald:** And bringing Melissa to that same discussion because she administers this on behalf of the Town, I think that would be just a natural asset value for that discussion.

**Trustee Graham:** I have another question too and that is I was speaking with one of my fellow Trustees yesterday and we were talking about perhaps even making it a little more required to if you file for any kind of permit on your property, if you are in a sensitive area like the people that live along Georgica Pond, along the north side of Hook Pond in these sensitive watershed areas that we would think that maybe almost any kind of a permit would trigger the need for an upgrade. The only problem with that is that I am under the impression that for example if I wanted to do an upgrade here at my house, since I am a public official, I would not be eligible for any of the funds, not that I live next to Hook Pond.

**Mr. McDonald:** That was in the County's grant program at the beginning that has since, I think, been stricken but we can check that on the theory that nitrogen is nitrogen no matter who it comes from.

**Trustee Graham:** Right, and I think that we have many sensitive areas in the Village, Egypt Lane, for one. I mean every one of those septic systems is sitting in the groundwater.

**Mr. McDonald:** Yes.

**Trustee Graham:** I think we need to move on that, and many of the people who live on Egypt Lane can probably afford it, no problem but I do not think that is the metric under which we operate, and I think that we should really find ways to encourage these people without being punitive to do upgrades. I for one would be willing to move forward on something like this. I think that Sara has been before us many times, in meetings and in individual meetings, and I think that most of us totally understand that if we do not take care of our ponds and our water quality, we may not have a resort community much longer. Again, not that we need to be worried about being a resort but I think that we need to protect what brings people here. Rant over.

**Mr. McDonald:** Agreed. Happy to work on all those ideas and things related to it.

**Mayor Larsen:** Kevin, I have a...

**Trustee Brown:** I am also in support of anything that we can do to improve our water quality. When we first, as you know, when we first adopted this IA requirement here in the Village, we were one of the first Villages to do so in Suffolk County.

**Mr. McDonald:** Yes.

**Trustee Brown:** At the time there was no, for failing systems as you mentioned, there was no expedited review so if that is in place now, I would be in complete support of that, and I think we all realize that much of Georgica Pond's shoreline is within the Village, 70 percent I think, and Hook Pond as well, so how we implement it as far as the transfer and so forth that is feasible and able to be enforced is further discussion to be had for sure. I am open to the concept 110 percent as well.

**Mr. McDonald:** Wonderful.

**Mayor Larsen:** Kevin, I have just a couple of comments. I am very much in favor of implementing all of these ideas and I have also been in contact with Sara several times now about the idea of implementing on the transfer of a property, but we had talked about the two-year travel time, identifying that area as the most crucial, and targeting that first. Is that something we can identify very easily or not?

**Mr. McDonald:** We should go through the drill since you asked the question. You could also have your administrators splitting the hair in their head trying to see who is on what side of the street or the other side of the street and the two-year time of travel or the two-year and two-month time of travel you could drive yourself crazy. There is the two-year time of travel, I mean you could start there, you could do a more aggressive outreach there and let people know that this is the program they should be participating in but ease of administration is really important and in the Town of East Hampton, if your

system fails, you cannot put an old one in and most people are going, if I had to put a failed system and it cost me eight to ten grand or I can get a grant to put in a new system and it does not pollute anymore, this is not a hard calculation.

**Mayor Larsen:** No, I am not talking about the failed systems. I am talking about on the transfers. Most of the Village is in the watershed.

**Mr. McDonald:** Well, that is sort of the other reason. We should go through the drill and we should look for what is the difference between 0 to 2, 2 to 5 but I think before it is all over, a lot of the Village is in somebody's watershed so doing the whole thing at once probably not a bad idea.

**Mr. Clapp:** It all gets there eventually.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is fair and I really would like to do that, I think that is the way to go. The other thing I recently contacted Fred Thiele because, as you know, the CPF only provides 20 percent for water quality over the entire township. The problem is that the Village itself generates a lot of this CPF funds, however, we really do not really have a lot of open space to be buying and yet half of the Village at least is in the watershed so for us to increase that 20 percent would be huge for us to be able to use more money for water quality. So, he agreed and he said it is not the first request he has had for that, Southampton Village was similar, and we are also in the starting phase of the centralized sewer system for the business core which, again, is in the watershed so that would go a long way in helping the quality of Hook Pond and therefore the CPF money in my opinion should be allowed to be used for the septic system. So that is another prong of this whole task.

**Mr. Clapp:** I can tell you, Mr. Mayor, as Chair of the Committee that oversees the applications for funds for that 20 percent, that does not go toward the rebate program, there is a track for those types of projects. Get those projects together and get real funding requests together and I am pretty sure the committee would love to entertain a request from the municipality to upgrade its downtown business district in a way that enables both economic development as well as improving water quality.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is perfect Chris.

**Mr. Clapp:** The ultimate goal has to be improving water quality.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is exactly what we wanted to hear.

**Mr. McDonald:** If I could make one other suggestion since you sort of initiated the broader concept than just the initial reason we thought we were coming on, so there is, as I see it, this is the conversation that Chris and I have had with your Village Administrator, first of all we really appreciate the importance that water quality appears to be resonated...[inaudible]. I have to tell you that there are some Villages and Towns that are a bit more forward leaning and a bit more responsive to this concern than others and there are people in the world who still do not have a smart phone and there are people that went out and got the first smart phone, so you decide which one you are. The strategy of thinking about where you need maybe more collected sewer waste management around your central business district perhaps, where you should have your really aggressive outreach for advanced treatment system replacement like Egypt Lane and others, we can work with Friends of Georgica Pond, and the Hook Pond folks going forward and where you want to do your road drainage improvement issues around Georgica and Hook Pond, that is a lot of capital money that has to be planned for, obligated, and executed, and there is a story that I always tell because my hair color is the right color, there was this really nice Mayor in the Village of Quogue, her name is Thelma Jurgeson. Thelma looked like everybody's favorite grandmother, just a very pleasant, thoughtful, soft-spoken woman, but she was an evil genius at municipal work. She could get everything done she wanted, and she was one of the best process managers I had ever met. So she created a plan in 1999 when the CPF first passed in 1998 and all she said was, she had a plan for 12 priority parcels in the Village and she said I want these acquired and she gave the plan to the Town of Southampton and she gave the plan to the County and she gave the plan to the State and said these are the Village's priorities and every year she picked one and she said I want to do this one this year and then she talked to the County, the State, and the Town and somebody decided who was going to get it. The Village of East Quogue got every parcel of land they wanted acquired, acquired. Why? They had a plan, they executed their plan, they followed their strategy that was good and they made adjustments when they had to. If you did the same thing with every one of your water priorities that you just discussed, you would be following the successful model of Thelma Jurgeson.

**Mayor Larsen:** I am sure you saw, I saw an article last night about Westhampton Village that they also acquired CPF funding to finish off their centralized sewer system so that was encouraging as well. So I

think all of us are on track to get this done. I think we would enjoy being the leader of this and I think it is really important that we get it done because if we do not start now, we cannot fix the problem.

**Mr. McDonald:** Understood.

**Mayor Larsen:** I think we are all in.

**Mr. McDonald:** So, who do you want us to torment going forward to follow up on this.

**Mayor Larsen:** Marcos.

**Mr. McDonald:** Marcos, sorry man.

**Mr. Baladrón:** Actually, Kevin, I am actually going to tell you, you did say we have a fantastic Planner and we do, his name is Billy Hajek, as you know, and he is on the line right now. I know he has a plan in a sense. He has a vision in terms of what the Village should be going after so that will be communicated to the Board as well.

**Mr. McDonald:** We are happy to work with you and Billy and Elizabeth Baldwin and anybody else, and Chris and I and Sara have done this a few times in different places so we think we can actually bring a modest talent to this as well and we look forward to working with you going forward.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is great Kevin, thanks so much for that. I really would like to see this get fast-tracked as quickly as we can so maybe before summer we could have this in place?

**Mr. McDonald:** You could do the local laws I think before summer, and it is all about how much sleep Billy does not get, you could probably have your plan done that has those three main elements probably by summer as well. Billy does not have his picture up so I do not know what sort of pained look he has but it is good to do.

**Mr. Hajek:** I am smiling, it is okay.

**Mr. Clapp:** Having worked with Billy for quite a bit for almost the last decade or so, I have full faith that we can pull something off for you in some short period of time.

**Mr. McDonald:** So, Marcos is our main point of contact, we will follow with Beth on the local laws, and Billy on the plan.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is great.

**Trustee Graham:** I think this has a lot of support across the Board.

**Mr. McDonald:** Wonderful.

**Trustee Graham:** I do not see this falling down anywhere; the Mayor has made this a point and we are going to follow this.

**Mr. McDonald:** This is awesome, what a way to start January considering the way it has started all things considered, thank you all.

**Mayor Larsen:** Thanks Kevin, Chris, and Sara.

**Mr. McDonald:** Marcos, talk to you soon.

#### Public Comment

**Mayor Larsen:** Before we get into the Work Session, is there any public comment? Is there anybody on the line before we get into any of these discussions?

**Mr. Gambino:** Currently there is nobody on the line.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right, great.

### Historical Scavenger Hunt

**Mayor Larsen:** I just have a couple of announcements I want to go over before we get into our Work Session and one is Hugh, are you still there? Hugh and I have come up with a historical scavenger hunt, it is kind of a COVID-friendly family game that we would like to play and it is scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12 noon; basically, Hugh is going to give out nine clues via email, each clue you have to find the answer to the first clue before you can get the second clue, it should be a lot of fun that day. If you want to join or if you want more information, just go to our Facebook page and you can obtain the information there or you could email us at [historicehv@gmail.com](mailto:historicehv@gmail.com) or call June Lester at Village Hall and she will fill you in.

### COVID Update

**Mayor Larsen:** The next thing I wanted to talk about was COVID. Chief, are you on? Chief Tracey?

**Chief Tracey:** Yes sir.

**Mayor Larsen:** Give us an update on how the County is doing and also about the vaccine if you would.

**Chief Tracey:** Sure. As many people know, the State is in vaccination phase 1A and that is the hospital workers, EMS workers, EMT's, ambulance staff, and that group was recently, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, it was updated to include private doctors, dentists, pharmacists, homecare workers, hospital, hospice workers, etc. and we spoke with Robert Ross of Southampton Hospital yesterday as well as Town Supervisor Van Scoyac yesterday about plans to distribute the vaccine on a local level when we go to the next phase which would be called 1B. I know the Town, as you may have read in the paper, the Town is looking to use one of its facilities to perform that function, and I know local pharmacies plan to be involved with the distribution as well. The next phase we are not sure exactly when it is going to start, we have been told that it is possible the next phase of vaccinations will be toward the end of January but they are not holding firm to that, that is going to include Firemen, Police Officers, other public safety workers, teachers, educators and so forth, people over 75 and then also people that have preexisting conditions which would make them more vulnerable and then beyond that, it would be rolled out to the general population. So there seems to be a pretty good plan in place, although the information from the State to local municipalities has been unimpressive, let us put it that way. The State has a wonderful website [www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov) and it has a tremendous amount of information. It has not changed a lot, the website, although some of the messaging coming out of the Health Department has periodically changed. So that is a good website for the public to go to for additional information. They also have on that website a box you can click to see if you actually fall into one of these categories, you can check it right on line yourself, so that is pretty innovative and a pretty good thing. On the local level as people may have read also, the Town has set up a testing center at Town Hall. You have to get in line and go and so forth and so on as we found out yesterday but it seems to be working very well and there is also a testing center at the East Hampton High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays that is available to the public. So, testing seems to be moving pretty well and as far as hospitalizations, I will bring you up on that, Robert Ross from the hospital, he briefs us each week on the number of patients that experience COVID and the number of patients in the ICU and so forth. So, their numbers have been slowly increased but they are not at the critical number which the State says is 80 percent which would force us into a different shutdown phase. So far that is hopeful and relatively good news although the numbers overall have gone up, they are attributing that to holidays and holiday gatherings. So hopefully we have turned the page and we are getting there slowly.

### Rising Rents in the Business District

**Mayor Larsen:** Great, thanks Chief. The other thing I just wanted to bring up was recently the Star did an article story about Khanh on Park Place losing his lease to a higher rent. I am disappointed at the landlords who are raising rents in the middle of a pandemic and putting some of our businesses out of business. So, I have asked Marcos to reach out to some of the landlords to see if we could have a meeting altogether to see if we could try to reverse this trend before it gets out of hand. It is bad enough that businesses are struggling because of the pandemic to stay alive and then we have landlords that are doubling rents at the same time. We are hoping we can make some headway with the landlords, there is no guarantees obviously but it is disappointing to see Khanh Sports going out of business and Terry Wallace's gallery going out of business after a 20 plus year run in both those locations. So we are, as a Village, going to try to help, I am not sure what we can do but we are going to try to help so I just wanted to let everybody know that.

### Public Comment

**Mayor Larsen:** That is all I have, is anybody on the line yet, Jody, or not?

**Mr. Gambino:** There are no callers on the line.

**Mayor Larsen:** Okay, great, let us get into the Work Session discussion.

### **Chowder Bowl**

**Mayor Larsen:** Does anybody want to bring up or talk about the bid at the Chowder Bowl? We received three bids and I think from the two highest bids were very qualified bidders, I think their menus are very close, does anybody have anything they want to talk about with that or no?

**Trustee Minardi:** Hi everybody, I do not really have anything to point out but I was very happy with the submissions that we received and the high bid was a very encouraging proposal and if we go forward with them, I am excited for the season up at the beach. I was happy with the submissions.

**Mayor Larsen:** Okay. Anybody else? All right, June let us put that on the agenda to accept the high bid on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Lester:** Okay.

### **Food Truck at Two Mile Hollow Beach**

**Mayor Larsen:** Food trucks at Two Mile Hollow or any of our beaches. We put out a request, I think June put it in the newspaper, we have received about, June, what are the stats?

**Ms. Lester:** So far...

**Mr. Baladrón:** Just under 20.

**Ms. Lester:** Yes, thank you. Eight in support and 11 opposed.

**Mayor Larsen:** Anybody have any comments about trying this?

**Trustee Graham:** Mayor, I think that reading the comments, I think that most of the negatives were in terms of trash, in terms of traffic, in terms of congestion, and I think that if we plan this properly for our trial project at Two Mile Hollow which would be the only place the only beach that I would suggest we try it at, I would think that we could probably come up with ways to mitigate all of these issues, especially in with working with the vendor. My thought would be at Two Mile Hollow to place the food truck in the northwest part of the parking lot so that if people walk up to the food truck, they may eat their food there or on the way back to the beach so they do not take the garbage onto the beach. I think there are a lot of ways we could work with this and I think it just requires good planning between the vendor and the Village.

**Mayor Larsen:** I agree with Tiger, I think we should try it at Two Mile Hollow beach only, call it a pilot program, whatever you want to call it and I think we should give it a shot.

**Trustee Melendez:** I think so too, I agree with them. As long as we speak to the vendor and get all the trash and all the traffic all squared up and put it as part of the contract so if they do not comply either they get fined or they lose their contract, I think that is the way to work it.

**Trustee Minardi:** I think Two Mile is also a very good spot. We have bathrooms, we have the largest parking lot at Two Mile. It is a very busy beach, I would think Two Mile is probably busier than Georgica, again, with extra parking and extra resources and I agree with Sandra and Tiger where we can craft some type of language where the truck has to help with the garbage or mitigate garbage with some type of plan but you cannot assume that people are going to litter. I never like taking that approach where some of the comments that we had from the public which I appreciate all of them assumes that this is going to cause traffic or garbage or things like that where maybe it is not going cause any traffic or garbage. Again, you cannot assume people are going to do the worst and we do have fairly clean beaches and we put a lot of pride into the garbage pickup as well. I would support this idea, however, a lot of people came to me, they were a little unclear of our message in the newspaper where it was one beach, one truck and so I think people thought that we were trying to put trucks at all the beaches or

one truck at all the beaches so I would like to make it clear that it is one truck at one beach as a pilot program to see how this works.

**Trustee Graham:** I would also to add to Chris's point, he is right, not everybody is a pig but, in every group, there are some pigs, and I think also that the food truck vendors themselves are probably better versed in where the trash goes and what people do and how they behave around the truck. So, I think that they will have a lot of information for us in terms of what we are going to need to deal with.

**Trustee Brown:** I am in support of trying it at Two Mile as well. I think we have to think about litter, noise, and the flow of traffic so that is not in any way endangering people who are waiting on line or walking from the food truck. Last summer we did implement the after-hours garbage pick-up at the beaches to help mitigate the litter on the beach and in the parking lots, I think that was really successful. They also drove through the commercial core and hit the hot spots in front of Starbucks and Citarella and so forth so just making sure that we just stay on top on any problem will go a long way.

**Mr. Baladrón:** And Chris to get to your point about the contract, I certainly think we can put that in there. I would like to put this also to cast a wider net on our Facebook page, the Village's Facebook page, I think we will get a lot more responses, just have a better view as to how, other than less than 20, but in addition to just the lifeguards, Chris, also that kind of help with the beach and the Mayor's youth council is going to be set up. I just spoke to Jack Patricof about that is leading it and Maddie Brown, if I can call her Maddie, sorry Rose, she is helping out as well. So, we are putting that together to address the trash issue, that seems to be the big negative in these responses.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right perfect, so we will move to the next step on that, June.

**Ms. Lester:** Okay.

### Sea Spray Cottages Maintenance

**Mayor Larsen:** Who wants to talk about Sea Spray Cottages, is that you Sandra?

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes, I went to visit the Sea Spray Cottages and I think there are a lot of issues and we have to pay attention to what is happening there, I think it has been disregarded for a long time, that is what I thought when I went to see them, there are a lot of things that have to be fixed and there is a lot of things that tenants have done that should have never been allowed so I would say we should start with an inspection of each one of them so we can have an idea and get what is wrong because just by looking at it, you know it, but I image cables, tubes, everything that goes under has to be in the same disrepair as the doors, the windows, and everything else. So, I believe an inspection of all of them is something that we need to do now, soon.

**Trustee Brown:** I agree with Sandra, in fact, when we were asked to go to the Sea Spray just to take a tour of them, I had a written to all of you and Marcos asking for a written assessment of each cottage and then we can determine what needs to be done and go from there. I think that is a good idea.

**Trustee Graham:** When I went through all the cottages with Paul, Rose and I went down at the same time, she did not have time to stay and do all of them, I did. There are some severe problems at Sea Spray, there are some problems that are not so severe. DPW who is in charge of maintaining Sea Spray has kind of limited themselves to doing roofs which obviously we need to do. I think when they do a new roof, they should put on gutters, things that are not too expensive but there are several things that are going to be very expensive and I think that we should get an engineer and a contractor to go through each one and give us the list of what needs to be done and then along with those professionals we can prioritize what we have to do. Now I think many of the tenants in the Sea Spray Cottages have done bathrooms and kitchens, I think we need to get ahold of that process and that if they want to put in a new kitchen, mother may I, not I am going to do it and tell you about it later. Also, I think that we could perhaps partner with some of the tenants in terms of the maintenance of these structures. I do not know because it is Village owned property I do not know if that means that all the work done has to be prevailing wage, I know that if we do it, it has to be prevailing wage but if the tenant does it, does it have to be prevailing wage? It does, okay, well then that is one idea that does not work.

**Mayor Larsen:** Well, I think, why do we not have, I see Fred is not on or if he is, I do not see him, Marcos, why do we not contact Fred and have him have Drew Bennett go through each unit and tell us what needs to be done and then we can build things out.

**Trustee Melendez:** I also think we need to figure out if they are historic or not. The issues of the gutters and things that we can change or not change if it is under the Historic protection, we cannot put gutters or we cannot do something...

**Trustee Brown:** I do not think there is anything that prohibits us from putting gutters on them, they are in the Ocean Avenue Historic District, that is confirmed, I spoke to Bob Hefner, and I do not think there is anything that precludes us from putting gutters on them and in fact that would help maintain the integrity of the buildings and the porches and the decks surrounding them. And if anyone would like to make improvements to the interior which I had seen done as far as renovations of some of the bathrooms, the plumbing fixtures and tiling, and in some of the kitchens, I think that would be fine but they just need to be a process where they get approval from us in advance of doing the work and they would have to delineate with a plan exactly what they would want to do and it is a win, win for everyone. They get to enjoy the upgrade and so forth and we get the benefit of that reno being done at their expense.

**Trustee Melendez:** I just believe that is wrong in the sense that they should all be the same and now when you going to these cottages, they all have different looks, different tiles, different floors, I do not think if we are the landlords, we should be able to say this is what we need and this is what we want. There was an issue that somebody changed something in the bathroom, it was European plumbing versus American, now it is broken, now DPW cannot get any of the parts. So, I think if we are going to renovate it, it should be done by the Village the right way because we are renting, we are the landlords, and the people that come here and say like I am renovating, they are going to feel like they are more owners and they are going to want to feel like something more special because they did the changes.

**Trustee Brown:** I understand your point but some people do rent them year after year after year and it is a savings for us if they say I would like to repaint the interior linen white or whatever and we do not have to pay for it ourselves. As long as there is a mechanism in place that reviews the potential upgrades and renovations with approval possibly from Bob Hefner to make sure it is appropriate and so forth or the DRB, I think we should consider that because otherwise it is as well really expensive. I think the first step is ascertaining exactly what needs to be done and prioritizing the needs of the dozen or so cottages.

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes, we also need to look into the contracts still. Maybe something that legal can do, look at the contracts and see what we can change or what we did not have there that is letting them do these changes without having any penalties into it.

**Trustee Graham:** I think that if anyone is going to do any renovation work on the Sea Spray Cottages, the Village needs to approve what they are going to do before they do it. None of this asking for forgiveness later. If somebody wants to upgrade a bathroom, that is fine by me but it has to be upgraded to our standards.

**Mayor Larsen:** I agree. I think Beth just put something in the lease and if do something they are not supposed to do, there is a penalty involved. All right, anything else on that?

**Trustee Minardi:** I just want to jump in here and I agree with what everyone seems to say, and, Rose, for years people have had those cottages before we put them up to auction for a very long time and there are a couple that are nicer than others just because the tenants took it upon themselves to do upgrades. We do need to keep track on that so I am in full support but the one thing that I wanted to bring up was that these cottages, one reason is that they are so battered down is because there is no heat and there is no insulation through the year-round, and I do not know what the Board's thoughts are of going through them slowly and trying to winterize them because, again, they are getting destroyed by the salt water and the wind and the cold and the entire cottage just gets wrecked all winter. I mean everyone knows when you turn the heat off you turn the utilities off, it just all goes downhill quick and so I had an idea of trying to slowly winterize these, making them more year-round which, therefore, if there was a tenant that had a year-round lease, they would keep it up, they would be upkeep better, these would stay in better shape, and also command a little bit more rent income for the Village as well. I mean it is just a shame to put so much money into these cottages and then shut them off all winter and then the elements just destroy them. It is hard to keep these cottages nice when the heat is shut off all winter.

**Trustee Graham:** I would certainly be in favor of looking at HVAC, maybe not so much to keep them habitably hot but to keep them from freezing up tight and also the HVAC would go a long way to reducing the humidity which I think the humidity is even worse in the summertime in terms of the structure and potentials for mold and things like that. That is not something we need to do right away. I

think the first thing we need to do as Rose and Sandra said was define the problem and then we can work on the answer.

**Mayor Larsen:** I mean that is definitely important to get them up to speed where they should be but I like Chris's idea maybe we should just start doing one a year, insulating it and make it a year-round possibility where we can get more funding.

**Trustee Graham:** And actually, in some cases it is two units like for example one and two are in the same structure, two and three are the same structures.

**Trustee Minardi:** Exactly but we keep on having the problem with the roof and roof is the insulation and then the plumbing and then the plumbing is because it is not year-round. We are causing a lot of these problems by allowing them to be shut down all winter. Tiger, I agree with you, this is not something we are going to do tomorrow but I think that as an overall long-term plan as the Mayor suggested is that I would be in favor of picking a unit or a structure, whether it be one unit or two, and trying to winterize them on the basis of that way, I think it would save us money in the long run and I think we would make the money back in rent.

**Mayor Larsen:** I agree.

**Trustee Melendez:** Anything we can make more revenue I am agreeing to, and if we can fix them and get more revenue, we can get our projects done. So yes, I am for that.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right so we are going to leave that with Fred compiling a list of what needs to be done and then we will prioritize on what we need to get done first.

**Trustee Minardi:** Are they all occupied? My last question, I do not know who has the answer to this, but are all units occupied for next season?

**Ms. Lester:** I do not have all the leases back yet I have not had anybody say otherwise.

**Trustee Minardi:** Okay.

**Mayor Larsen:** Terrific. All right, Marcos, do you just want to fill us in about the Main Beach improvements.

### **Main Beach Pavilion Improvements**

**Mr. Baladrón:** I apologize for revocation, it is almost a too strong a word, it is really improvements. Dell Collum gave us some great recommendations as to how to trench the exterior in order to put a new skirt around the pavilion so that the animals would not get in so we can end that issue. There is some fascia that needs to be replaced and possibly on the front side of the building it would be nice to have a bid on that just to see how much that would cost and show the Board. Some interior carpentry, both upstairs and downstairs to be done, and there are just some camera issues frankly, the security cameras. I just kind of wanted to alert you about that, I put that in last minute.

**Trustee Graham:** I think one of the things you face with a property like Main Beach and also the Sea Spray Cottages is that every time the wind blows, the building gets sandblasted and that is hell on shingles, hell on fascia, hell on paint and we need to keep on top of this. I agree Marcos.

**Mr. Baladrón:** It is also, we have a new tenant coming in, I felt it was a responsible bid, I like the way they did that bid where they took the \$15,000 for the first three years, they would own their equipment, it puts us in a new plateau for the end of the five-year lease and I think to make Main Beach number one again, I think it is an easy thing to do.

### **Paid Parking Fees**

**Mayor Larsen:** Marcos, at the last Work Session we talked about the Paid Parking Fees and where we were going to charge, where we were not going to charge, and, in the meantime, we have talks with Sag Harbor, we have received emails, we have received phone calls, and I kind of wanted to put this back on the table and fill everybody in on what Sag Harbor is doing and what I think we should look at and then get everybody's opinion on things. Sag Harbor is not charging for their parking lots, they are charging for their streets only. I think it would be easier for us to charge in our parking lots and not on our streets. And the difference from what we said last time was you were going to get the two hours for

free in the parking lot and then we would start charging, and what we are thinking now is that we would charge immediately when you go into the parking lot and not charge on our streets but the fee would be a lot less, say like \$2 an hour, so I am just looking for feedback from everybody, what you think.

**Trustee Graham:** I would suggest that making, I could tell you my wife would be down at Village Hall with a pitchfork if she had to pay \$2 to park to buy a \$3 stick of butter.

**Mayor Larsen:** Well residents, I am sorry Tiger, residents would be exempt.

**Trustee Brown:** The Town residents would have to pay when they come into the lots. I thought that the original proposal was way too extensive as far as on street and in parking lots charging for parking. I had always envisioned really just to start with the parking lots, Reutershan and Schenck, let us see how that goes. You get your first two hours free and the third hour you could pay for extra so I would lean toward that. I believe that Sag Harbor is not allowed actually to charge in their parking lots because of some restriction that was put on it so they are only actually allowed to charge for street parking but I am in favor of just starting with the parking lots and charging there and not having it as extensive to go onto the street and enforcing it to midnight.

**Trustee Melendez:** I am in favor of doing the parking lots, not the street, but also in those two parking lots that Rose mentioned plus the one by the train station, there is a lot of people that leave their cars there for a long period of time so I would like to see that one in the beginning stages too, the parking lot that is right next to train station, the railroad.

**Trustee Graham:** Railroad Avenue.

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes, and the fee to be the \$2 instead of five or ten that we had spoken about.

**Mayor Larsen:** So you are in favor of charging immediately as soon as you come in the lot then.

**Trustee Melendez:** Yes.

**Mayor Larsen:** Two bucks, that is kind of what we were bouncing around.

**Trustee Graham:** Mayor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Tiger?

**Trustee Graham:** Yes, I just wanted to say to the Mayor. One thing I think we have to be careful about is that, and this is not going to be popular to be mentioned to people in the Village, is that we do have a significant amount of revenue from parking tickets, and I do not think we want to make it so easy that we lose all our parking ticket revenue. That is something to keep in mind.

**Mr. Baladrón:** And you are right, Tiger. We thought about that. The problem that we had with let us say the first draft if you want to call it is that we felt that we would be getting a lot more revenue from enforcement and that is really not we want. We kind of want this to be the friendly approach so I think it is more appropriate. I think when Rose and I first discussed this in my office that you know if someone is pulling up to Starbucks or using the banks or the Churches, etc. it does not hurt the Town residents to park on the streets, it really does not. It is that added convenience of using our parking lots and then it is easier for enforcement and it is frankly simpler and it is not going to anger anybody, I do not think.

**Trustee Graham:** So we would not be charging for on-street parking unless they click over the time limit.

**Ms. Baldwin:** It would still be timed parking.

**Trustee Graham:** And then they get an \$80 ticket.

**Mayor Larsen:** Right, on the streets, Tiger, we would not allow for additional parking.

**Trustee Graham:** No third hour on the street.

**Mayor Larsen:** No way to pay on the street, you get your one hour for free and then if you do not move, you are going to get a summons.

**Trustee Graham:** Yes, I think that is good.

**Mayor Larsen:** But in the parking lot, as soon as you pull in, you are going to have to log into the app and maybe get a 15-minute grace period and then you are paying \$2 an hour or whatever it is. We just feel we would make a lot more revenue, it would be friendlier, and by giving the two-hour grace period, I do not really know how much money we are going to make for three and four hours and really this money needs to go for the project, for the sewer system, which is going to help all of our businesses and our residents as well.

**Mr. Baladrón:** This is May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> and would exclude Village residents.

**Mayor Larsen:** Right.

**Trustee Graham:** What about the third hour for Village residents? We had talked about that third hour free for Village residents.

**Mayor Larsen:** So they can pay for the fourth I guess if they wanted to.

**Trustee Graham:** And this would also be enforcement until midnight?

**Mayor Larsen:** No, no, we were talking about knocking it off at 5 o'clock this year, let us see how it goes.

**Trustee Graham:** Because it currently goes to six, right?

**Mayor Larsen:** Yes, the signs say six but it is really not done after 5 o'clock so we were thinking if we shut it off at 5, because we also got complaints from restaurant workers that will then have to walk all the way to the long-term lot in the dark, at night, and we all know it is safe, but it is still the perception of having to walk in the dark. So, my recommendation would be, we just shut it off at 5 o'clock which means really it gets shut off at 3 o'clock and then people coming to work at the restaurants or working late, can move their cars up into the parking lot and not have to worry about it. It is kind of what we are doing right.

**Trustee Graham:** TCO's knock off at 5?

**Mayor Larsen:** Yes.

**Trustee Graham:** And that walk to the long-term parking lot I realize is up-hill both ways.

**Mayor Larsen:** That is true. All right, we will come up with some legislation. If you think of anything else that you like or you no not like, let me know.

### **Traffic Signal Maintenance Contracts**

**Mayor Larsen:** Marcos, can you talk about the traffic signal.

**Mr. Baladrón:** I think this is Dave Collins.

**Mayor Larsen:** Dave?

**Mr. Collins:** Good morning. So we have received our annual contract for traffic signal maintenance and the fees for this year are essentially doubling. In the past we have spent, last year, calendar year, we spent \$7,000 for traffic signal contract maintenance and the year before it was \$6,000. This year the projected cost is \$18,450 so I felt with the significant increase that perhaps we should put this out to competitive bid and see what other contractors propose.

**Mayor Larsen:** Absolutely. I agree Dave.

**Mr. Collins:** Yes. So that is the basis of it. This has been an annual renewal without going to bid for a few years prior to my coming into the office and it expires on January 31<sup>st</sup> so we may have a month where that we have a lapse in the contract but I thought it prudent to get it on the Work Session and not wait until the regular Trustee meeting.

**Trustee Minardi:** Dave, this is Chris, could you just explain what a typical or what average traffic signal maintenance is like making sure they work or painted or what is it?

**Mr. Collins:** Bi-annually they come out and re-lamp all the traffic signals for a fixed fee; that is in the contract. The monthly fee that we pay for the contract is, it is a service contract, and basically it says that they are on call, they respond to us either from a request from DPW, the traffic authority, or the Police Department to respond within four hours and fix any outages. Any minor items, less than \$20, a fuse, a bulb, a wiring connection, it is part of the contract; anything over \$20 is considered a major item and it is billed out at their rate. Any major project, say a pole is damaged and the light has to be re-installed or a new light installed, that is all at time and material over the contract.

**Trustee Graham:** Now Dave I was just trying to do a quick calculation in my head, we have six controlled intersections in the Village?

**Mr. Collins:** The only ones we are really dealing with, with this contract, is Collins Avenue, Newtown Lane and Cooper, and Race Lane and Railroad Avenue. These are the three lights. North Main Street is taken care of under the Town and Main Street, Woods Lane, and Pantigo are all under State, those are State lights and Main Street and Newtown Lane, they are all State maintained lights. So this really covers only three lights for us.

**Trustee Graham:** I think we could probably do it a lot cheaper ourselves in terms of re-lamping. I mean if it gets into the control boxes and stuff, I guess that might be a different story.

**Mr. Collins:** The re-lamping cost is really insignificant over the whole cost of the contract, the re-lamping is \$450 so really that is, to have the contractor come out and do that and they inspect the unit at the same time, it is probably worth having that done. It was just the overall increase, more than double, that just put up a red flag for me. It has been consistent for the last three or four years and then all of a sudden now we are more than doubling the cost of the contract.

**Trustee Graham:** Right, have we had any problem with the controls systems that they have had to replace?

**Mr. Collins:** No. The lights are very low maintenance unless we have a major storm or somebody hits the structure. The systems that are in them, they are an electronic and semi-mechanical system. You can hear them clicking when you go by them, the relays, and they are pretty much bullet-proof. Occasionally a lamp will go out and the Village Police will get a call that a lamp in one direction is not lit, the contractor comes out, they are generally very quick to respond. I believe they have trucks on the road 24 hours a day because they also service other municipalities and they may even do some of the work for the state.

**Trustee Graham:** That seems very expensive for me for what they seem to be doing.

**Mr. Collins:** Well, it is like having a service contract for your oil burner at your house. You pay for it, hopefully your heat does not go out but when your heat goes out, you have a contractor, johnny on the spot, it is kind of you are guaranteeing an emergency response.

**Mayor Larsen:** Why do we not put this out to bid and let us see if anybody comes in cheaper.

**Trustee Graham:** I agree.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right, great.

**Unpaid Alarm Fines**

**Mayor Larsen:** Can we go, Marcos, unpaid alarm fines?

**Mr. Baladrón:** Sure, I mean we have about just under \$30,000 worth of unpaid alarm fines and I think what we had proposed at one of the 9 a.m. Department Head meetings in early December was to see if we could add this onto the tax bill the following year to make sure that they get paid. There is a lot of agreement about it, I just want to make sure what the Board thought about it.

**Mayor Larsen:** Beth, what do you think?

**Ms. Baldwin:** The Code provides for that to be done. There is a provision already in the Village's Code that states that after I think it is 60 days, I just looked at it this morning, that it gets tacked on as a lien and would be paid in your property tax.

**Mayor Larsen:** Have we ever done that before to your knowledge, Beth?

**Ms. Baldwin:** To my knowledge, no, but I have only been here a year so we would probably have to ask Susan Steckowski.

**Trustee Graham:** When I saw this list, I was flabbergasted. Some of these go back to 2010.

**Mayor Larsen:** I guess there is the answer.

**Trustee Graham:** So I think that we have not done it for at least 10 years.

**Mr. Baladrón:** Tiger, there are a lot of repeat offenders.

**Trustee Graham:** And I think that realistically some my neighbors of mine are habitual show-ups on this list. I was outraged when I saw this. I mean I pay my \$50 every year. I would think that what we should do is we can add it to the tax bill if we want but I think we should send them a letter, each one of them telling them how much they owe and if they do not pay us within 30 days, we will not respond to an alarm and their insurance company will be informed.

**Ms. Baldwin:** We cannot do that.

**Trustee Brown:** The Code says that we have to send a certified letter informing them that they are in default of this and then we can, if they have not paid within 60 days, pursue...

**Ms. Baldwin:** There is a provision, it is 62-5.E. and that is the provision that provides to allow, it is the notice provision that is where it is giving them the 60 days and then how you move forward from there.

**Trustee Graham:** How about late fees?

**Ms. Baldwin:** There is no late fee included.

**Mayor Larsen:** No interest, no late fees, maybe we can add that provision.

**Trustee Melendez:** Late fees is something that I would like to see.

**Trustee Graham:** I write my check every year, I guess I am the only one.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right, so how do we go forward here, Beth?

**Ms. Baldwin:** We would have to follow the Code, so we would want to, a lot of these people have already been past because the requirement is 60 days from the notice so assuming they have already gotten the notice, we would have to doublecheck that, I am sure we are past but if we wanted to re-notice everybody just to be a little more formal about it now that we can re-notice everybody that has an outstanding fine and then say that they have 60 days otherwise this is what is going to happen, it is going to become a lien.

**Trustee Graham:** Can we inform their insurance company because you have an alarm, you have a reduced rate on your insurance...

**Ms. Baldwin:** Well they still have an alarm.

**Trustee Graham:** Well we can go back and say so and so has not paid their fees.

**Ms. Baldwin:** The insurance company does not care, right? Ultimately, we have to respond and they have an alarm.

**Mayor Larsen:** Let us just do what the Code said, if they do not pay after that then we will just put the lien on.

**NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services**

**Mayor Larsen:** Before we close out Work Session and get into the resolutions, I just wanted Marcos to fill everybody in on, there is going to be resolution number 1 but I just wanted him to tell you about it before we move into that.

**Mr. Baladrón:** It is a cyber grant that I found with Jen Mezzano, our grant writer, it is perfect, we do not have to match it, it is \$50,000 and if you have seen some of the local news up-island, there has been a lot of cyber attacks that have been hitting municipalities, school districts, and really just stealing money, 1.4 million, \$700,000, \$110,000 not too long ago. There are phishing scams, there are a lot of attacks where our network, I do not want to go into our weaknesses here on our network but it is an easy lift to get this grant. We are poised to kind of get it and I would love to take advantage of it frankly.

**Trustee Graham:** I agree 100 percent.

**Trustee Minardi:** Me too.

**Mayor Larsen:** All right, great. Let us move out of the Work Session into the resolutions. Ready, June?

**Ms. Lester:** Yes.

**Mayor Larsen:** All you.

**Resolutions/Motions**

**Ms. Lester:** Number 1 – Adopt Resolution 1-2021 to approve submission of a grant application to the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

**Trustee Melendez:** So moved.

**Trustee Graham:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried.

**Ms. Lester:** Number 2 – Adopt Resolution 2-2021 hereby extending the effective date of Resolution #56-2020, adopted on August 18, 2020, to remain in effect to January 31, 2021, in the matter of the Volunteer Firefighter Service Award Program Point System when special response rules are in effect during the COVID 19 Pandemic of 2020 as per Emergency Order #2.44 of 2020.

**Trustee Graham:** Before we vote on this, can I ask why we are only going out to January 31? Is that something statutory?

**Ms. Lester:** I think you can extend it to whatever date you want or keep extending, it is the Board's choice.

**Trustee Graham:** You know I mean I think that the Fire and Ambulance are probably not going to be fully immunized for at least probably until the end of February. I mean we can certainly extend it out to the end of February unless we want to do it for this month and then we can do it again for the next month, I do not really care.

**Mayor Larsen:** It does not matter. As long as we are within our year, we can go retroactively even if we wait until the March meeting and see how we are doing, we can always move it and make it retroactive similar to what we are doing right now.

**Trustee Graham:** Okay, so moved.

**Trustee Brown:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried.

**Ms. Lester:** Adopted Resolution #3-2021 hereby extending the effective date of Resolution #57-2020, adopted on August 18, 2020, to remain in effect to January 31, 2021 in the matter of the Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Service Award Program Point System which special response rules are in effect during the COVID 19 Pandemic of 2020 as per Emergency Order #2.44 of 2020.

**Trustee Brown:** So moved.

**Trustee Minardi:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried.

**Ms. Lester:** Number 4 – Adopt Resolution #4-2021 to approve the procurement and use of a Village credit card and adopt a credit card use policy.

**Trustee Graham:** Before we vote on this, I thought the Village had a credit card before now.

**Ms. Lester:** No.

**Trustee Graham:** Never had one?

**Ms. Lester:** Not to my knowledge. I know at some point, 15 years ago or longer, they adopted the policy against the use of it but that is all I know.

**Trustee Graham:** I am in favor of having a credit card, I would like to ensure that the use of this credit card is restricted to the Mayor and the Village Administrator.

**Mayor Larsen:** Actually the...

**Mr. Baladrón:** Essentially, sorry Mr. Mayor, it is actually even better than that, Tiger, we are just keeping it for Dominique. In 2021 there are so many web services and companies that only will accept credit cards, it is really just for her.

**Mayor Larsen:** The Treasurer will be the gatekeeper of the card, anybody who needs to purchase anything that they cannot do with a purchase order will have to contact Dominique and she will be the only one authorized to place the order. So it is a pretty strict policy so I think it should satisfy everybody.

**Trustee Graham:** I also noticed that we can pay this off warrant so we can get ahead of...

**Mayor Larsen:** The interest, yes, no interest.

**Mr. Baladrón:** And it will not circumvent also any of our financial protocols in place.

**Trustee Graham:** Okay, fine. Good idea.

**Mayor Larsen:** Motion?

**Trustee Minardi:** I make a motion to accept.

**Trustee Brown:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried.

**Ms. Lester:** Number 5 – Accept 2021 Ambulance Association Officers as per recent Ambulance Association election: Chief: Lisa A. Charde; Asst. Chief: Ann Grabowski; Captain: Marcia Dias; Asst. Captain: Mary Mott; Lieutenant: Olger Araya; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant: Ian Hoyt.

**Mayor Larsen:** I just want to say thanks to all these people for actually stepping up and doing such a great job. It is really becoming such a big job now with the ambulance and the fire and I just appreciate all these people doing such a great job for us.

**Trustee Graham:** Especially in this year Jerry.

**Mayor Larsen:** Oh, I know, you are not kidding. So can we get a motion?

**Trustee Graham:** So moved.

**Trustee Minardi:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried. Thank you again.

**Trustee Graham:** Congratulations Lisa.

**Ms. Lester:** Number 6 – Adopt Resolution #5-2021 in recognition of Paul F. Rickenbach's twenty-eight years of service to the Village as Mayor, hereby proclaiming Maidstone Avenue shall bear the honorary name "Honorable Paul F. Rickenbach, Jr. Road"

**Mayor Larsen:** I am very excited about this so can I get a motion?

**Trustee Graham:** So moved.

**Trustee Minardi:** Second.

**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?

**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.

**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried. So, the plan with this would be on Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> we will hopefully all of us can attend and we will go out to Maidstone Avenue on the corner of Gingerbread and we will have a short ceremony there where we will proclaim that road in his name. So, Hugh, hopefully you can attend and...

**Mr. King:** I will be there.

**Mayor Larsen:** Yes, it is going to be at 2 o'clock on the 16<sup>th</sup> so anybody who would like to attend, it would be great.

**Ms. Lester:** Number 7 – Accept National Waste Services, LLC's bid to provide recycling services at the five Village beaches and six locations in the business district as per the December 29<sup>th</sup> bid specifications at the cost of \$606.20 monthly.

**Trustee Melendez:** So moved.

**Trustee Brown:** Second.  
**Mayor Larsen:** All in favor?  
**Trustee Minardi:** Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Brown:** Aye. **A Graham:** Aye.  
**Mayor Larsen:** Passed and carried.  
**Trustee Graham:** And this is recycling only, right?  
**Mayor Larsen:** Yes, exactly. I would just like to make a quick comment about this. We found out that we actually do not actually recycle so this is going to go a long way in helping our environment. So even though we have recycle bins at the beaches, it was all being dumped into one location. So this will correct that problem. We will actually be able to put recycle bins out that National Waste will pick up twice a week, they take it to an off-site location up west and it all gets separated there and recycled correctly. So we are really excited about this that we can do our part so thanks again everybody.

**Public Comment**

**Mayor Larsen:** I just want to see, Jody, do we have any public comment?  
**Mr. Gambino:** Yes, there is one caller on the line.  
**Mayor Larsen:** Oh good, do you want to put him through?  
**Mr. Gambino:** Yes, let me unmute them now. Seemed like they just got off the phone as soon as I unmuted them.  
**Mayor Larsen:** All right, do you want to wait a couple of minutes and we will see if they come back. A couple of minutes is a long time, just wait a minute.

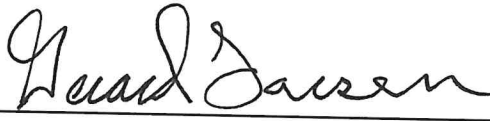
**Village Hall is Closed to the Public and Non-Resident Permits**

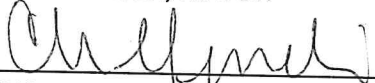
**Mr. Baladrón:** Can I just use this time Mr. Mayor to remind everyone that Village Hall is closed and non-resident beach stickers will be on sale, I would prefer, if we can get as many people to buy them on line.  
**Ms. Lester:** Starting February.  
**Mr. Baladrón:** February 1<sup>st</sup>.  
**Mayor Larsen:** You know, Marcos, it is funny, you give me these little notes to announce and I do not even read them so just step in any time. So, anybody, Jody?  
**Mr. Gambino:** No, nobody has called back.

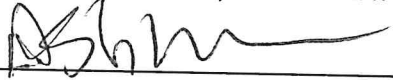
**Mayor Larsen:** All right so let us close our meeting, can I get a motion and before we do that, I just want to announce that we are going into Executive Session to speak about Real Estate and Personnel, if there is anything we need to do after that, we will notify the public and then we will go back into session but otherwise we are going to close the meeting. Motion?  
**Trustee Graham:** So moved.  
**Trustee Minardi:** Second.  
**Mayor Larsen:** All right. Meeting is closed, thank you everybody, see you in Executive Session.  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.


(APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APRIL 16, 2020)


  
PAMELA J. BENNETT, VILLAGE CLERK

  
GERARD LARSEN, MAYOR

  
CHRISTOPHER MINARDI, DEPUTY MAYOR

  
ARTHUR S. GRAHAM, TRUSTEE

  
ROSEMARY G. BROWN, TRUSTEE

  
SANDRA MELENDEZ, TRUSTEE