

**VILLAGE OF EAST HAMPTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING HELD ON
MARCH 4, 2021 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.

Present: Jerry Larsen, Mayor
Chris Minardi, Deputy Mayor
Arthur Graham, Trustee
Rosemary Brown, Trustee
Sandra Melendez, Trustee
Marcos Baladrón, Administrator
Elizabeth Baldwin, Attorney
Michael Bouker, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works
Billy Hajek, Planner
Michael Tracey, Police Chief
Ken Collum, Code Enforcement Officer
Tom Preiato, Building Inspector
Gerard Turza, Fire Chief
Mr. King King, Historic Site Manager
Drew Bennett, Consulting Engineer
Dell Cullum, Wildlife Rescue of East Hampton
Jody Gambino, LTV Moderator
June Lester, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant

Mayor Larsen: Good Morning and welcome to the March 4, 2021 East Hampton Village Board Meeting. Before we get started, I'd like to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

Mr. Collum: 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.

Mayor Larsen: Thanks, Kenny.

Mr. Collum: You're welcome.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Do we have Hugh King on? Jodi?

Mr. Gambino/LTV: Mr. King has not signed in yet.

Town Pond Dredging Project

Mayor Larsen: All right. So, that was our first presentation. So, we're going to skip that, and we're going to go to Town Pond. And everyone knows, we started the dredging project, which was approved by the state. We did receive all of our necessary permits. We received the negative declaration from SEQRA, correct, Billy?

Mr. Hajek: That is correct.

Mayor Larsen: Everything on the Village's end was done appropriately. And on Saturday, I was contacted by Andy Sabin, who notified me that they had found some turtles hibernating in the pond. I contacted Dell Cullum, who I asked to head up and organize a meeting of everyone involved. I called Pat Bistran and asked him to stop the dredging. And on Saturday, we met at the Hedges Inn, because of the terrible weather we were having. And we were able to agree to put the project on hold for one week, which would then start this Monday. Again, I asked Dell to head up the rescue effort, if you will, to keep it coordinated, to keep our liability under control, that we just didn't have people freelancing and entering the pond. The pond is very dangerous. There's about four feet of mud and it really is like quick sand. And if you happen to go through and fall into that mud, you're not going to get out very easily. So, we were very concerned about the danger aspect of this. So, I'm going to ask Dell to speak and give us an update on the rescue effort.

Mr. Cullum: Yes. Thank you, Jerry. And just first of all, I want to thank the Board, and Pat Bistran for holding that project off. When, when this, when this information came to my attention. And of course, we understand there's business that needs to be conducted in the village, and there's financial

issues of concern, and contracts as well. But as advocates for the wildlife who don't have a voice, as well as many others on the East End of Long Island are very concerned that these animals, we can protect them and they won't be harmed during situations like this. And of course, to us, the timing of the project was a little bit off, as we would have hoped because there are... We don't know, we can only speculate, but we're certain that there are a number of both invasive and indigenous species in the Town Pond, in the sediment, hibernating right now. Amphibians specifically. Turtle specifically. We're just concerned for all the wildlife around the pond. We're anxious and eager for the pond to be brought back to a new, healthy condition that the wildlife can thrive at. That, we're all in celebration about. But getting to there, we're hitting this snag of the concern of those animals under the mud. It has been a little tricky, but I have to thank the village, and again, Pat Bistran for just like that snapping off and holding off the project for a week. Unfortunately... Well, first of all, let's say fortunately, during the week we were able to, and in a short period of time, we really haven't had an opportunity to spend as much time down there as we would like, not because of schedule, but because of the weather. We certainly have the volunteers available to help us, but it was a slow start coordinating, trying to figure out a couple of the things we had originally wanted to try to use to attempt this rescue and recovery. It didn't quite work well. For example, we were hoping to get prongs of a rake down deep enough, or a clam rake or something to maybe hit some of these shelves of the turtles that weren't down so deep and perhaps be able to dig them up. Rakes do not move in that sediment. We found that out first shot. So, we had to try new things. And we finally found a few things that did work to get on the surface safely. And just when we did that, we managed to save three turtles in a matter of a couple of days. That was a huge success for us and for all animal lovers that are out there. But a small segment of what we really were hoping to achieve. The conditions aren't going to change other the temperature, which really works in our favor. But as far as the sediment in the mud, depending on what kind of precipitation we get over the next week, which I don't think there's any forecast, it's the same conditions. That mud is soft, dangerous, and unpredictable, let's say. Okay, you don't know what's going to happen. Depending on how you fall into it, how you attempt to get out of it, what you're wearing, there's a whole lot of variables to consider here on safety alone. And that's what I take, I focus on safety as a priority because once you get that down, then the process can go a lot smoother and you don't have to worry about injuries and things like that. So again, this is a project that was going to require finding needles in a haystack. There's no other better way to explain it. It was a very difficult task. And quite frankly, I'm surprised we found the three we did. What I'm upset about still is that, although these were three invasive species that won't be returned to the pond, they are however living animals and they're living things. And we strive to want to save and/or protect all living things, particularly in wildlife. We did not get to save any of the native snapping turtles. I understand that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is perfectly aware that there are probably native snapping turtles in the pond, as well as the invasive species, but because of how they operate, they've signed off on the project, and they're not considering the lives. I understand that's how the State works. It doesn't make us feel any better, but we try to understand what's thrown at us. Where are we at now? Well, we have the end of the week coming, temperatures are still going to be cold. But fortunately, it looks like this coming week, we're going to get a significant change in temperature. And the significant change in temperature is going to give us a new opportunity on that mud to try different efforts in the effort to save as many turtles as we can. And any time that you're going to allow us. Certainly you've given us a week, and I'm very grateful for that. I would like at this time, to ask the board, and again, with my great, great appreciation for what you've already given us. I'm not taking an inch and asking for a mile. I'm just really concerned about these turtles. And I really do want better conditions to try to go in, and whether I get one or a dozen more, whatever time you allow us, we're going to use it to the best of our abilities to do whatever we can so that you can get this project back on track. Because the weather is going to look better for next week, I'd like to ask the Board if it's possible, if you can grant us, and of course Pat as well, I'm begging Pat to give us just at least one more week to be able to operate in these new, more efficient conditions that I think we can work better in and have better success. And of course, I would have loved to have waited till these animals came out of hibernation on their own, but having discussed all those variables with you and as far as cost and consideration of the businesses, and of course Pat and his work, and everybody, everybody that's going to be affected or involved. We just ask you to have a little compassion for what we're trying to do, and understanding. I know to some, it might not seem as significant, but to us folks, it is very significant. And we treat all life as important life. And for that reason, we would ask the Board to give us as much time as they possibly can. If you're planning on telling me, "Look, you've given us a week, and there's really not more that we can offer." I'm just going to plead to you one more time, give us at least, at least one more week so we can operate in the better weather conditions and give it one more grand attempt at saving as many of these turtles as we possibly can. And we will be very grateful and thankful if the Board would allow us that opportunity. And we'll be grateful otherwise, but we would be much more grateful if you could see it our way.

Mayor Larsen: Dell, thank you so much for everything you're doing down there. I appreciate your help.

Mr. Cullum: Not at all, not at all.

Mayor Larsen: Being able to organize this on Saturday at last minute. Know this, you've been a great help for the village. So don't go away. Don't sign off yet. I'm going to bring in Billy Hajek, Who's our Village Planner. Billy, if you could just give the public a history of this entire project, I think it will be helpful for everyone to

know how this all is working, and how long it's been in the process.

Mr. Hajek: Good morning, Mr. Mayor, members of the board, and the public. So Town Pond, this actual project has been ongoing. I've been with the village for almost six years, and when I started, this project was on the table for discussion and in the planning stages. So it's been ongoing before my arrival at the village, which is five years. And my understanding is that the pond was mechanically excavated about 20 years ago, give or take. That effort, it wasn't a full-on excavation, like that's being occurring right now. And there were some issues or questions of the permitting process that occurred at that time. But the pond hasn't been fully cleaned or excavated in over 20 years, and it's receiving sediments and runoff mainly from the state highway system. It doesn't help that the state highway catchment basins are completely full and not functioning anymore. That's only accelerating the amount of sediments and storm water that enters the pond. But either way, it's the condition that it exists. And everyone knows that Town Pond acts as a holding area for water before it flows into Hook Pond. And the idea of removing the sediments provides multiple water quality benefits. It allows for a greater volume of water, which reduces water temperature. It increases habitat value. It allows for greater settling of sediments before the water flows into Hook Pond. And there's a tremendous amount of phosphorous that's built up in the sediments, and removing those sediments removes the phosphorous, which is a key water quality improvement benefit that's been pointed to in the Hook Pond study that was commissioned by the village about four years ago. So, the village completed a series of soil samples. We had multiple meetings with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on means and methods and materials disposal. We then went ahead and put together various different plans on how to execute the project. We went and applied to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the DEC, through about a year-long review process, they ultimately issued the Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit. And then the project was put out to bid, and whoever secured the bid, which in this case was Bistran Materials, was required to obtain a Beneficial Use Determination. And that permit, which is issued also by the DEC, identifies the location where the sediments and how the sediments can be disposed. Those approvals were all secured. The project was started, and it was moving along fairly well. We had broken it up into two phases. Phase One was to remove 1500 cubic yards from the southerly end of the pond. That was really to ensure the means and methods were working, and that the contractor was being successful in terms of removal of materials. We weren't making a mess of the area. The roads were holding up. It was just, basically, not really a trial run, but it gave the village the opportunity to ensure that the project was being completed in a satisfactory method. That phase was funded. It was fully funded by the Town Community Preservation Fund as a water quality improvement project. And that work was completed. And the contractor began Phase Two, which was removal of the remaining roughly 7,000 cubic yards of material from the pond, until last week when it was halted to try to stop and reevaluate the wildlife situation. Part of the agreement was that the contractor, if they came across any wildlife, they would secure that wildlife and relocate it to Hook Pond. Based on my observations and discussions with the contractor, and I've been to the site multiple times, they did not come across any wildlife. I didn't see any during the actual excavation. So, it's my belief and their belief that no wildlife was harmed during the Phase One of the project. In terms of Phase Two, the Community Preservation Fund Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee had yesterday had a special meeting to discuss Phase Two. We applied for funding to complete Phase Two, and the committee voted to move that request along to the Town Board. So, it's a good sign that we could receive funding for Phase Two of the project.

Mayor Larsen: Billy, I think it's important that everyone knows the cost of this project. It's not cheap.

Mr. Hajek: So, the Phase One was \$191,000. Phase Two, I don't have the exact number, but I believe it's \$680,000, was the total amount for Phase Two.

Mayor Larsen: That's right. So, it's just under a million dollars to dredge this pond. Somewhere in the high 800's.

Mr. Hajek: That's correct.

Mayor Larsen: And it's not a week's project, it's months long to complete this. I was talking to Patrick Bistran from the point he is right now, he feels like he's two months from completion.

Mr. Hajek: The original plan was to start on October 1st, and the village outside council had advised the village to not proceed because of fear of P-FOS in the sediments. And we had to stop everything. We went back, put Patrick on hold. We had to do more sediment sampling. We had to test for more constituents. And fortunately, there was no P-FOS found in the sediments, and we were able to restart the project again. So, that was a built-in delay from the onset. And we always tried to maintain a drop-dead date of May 8th as a completion date, which would give enough time to restore the property in time for the summer season.

Mayor Larsen: Great, thanks, Billy. I also asked Drew Bennett, who's our village engineer, to look at the contract and give the board an update. If we did go beyond next week... So, if the board agreed to give the rescue effort another week, that would bring us to the 14th of March. There was some question

whether we could go longer. So, I asked Drew to look at the contract and give the board an update. If we went beyond March 15th, what the costs would be to the village residents or taxpayers. So Drew, could you give us that update?

Mr. Bennett: Good morning, board members. First of all, I'd like to say that the contractor has been very cooperative. He understands the sensitivity of the issue. And at this point in time, is trying to cooperate with us and the people who are concerned about the animals to try to have a good outcome. Unfortunately, with a project of this size and magnitude, project delays almost always lead to increases in costs. And some of the things that the contractor could claim as a potential request for change orders, which is basically an increase in costs due to increase in work or project delays, are basically... He pulled his equipment off the site and is trying to utilize it elsewhere. So, it took the contractor almost three weeks to get set up. And now he's going to have to, if it's delayed much further, say beyond another week, it's unlikely that he's going to leave what's there already, and he's likely going to be required to demobilize everything, except for the water diversion apparatus. And so, we're going to lose him. It'll probably take him another three weeks to get set up again. During that period, I think it's in the best interest of any recovery effort that the water diversion continue. And to make sure that it operates correctly, that we don't have any sediment bypass during the diversion process, that the pumps operate efficiently, that the pumps don't go dry, et cetera. And so that's an additional cost that if the date goes beyond the May completion date, the additional days of water diversion are certainly something that would be considered potentially as additional work. In addition to that, any delay of the project beyond the eighth, in my opinion, based on my review of the contract, the contractor typically experiences increases in costs for insurance and bonds. Those are based on project value and time periods. So there's a potential additional cost for that. And in addition to that, this is a State Public Works Project. It is operated under a prevailing wage rate schedule, and the state's mandated wage rates go through an annual review of an increase, and that typically happens in June. So, if the project is delayed a month or two months, and we're operating beyond May, then the project would likely increase just because of an increase in wage rates. And then there's other factors which are very difficult to estimate. And that's, how do we handle a contractor who has a significant project here and is informed on short notice that we need to put it on hold for a long period of time? How do we handle lost work? And that's typically a very hard thing to iron out. So, you're not looking at a potential cost overruns of \$350, you're looking at tens of thousands of dollars. And I think I estimated probably about \$75,000 per month is an estimate that I would put on for any related delays. I can say right now that the contractor is not pushing that. As I mentioned early on, he's been very cooperative. However, it's a fairly substantial operation, and delays beyond days or a week or so, I think that the feeling is that he really has no choice but to begin to look at seeking additional compensation. So, I'm happy to answer any questions, but hopefully that gives you enough background.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Great. I have to just say the same. I've been on the phone with Patrick over the last week and he's been very cooperative, but he is a business and he does need to make money, and he does have employees that he needs to pay. I think I have everybody on the same page. Dell did a great job for us. And if the Board agrees, I think we could extend them one more week to the 14th, and it would not impact the job from Patrick's point of view or the Village's point of view. So, if the board is in agreement of that, I would say we should move forward and just give them one more week. And Dell is pretty confident that would be a big help in rescuing any other turtles that are in the pond. Anybody have any... Please ask questions.

Trustee Graham: I have a question for Dell, and that is, Dell, at what temperature do the turtles begin to move on their own?

Mr. Cullum: You know, I don't know that answer specifically, Mr. Graham. As much as I am involved with wildlife, turtles are not my area of expertise. And, because I actually have a resource of an expert who's been very helpful with me in the past, which is Karen Testa from the turtle hospital. I always refer to her for that type of information. I know it's difficult to pinpoint a date for these animals to come out of hibernation, because as you well know, or hopefully you are aware, that we're dealing with climate issues now, so the weather patterns are all different. And basically, everything is a bit of speculation when you're trying to narrow it down to a particular time, but when it starts to get warmer, these animals will start to come out.

Trustee Graham: They like to sun themselves, right?

Mr. Cullum: A bat is a good example because bats hibernate. And as soon as we get a freakish warm spell during the winters, these bats are eager to jump out of hibernation, and then they end up dying because the next morning it freezes again. So, it's all up to the animals, and in this case, the turtles. When their internal thermometer tells them it's time to wake up and start going for the surface, because of the warmer temperatures, that's when they'll make their move. To guess at it would be, again, a speculative comment.

Trustee Graham: Right. And also, on the 14th or after the 14th, when excavation resumes, would you be able to work at the other end of the pond at that same time?

Mr. Cullum: Oh, you bet. And in fact, I was also going to conclude with that request. I don't know who or

what kind of experience the present wildlife spotters have, or who they are or what they're doing actually, but we certainly would be thrilled if you would allow us to, of course, stay out of the way of equipment and the workers, but still monitor the site. Because quite frankly, I'm feeling that as soon as you do get that machine back making vibrations and noises, and as the temperatures warm up, we may even have much better luck drawing these animals to the surface, at which time we can spot, recover, and rescue and relocate them. So please, I would love to fill the shoes of that, and I'm sure I can get some very good spotter volunteers from my organization to help with that as well. And we would superly appreciate that.

Mayor Larsen: I think that's definitely be part of the package here, as long as it goes along with all of this. Dell, if you could, just for the public sake and the board, just tell them who else is involved in this. I know you've mentioned the turtle hospital. Also, I think Andy Sabin's museum is involved.

Mr. Cullum: Well. Well. Well, Mr. Sabin and the museum had offered to hold the turtles, which right now are invasive turtles. So holding them is not something we're going to need them back. So, I guess he's going to take them. I've also caught wind of one of the employees that actually, they're only accepting 10. So, I'm not sure how that's going to unfold. I certainly have all the room necessary to house 50 or more turtles. So, our organization is completely ready to handle all functions and areas of this recovery effort. We're glad to have Mr. Sabin give his remarks and comments, but I've never dealt with Mr. Sabin before. He's never shown any interest in my organization in the past. And quite frankly, I don't need his help right now. When I need an expert's opinion in any form of wildlife that I question myself on, I go to a very well-known and well-educated wildlife biologist right here in East Hampton, Mr. Mike Bottini, who is really all the resource I need. And of course I said, Karen. Karen's my turtle expert. Not my, she's everybody's. So, we use her as a resource. Sorry, my owl is going a little crazy. We use her as a resource because she's the only expert I need, as far as the turtles, that I've ever needed. Nothing against Andy, it's just I've never dealt with him before. He's never offered his help to me before. So I've used other resources and I'm quite happy with them.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. So, the one turtle that was found, the first turtle. They estimated that it was 50 or 60 years old.

Mr. Cullum: That's correct. That was from Karen at the turtle hospital.

Mayor Larsen: That's pretty amazing. I think the effort is worth, if we could save a few more in the next week.

Mr. Cullum: Well, sure it is. Any effort is worth. Look, we know we're not going to be able to save everything. We hope we can. We hope we'll be able to save everything. But realistically, we're afraid that there'll be a few that'll get caught in the mix. Hopefully we'll find them in any stage of this project, but if we don't, we're saddened, but we're going to...

Mayor Larsen: And I think it's important to know that the soil that's being removed, or the silt, it's being brought to a location that also, and being spread, and it also has a pond. So, if a turtle was to get caught up and did survive the transportation, it would have a water source to go to.

Mr. Cullum: Well, yes. That element absolutely would benefit our dilemma as far as the process goes. Sure, the turtles will have a better chance. However, being disturbed during their time of hibernation and spread on a farm field, they're not going to get the opportunity at this time of the year to wake up and make it to that water source, okay? They're probably going to freeze if they've already not frozen, not having the proper insulation that they create when they hibernate. These are cold blooded animals. They can withstand some incredible low temperatures, but they do die when they freeze, okay, so it's a difficult situation all the way around. Again, the fact that you folks recognize this as something important enough to give us the opportunity to get in there and try to remediate the concerns is... We're very grateful for that. And we're going to try to do the best we can and that's all we can do. And then, with your permission, we'd like to hang in there and continue observing and monitoring as you move along so that we can help any of the stragglers that show up during the project.

Mayor Larsen: Perfect. Anybody have any questions? Trustee, Chris, Rose?

Mr. Cullum: Incidentally I really can't wait for the project to be finished, ultimately, because I know that the wildlife in and around that pond will be better and thrive more. And we're going to see swans back there and they're going to... Which incidentally are invasive, but they'll be back there and they'll be having cygnets. And the people that come into town will be able to drive by, sit next to the pond, experience the beauty of wildlife right in front of their eyes, just feet, yards away. And what better is that? What better opportunity would that be? Especially in these trying times. Nature and wildlife kind of relaxes us and distresses us. So let's take advantage of that folks. We'll live longer.

Mayor Larsen: Marcos, did you have something?

Mr. Baladrón: I just want to be clear because we've named a lot of people and organizations. It's Mr. Cullum's organization, Wildlife Rescue Center. That's the one we're using, that's what's designated to be down there, in a sense calling the shots, but the rescue efforts for the turtles that are there, right?

Mayor Larsen: Yes

Mr. Cullum: Yes. That is the name of our organization.

Mr. Baladrón: Okay.

Mayor Larsen: And we asked anybody who would like to help please go through Dell, do not try to do this on your own.

Mr. Cullum: If my name is on the ticket, we can have people just down there because, as I said, safety is my number one priority. And then everything else will run smoothly. And I know it gets a little difficult and a little chaotic. I have a plan to keep that from happening, but it will have to entail me being on-site to supervise or unless I can appoint somebody that I know will have the same objectives as me. But until then, I'd prefer if nobody was on-site unless I'm there. I have a list of volunteers I'm going to be contacting over the weekend, who are everything from young folks who are aspiring marine biologists to wildlife friendly folks, to people that just want to lend a hand and support me and the efforts of everybody. And of course, there's a bunch of folks who just love turtles that want to help too. And I'm going to utilize all of them as long as they go through me first. And we can all do this safely, quickly and efficiently and I think effectively. And I think we can really get a few more of these little critters and give them a second chance.

Mayor Larsen: Thanks Dell. Does anyone have any other questions before we...

Trustee Melendez: I just want to say thank you to Dell and for this effort. I was there on Sunday and it's exciting when you get to see something more or you're trying to feel like you're part of rescuing, so thank you for that. And thank you for all the volunteers. We're really grateful that you're doing this job.

Mr. Cullum: Our pleasure, and you're most welcome.

Mayor Larsen: Did any board member oppose to giving an extra week?

Trustee Brown: No, not at all. And I think we've heard from Dell that it's important to do so and it sounds like the contractor is amenable to it. So, I think it works for everyone and we certainly want to mitigate any potential impact negatively to the pond. And, as Dell just mentioned, this is overall going to be such a huge environmental improvement to the pond. So the overall goal is amazing and we'll get there. So, I support that as well.

Mayor Larsen: Great. All right, Dell we're in business.

Mr. Cullum: Okay. We'll be back down there and just get started on Monday morning. We appreciate everybody's support and I can't thank the board enough and Mr. Bistran. Thank you all. Thank you all. And the public for understanding and your continued passion and support. We are very grateful.

Mayor Larsen: Thanks Dell.

Mr. Cullum: And my owl, Althena is very grateful as well.

Mayor Larsen: Thanks very much.

Mr. Cullum: Have a wonderful weekend.

Mayor Larsen: And thank you. Thanks Drew. All right. So, I see Mr. King is on.

Presentation – Hugh King

Mayor Larsen: So we're going to go back and we'll do the presentation that you asked.

Mr. King: You will?

Mayor Larsen: Yes.

Mr. King: Well, thank you Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Larsen: You know you were late?

Mr. King: I overslept.

Mayor Larsen: Good for you.

Mr. King: The only thing I wanted to say is... I wanted to mention something about the Scavenger Hunt...

Mayor Larsen: Yes.

Mr. King: ... That took place. Who won the Scavenger Hunt?

Mayor Larsen: John Tarbet and his family.

Mr. King: Well, there were two questions I just wanted to mention. First one you know one of the answers was the sheepfold by the post office? And while I was down there, do you know there's a tree in the sheepfold with a plaque next to it. And the plaque is for Dr. Frederick Russell, one of the mayors?

Mayor Larsen: We are very aware of that.

Mr. King: Oh, good. Because the tree is in a little trouble, isn't it?

Mayor Larsen: Yes.

Mr. King: Okay. Well, one of the suggestions is we could do something with that plaque. Dr. Russell's granddaughter still lives here, Sandy Faulhaber. So maybe we could talk to her if you want to pick a different tree or I don't know what's going to happen to that tree. Okay. But you know it so...

Mayor Larsen: The LVIS is actually working on that.

Mr. King: Oh, great. Great. Thank you. All right, the only-

Mayor Larsen: The family actually contacted us and pointed out that the plaque was actually missing. And I think the LVIS found it and put it back. They're dealing with the tree as well so...

Mr. King: Good. And the other one is your question about the bench in Herrick Park. I don't know how many benches have... The story was that there's a guy named Richard Bond's name on that bench and he's thanked, and it has something to do with coffee. Well, you know what the story was? This guy named John Cleary, a teacher at the East Hampton High School. He was swimming from Fireplace over to Gardiner's Island. And in the boat behind him was this guy, Richard Bond with other people, giving him coffee as he needed it. And then Richard Bond was a graduate of East Hampton High School. Richard Bond was a teacher at East Hampton High School. He led the High School Band and a contest at Edward Theater. He appeared in dramatic and musical performances at the high school and Edward Theater. And he had a 99.9 attendance record at East Hampton High School. Now that's just one bench. I wonder how many other stories are there on the bench. That's all I got. Thank you for letting me butt-in Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Larsen: Thank you. Thanks for doing Scavenger Hunt. It was a lot of fun.

Mr. King: Do you think we could use it for a fundraiser?

Mayor Larsen: Maybe.

Mayor Larsen: All right. We're going to enter into the work session. We have a few things on the agenda to discuss. We're going to start off with the beach revenue model. Marcos is going to give us a presentation on that.

Mr. Baladrón: All right. Share the screen here. Can you see that?

Trustee Brown: Yes.

Beach Revenue Model – Proposed Monthly Non-Resident Beach Parking Permits

Mr. Baladrón: All right. It actually started late last year that there was a growing number of residents who wanted to stop selling the non-resident beach permits. I think the main complaint was that they were finding it harder and harder to find parking at village beaches. So, we kind of wanted to find a solution that could help alleviate the problem without throwing away all of the 1.2 and now 1.500,000 revenue for the village. So, we think the problem is the revenue model itself. If I can click it here, by the way, I think that's Chris Minardi up there, right Chris?

Mr. Baladrón: We want to go back about several summers so we can show the board what we mean. If you could see on the left-hand side of the seasonal passes in revenue versus its visitors, it's kind of... You'll see from slide to slide here, it's like the 80/20 rule at work here. We went back from 2017, 2018 and 2019, because obviously 2020, we have now a daily pass permit. So, on the left, that's the seasonal beach permits, May 15th or September 15th. It's the bulk of the revenue, as you can see, and it's about 3,100 Board resolution for it. But look at the daily passes, it's just an incredible amount of passes that we're selling, that was at \$30 before the Board raised it, I think last September. Again, 2018, you can see it's the biggest paying point that residents have when it comes to our beaches. And I think that kind of speaks for itself, I wanted to show the Board that 2019 across 6,000 visitors and that's again, two to four people, a car. We actually found that our daily passes were outselling in September, our June daily passes, which is something interesting to note, but we did a deep dive into one of our beaches, Two Mile Hollow. And one of the things for a municipality is that we're looking to budget properly and obviously predictability is it. And you can see right here, it's just from year to year, this is pre COVID obviously, it's unpredictable. We think that, ultimately, the daily permits aren't really what they want, and I don't mean at all, I just mean in total, I think we're doing one or the other. If we're doing the seasonal permits from May 15th of September 15th, all the way to just doing a daily pass, we think that there's something else in between that we can do. And that's really kind of what the proposal would be, is just doing 500 monthly permit, it caps it available June, July, and August renewable. It's better for summer residents. I think the economic issue out here is the fact that someone will rent a house out for August only, and yet they're buying a non-resident beach pass for the entire season. I think it's better, really, to just encourage long-term visitors in the neighborhoods, and of course it's a stable source of revenue. As you can see here, even if we priced it at 300, it doesn't cannibalize our existing permit, which is the seasonal beach pass that goes on sale February 1st. It really is the bulk of the revenue, we don't want to threaten that in any way, so we would probably launch the non-resident beach pass like we always do February 1st and then May 1st, we'd probably propose to put out the June, July and August. We think it just segments the individual who's purchasing better, it allows for future price increases. And it's really just going to create more demand, so that is certainly something to consider. The goal is not to just sell out anymore, I think July and August will sell out completely, I think we all do know that just from our data on June. June won't sell out, but again, it doesn't matter. I think we're not the system. We can supplement it. We can do a hybrid model where daily passes could be used during the week or just on certain days, maybe just not weekends, and I think it works, my opinion, but...

Mayor Larsen: I think it's important to... Marcos, can you just jump back to that screen? No, the one before this.

Mr. Baladrón: No?

Mayor Larsen: You can't go back?

Mr. Baladrón: . I just... Well, I'm going back, but I'm-

Mayor Larsen: No, it's not moving on our screen, or at least not mine. Anyway. I think it's important. It's going forward, but it's important to know that it's not 500 each month. They expire, so the 500 from June would expire on June 30th and then that same 500 would be then resold again for... July resold again for August. So you're only talking about 500 passes, not 1500. So I think it's important that everyone understand that.

Mr. Baladrón: Okay.

Mayor Larsen: That was my only point.

Mr. Baladrón: So that's the, you see that? Is that the slide up on the screen now?

Mayor Larsen: Yes. That's it.

Mr. Baladrón: So, that's really that what the proposal was, is right there. We don't think it hurts the existing revenue coming in, we don't want it to. We're getting a lot of calls at village hall because we sold-out so fast. This could be a solution to individuals who were essentially kept out. I think we sold out in about a week, so I think this helps them as well.

Mayor Larsen: This also helps people who are renting their homes, which is something we talked about trying to do. And we talked about it early on in September, but we were kind of behind the opportunity to do it because the permits needed to be ordered right away and we need law changes. So this kind of does the same thing and the data that we were able to gain really supports this more than the original idea anyway.

Mr. Baladrón: So, obviously the most exciting part if we're speaking of being honest is it's just to reduce the amount of cars at the beaches. So I think this was how we addressed that issue. This was something we've heard last year, that there were a lot of people that couldn't... Or found it hard to find parking, village residents. So I think that it really does help. It does the best of both worlds. It reduces the cars and increases the revenue. Let me see, I'll put that dotted line there on the right under 2021 is what we just did by raising it a \$100 from 400 to 500. I think it was a 300,000, just over \$300,000 increase. So that's where we are now. And the 450 increases what we can do with these monthly passes, that's what it can bring in. We budget about a \$100,000 for our daily pass revenue each year. And this would be a \$350,000 increase. And the best part of this is that it's not relying on good weather, and all parking our beaches. I think it goes against what residents want. And of course, for Dominique and I it's predictable and reliable, which is nice. The new website.

Trustee Graham: We'd still be selling some daily permits?

Mr. Baladrón: Yes. I think we have to, I think May and September, September, I was shocked, but just how many permits we sell. I think, obviously, as we all know that that's our time in a sense, to go to the beach. And I think we have to do sell some daily permits. But what it does, Tiger, is that it doesn't... It's not the goal anymore, is to just sell as many daily permits as we can. We can do this and supplement it. If the parking lots are empty in June, we can sell daily passes, it gives the Board an option, frankly. I think you have more control overall. You've got your seasonal, your monthly, and then your dailies, and then you guys can choose. We can turn on park mobile at any time.

Trustee Graham: I would be in favor of allowing people to come to the beach that aren't going to... As you say, the day-tripper. I don't think we should eliminate them, I think we can substantially reduce them.

Mr. Baladrón: Correct.

Trustee Graham: But I don't think we should eliminate the day-passers.

Mr. Baladrón: All right, great. I just think we need to... we're at 6,000 right now for the entire summer, we could significantly reduce that number without jeopardizing revenue. And I think it gives renters and I think it gives people more options.

Trustee Graham: And actually, I had one more question. I think that probably a lot of our seasonal permits are sold to people that really only want July or in August because there was no ability for that. Would we consider... Because I think there probably still is demand for the seasonal permits, if somebody only wanted an August permit, but they bought a seasoned permit. Could we allow them to sell that permit back to the village where we could then resell it to someone else, assuming we had the demand?

Mr. Baladrón: Well, I think that's a good question for Pam. Are you on Pam?

Mayor Larsen: Maybe Pam's not on.

Mr. Baladrón: We have to explore the transferring option a little bit more carefully. It brings in other problems, but the capabilities of the software, the IPS group has that down the road, it certainly does have that, Tiger. So we could look into that. Before we start issuing transfers, for example, what's the stop, let's say 10 real estate agents from buying everything out and then transferring them accordingly to their customers. So, we want to be careful with how we do that, that's all the unintended consequences of what that could be, but you're absolutely right. Village hall could certainly okay that transfer down the road before they do that.

Trustee Graham: I think the flexibility, since we're giving something here, we're offering something that I think is going to be popular, the one-month pass. And I think that a lot of people did buy the \$500 pass only to use it for August. That maybe we don't do it this year, this would reduce some of the pressure on the 3,100 seasonal permits. I think that maybe it's just a wait and see, and see what we end up with.

Trustee Brown: I think it's a really good idea. And I would be for it as well, as long as we have some daily passes to offer during the week. But if we can reduce the volume and gain revenue, it's a win-win. And last summer I think was atypical, I know people had trouble finding parking spaces, but because of COVID, keep in mind we had to reduce all the parking lots by 50% the capacity. So, each space was coveted for sure. But I think this is a good idea.

Trustee Graham: Fully supportive.

Mr. Baladrón: The permits would be available on the website, all our permits I would try to put them up by the end of the year as much as we can, but certainly the beach parking permits from now on, whether it's for village residents, they could just do it themselves online. The non-residents, the monthly's, day-passers could be done via park mobile, that's fine. But as you can see, it's pretty simple right there. They can just click permit, get it that way. It's a simple process. You apply for it on the village website, you enter your license plate and before you know it, it's live, so you can technically purchase one and get one in New York city drive out or even in Amagansett. And by the time you hit the village line, your permit is live within our new vigilant parking enforcement system. The system knows exactly where you're supposed to be and where you're not supposed to be in the park. And the concept behind this is that the license plate is the permit. I think Tiger get a good idea to put a downtown parking permit for those who don't necessarily want to do the \$2 an hour, or just want to get their permit, whether it's 50 or 75 bucks for the entire season and now think about it, they could do it that way as well. This scales terrifically actually, whether it's a hook pond, fishing permit or any other permit we have downstairs. So, that's it.

Trustee Minardi: I had a couple points Marcos, and I'm definitely in favor of this model. The one thing that I've always been in favor of is trying to allow people that rent village houses, the ability to get a beach pass. And I think this accomplishes that. And also, I do not believe that there is any parking issues during the week, So, it's really weekends. I would be in favor of allowing daily passes during the week. And maybe during the weekend, there's no daily passes. I think we might've done that previously. And the one question that I had was that, right now, when we sell daily passes, it's just for Main Beach, and it's just for Two Mile, if someone were to buy this monthly pass, would that monthly pass be okay at the other three beaches or just Main Beach and Two Mile?

Mr. Baladrón: Wiborg, but I didn't want to overload it, and Georgica obviously, cause we would get complaints there already. So, it's really up to the Board as to where you... We can get into the details, but I think it's... I don't know, it'd be nice to almost spread it around too. So we don't get overloaded at Lot 2 or Two Mile.

Trustee Minardi: Lot 2 has the biggest parking lot, obviously. And again, during the week, I've never seen a problem in Lot 2 on any weekday, even a Friday, nevertheless. So again, I like this idea. I would love to get something like this up and running for this summer, just because again, I think we sold out very fast and I think there's a lot of people that missed out. And the people that rent have the ability... You don't find your rental already. Right now, people securing summer rentals, they rent all the way up until that month. So again, we see an option for them to be able to go and enjoy our beaches. I think the Board can definitely massage where they go. The other question would be is that when people do go into Lot 2, there is a parking attendant there, would that parking attendant have the ability to log onto the app to maybe figure out if that person's allowed in or not? Since there would be no sticker, someone's going to drive up to the parking lot attendant and say, "I paid through the app for a monthly pass," and they're going to have to prove it rather than taking their word for it or them just getting a ticket. And so, we'd have to make sure that the parking lot attendants at Main Beach had some way of knowing that this person was legitimate because they... People will try to get in those lots. You need a beach staff down in one in Lot 2 to keep people out. I don't know if park mobiles app has a way to check or... I don't know how that would work.

Mr. Baladrón: Sorry Chris, we lost you for a little bit there. The connection was bad or at least mine was.

Trustee Minardi: Well, I don't know where you lost me. Basically, I just wanted to know how we would allow the beach attendants to know if the cars were paid or not.

Mr. Baladrón: There are handhelds that can be available and they can even put it on an app on their phone, and just-

Trustee Minardi: Great. That's wonderful then.

Mr. Baladrón: In summary, really, what this is, is that we're selling out faster and faster. And I think obviously COVID brought a lifestyle change for many of the individuals who kind of go to the city or stayed there, just come out on weekends and they're out here and they're happy to be out here. I think we've got, on two different sides of the spectrum, we've got a product available in a sense, we have a daily on one end and then we have a seasonal. We really have nothing in between that kind of segments for people that are really just going to be out of here in August. So, I think even if we offered them monthly and kept it pretty low, we'll still have that demand on the seasonal. So that's what I...

Mayor Larsen: It's a great idea. If everybody's in agreement, we should move forward with it. Try to get this in place by summer.

Trustee Minardi: I support this.

Mayor Larsen: Where's Beth? Is Beth On?

Trustee Melendez: Yes, I'm here.

Mayor Larsen: Do you think this is a possibility to get this done by summer?

Trustee Melendez: We will have to add it to the code. So we would have to... I mean, it wouldn't be updated in the legislation to add, but we would have to add something.

Mayor Larsen: All right. If we could do that, I think everybody's in favor.

Trustee Melendez: Okay.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Great. Thanks Marcos, that was great. Oh, Marcos is up again. We've got an update that Marcos is working on with the Wi-Fi at all our beaches.

Wi-Fi At Village Beaches

Mr. Baladrón: We're looking to approve a license agreement with Mr. Saunders that would give us free Wi-Fi at our beaches. He's excited by and he wants to provide live cams of all the beaches and there's two options right now at Georgica Main Beach. He already has that camera there, so it's looking to kind of renew what he has there and he's willing to pay. It's a good deal for the village. It's free Wi-Fi at all of our beaches, up to 1500 people at each beach. There's the capacity for the bandwidth, the...I think he's willing to pick up the Optimum bill as well for all of Main Beach and to Board approval, depending on where he wants to put it. We'll see where he... What the setup is for Egypt, Wiborg and Two-Mile. It's a tenured license agreement as well, I should add.

Mayor Larsen: It's great.

Trustee Graham: Just to make clear, is this something that he came to us with or was this something that we have to put to bid, or can we just accept this?

Mr. Baladrón: It's not anything to put to bid because it's a license that it's kind of a renewal, because he already has the equipment up there. It's just a better deal for the village. Right now, the village is getting nothing in return for that live cam. So, on renewal of this, I kind of want to provide the free Wi-Fi for the village beaches because our park mobile, let's say some people have a better way to download Park Mobile on their phones, but also because you need for safety issue, we need Wi-Fi at all of our beaches now.

Trustee Graham: No, I certainly understand the need for Wi-Fi. Is he going to be doing any branding on the Wi-Fi or just on the webcams?

Mr. Baladrón: Absolutely not. I have him giving... He can do whatever he wants on his feed going to hamptons.com. But in terms of what's going on to the villages' website, it'll be a direct feed, unbranded, no advertising. It's amazing what they can do, it's a separate feed for us.

Trustee Graham: Okay. What is the fee for the license?

Mr. Baladrón: For him to pay for free Wi-Fi in the village, it's going to be very expensive for him. Yes, I think each base station is about \$2,000 each, every beach, the Optimum bill is pretty substantial because it's not just a regular internet connection. So, it's really him just providing a service to the village. And of course, the police officers are going to be able to tap into the cameras if they need it, if anything ever happens down there, so he's okay for that. It's a good deal.

Trustee Brown: I'm in support of it as well for the free Wi-Fi and the cameras. Marcos, I'm wondering, you know what? Main Beach and Georgica, we were able to put Wi-Fi recently and they're on the building and we put some of the mechanism through the flagpole at Georgica. So, I would just be concerned, I would like the Village to have some, say, in where it goes at the other beaches. We certainly don't want an antenna in the middle of the dune or somewhere that's not discreet, so to speak. So that would be just one area that I'd like us to consider, but otherwise it sounds good.

Trustee Minardi: I'd also like to add that the current camera is always been owned by Hamptons.com and I have not been able to find a contract or a name or anybody that's approved that camera. So, I think it's really good that we move forward with some type of legitimate contract for that camera because there has not been

one and I have, even Marcos has been really looking hard to try to find how and why that camera originally got there? So, I think it's really good that this is formalized.

Trustee Graham: I'm in favor of this.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Everybody is in favor, Marcos. All right. Next up is Kenny Collum; outdoor dining.

Outdoor Dining

Mr. Collum: Good Morning, Mr. Mayor and members of the Board, members of the public. So recently we've been getting some requests from our restaurants in our outdoor dining venues that would like to start back up again. And so I've asked the mayor and to look into re instituting those areas. But there's also a lot of questions that are kind of contradicting in our code and we'd like to see those looked at, the Board of Trustees to go forward and I know they'd like to redo some outdoor dining in the village it's been successful and it's met with a lot of good and positive reviews. So, I think we have some ideas that have been floated around through Beth and I believe we're going to have a meeting next week to discuss that further so that we can get this rolled out sooner than later because as the warmer weather comes, these folks are looking to try and get some business and be able to sustain our restaurant community within our village.

Mayor Larsen: We're okay right now under the COVID rules. Under the Emergency Declaration they can still have that. It's just when that expires, we need to have this law in place so we can continue. I know Beth has been working on that, so...

Mr. Collum: That's correct. I believe the governor's emergency orders are due to expire on April 30th. And I don't know if they'll be extending those or not. So, I think it's prudent that we start looking at it as sooner than later for our village locations.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Good. Is that it, Ken?

Mr. Collum: That's it on the outdoor dining. I'm also going to discuss with you guys some fee things for our tent to permits. I think it's further down on your...

Mayor Larsen: You want to take a break and I'll get back to you.

Mr. Collum: All right, fine.

Herrick Park Tennis Courts

Mayor Larsen: Next up on our agenda is Herrick Park Tennis Court is also the basketball courts and all the chain link fence. You know, we had a suggestion that we... Since we can't really use the tennis courts and the basketball courts are in as bad shape. And we don't have a plan yet to replace them, but they're really not functional now. Some of us thought the best thing to do would just be to take them out and plant grass there for the summer then get the plan together and replace them either in the fall or next spring, probably know realistically would probably be next spring. By the time how quickly everything goes, time wise. So, your thoughts?

Trustee Graham: My thought is that the tennis courts are badly cracked as we all know, but they are leveled so it doesn't really create a trip hazard. And I know that there are products that can be used to fill those cracks and make the courts playable at least for this season. And that way we would still have the three tennis courts that people could use. I know that the middle school uses those courts as well. I think it would not be terribly expensive to patch those. I know that one of the courts was patched last year. I think DPW did it. And I think that we can patch those courts and they can be usable. They may not be the prettiest, but at least we'll have the courts. And last summer we didn't get so much use out of them because of COVID. But this summer I think those courts would get more use. I don't think it's that expensive to patch them. I don't know if DPW has an opinion on that, but I think that rather than take them out, just patch them so, we have usable courts.

Mayor Larsen: I know last year, and maybe Mike can fill us in. Last year we have three courts, only one court was patched. Do we know why Mike? Or...

Mr. Bouker: The only thing I can tell you is because they didn't want to have a whole lot of people in that one location. They were originally closed because of COVID. And then at some point the decision was made to at least open one court. So people could have some outside activity. That's the one we fixed. That's closest to the parking lot.

Mayor Larsen: What's your opinion. Can it be fixed? Patched?

Mr. Bouker: We fixed the one and I don't see it'd be a stretch to fix the other two and it'd be a lot cheaper than ripping them out right now. Just wait until you are ready to do move forward with your project. At least you still have some function in the park, something to do. Well, just like you were talking about.

Trustee Brown: Jerry, have you heard from the School District about the tennis courts? Because I do know that school sports for the Middle School will start mid-March on the 22nd. And the tennis teams might use the courts.

Mayor Larsen: Yes, I know High School Tennis is in the Fall. Is the Middle School Tennis in the Spring or the Fall?

Trustee Brown: Well, they have a girls' tennis team in the Fall, but because of COVID, they're doing this abbreviated sports schedule for the district. So, the Spring sports or the Fall sports are starting on March 22nd for a couple of weeks. And then the Spring sports will start mid-April and go through June 15th. So, I also agree with Tiger that if we could patch them and make them usable and functional and safe, then it might be worthwhile.

Mayor Larsen: No, I don't disagree with that. I just assumed wrongly that they were closed because they were not repairable. But Mike is telling me that it was just because of the COVID it was closed. Can you do that in-house, Mike? Will that not cost us a lot of money?

Mr. Bouker: We can do that in-house. I don't think the material costs a lot of money, it just the matter of nice weather we can do it.

Mayor Larsen: My feeling was that if they were going to be abandoned, let's rip them out they're an eyesore if they weren't playable. But if Mike is telling me he can get the three courts up and playable for the School or for the public, that's terrific - if we can get through another summer.

Trustee Brown: It's a Bandaid. I think we all realize that, that they definitely need to be demoed and-

Mayor Larsen: Right.

Trustee Brown: We can relocate them to where the softball field is now and have new brand new courts, hopefully sooner than later.

Mayor Larsen: Let's put a sign up. I'd like to put a sign up there that, almost like, "Excuse our condition of our courts, but we are replacing them next year." Or something like that. So that the public knows that this is not how we keep things. I think that-

Trustee Graham: I looked online yesterday and I looked at a couple of products that would be suitable for use in patching these cracks. And it's like \$90 to patch a one inch crack for a 35 feet. And I don't know how many feet of cracks we have, but I can't imagine it's 350. So, I imagine it's, probably less than a \$1000 in product plus whatever the time is for DPW to do it.

Mayor Larsen: No, that's great. What I'm saying is I think we should put, we should post a sign there that this is not how the Village keeps their Park.

Trustee Graham: Right, right. This is a temporary situation. I think a sign would be adequate for that.

Mayor Larsen: Remember, it's going to look terrible. Just like the one that's there right now that was patched. It's a total different color of the rest of the... It looks terrible. And the chain link fence that's falling down and I mean, the whole thing is a real mess. We all agree with that. I'm just saying, I think it would be nice. We want to try to be friendly and keep the courts open and let people play. But at the same time, I think we should put something up there that I don't want it to reflect on this Board that that's how we keep things. That's all.

Trustee Graham: Right.

Mayor Larsen: If you could look into that to Mike, that would be great.

Trustee Brown: We could also... You had an idea about improving the pathway and the chain link fence and so forth that runs along from the Long-Term Lot to the Reutershan Lot and alongside the LVIS property. Maybe there are some things that we can do to improve the park. That won't cost a lot of money, but that will have some visual appeal just like we did to the North end of the park. That front's Newtown Lane, DPW was instrumental in that project.

Mayor Larsen: Right.

Trustee Brown: And it looks so much better but-

Mayor Larsen: I agree. I totally agree, Rose. I would like to see the entire hedge and chain link fence that separates the parking lot and the park taken down. Similar to what you did on Newtown. I think it would look much nicer if people could see the park, but until we actually do the improvements, I would rather keep it up. So, people don't see what's in the park.

Trustee Brown: I was referring to the area just to be clear. I agree with you that the hedge serves a good purpose right now.

Mayor Larsen: Yes, it does-

Trustee Brown: I was also thinking of the pathway that goes from the long-term lot to the..[inaudible]

Mayor Larsen: Right.

Trustee Melendez: We were talking about demolishing, replacing it or taking it away and making a bigger pathway. So, in order to... I think we spoke to David about it just to make it easier and wider for people to walk.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. We can look at that. I just... This is good.

Trustee Brown: Sure. And I just think the kids have been through so much this last year with COVID not being in school, not having any sports. I want to make sure that they're able to use the courts. I agree with you, they're not going to be pretty or perfect, but if we can make them functional and safe, it's worth it-

Mayor Larsen: No, I'm totally on board as long as we can open them. That's all. I just didn't want them sitting abandoned like they looked last year. That's all.

Trustee Melendez: And patching them would not create a safety issue? It would be level? Everything will be okay? That's my question.

Mayor Larsen: That's a Mike question.

Mr. Bouker: It'd be just like the tennis courts that's been repaired. We put the material in the crack and supply with a spackle and it's flushed to grade so there's no trip hazards. Also, one of the things is the school's responsible for the nets. So, we would have to coordinate with them. They put the nets up and down so we could do the cleaning and the repairs. And then when we're done, just contact them as far as when you want them open.

Mayor Larsen: Okay.

Trustee Melendez: Okay.

Mayor Larsen: Well, that's great. All right. So, we have a plan for the park, at least for the spring and summer.

Trustee Minardi: When... I have a question, when school closes, do they take their nets with them or they leave the nets up for the public?

Trustee Graham: They leave the nets up.

Mr. Bouker: I can't recall.

Trustee Minardi: I just wanted to make sure that if there's a replacement net, for example, during the summertime if the net goes down, does the school replace it in the middle of the summer? Or is that something that's easily obtainable? Because again, I agree with the Board, Mr. Mayor too, it's just that one of these nets go down, it looks horrible and it's ripped and it's at a disarray where if it's our responsibility to replace it I would just like to have the ability to replace it quickly. And if it's the school's responsibility, do they have an extra one or are they do that quickly?

Trustee Graham: Tennis nets are freely available, readily available.

Trustee Minardi: Okay. That's all I needed to know. Thanks.

Mayor Larsen: All right Mike you're up. Road openings.

Road Opening Permits

Mr. Bouker: You guys have been talking about the permit structure for the road openings that we have. This goes into like when our utilities open up the macadam for the various projects that we have here whether it's in adding a service to a house or the wholesale replacement of water lines or natural gas lines. And I believe you guys have got a memo from David Collins. I think he's supposed to distribute it about how the fees are set up. And right now the village charges \$150 for a permit, regardless of the scope of work. I think the discussion we're looking at is whether to raise the fee to a flat fee or maybe at some point institute some kind of scaling, given the scope of work that some of these utilities do. And the amount of disruption that cause to the village roads Rose can tell you about herself for instance. She was just... had her road worked on and Tiger's roads slated to be one of the roads coming up. That's going to have a major work done to it. Just so you guys are aware. I'm going to mute so you guys can talk.

Mayor Larsen: Hey Mike, just a quick question. Do you know what the Town charges for road openings?

Mr. Bouker: East Hampton Town charges \$250 per opening. So, if you have a project that has like you have to open up every time you have utilities cross each other, you have inspection holes, they charge them per hole. So, you can conceivably have a 100 holes. That's \$200 to \$550 a hole. Just another reference, Southampton Town has a \$100 residential fee, \$250 for all others. Westhampton is \$150, Sag Harbor is \$150, Southampton Village \$150 plus a charge per foot. It is what your neighbors are working with.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. That's great. I mean I would like to see us do what the town does. I mean keep it consistent town wide.

Trustee Graham: I agree with that. That seems to make sense, because the people working in East Hampton, the less they have to worry about whether they're working in the town or the village to be consistent, I think is probably a good idea.

Mayor Larsen: Anybody else?

Trustee Brown: I'm fine with keeping it consistent with the town as well.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. So, could we fix that, Beth?

Ms. Baldwin: Yes.

Mayor Larsen: All right. Great. Thanks Mike.

Mr. Bouker: You are welcome.

Mayor Larsen: All right, Kenny back to you with the tent applications.

Tent Permits

Mr. Collum: Hey Good Morning again, Mr. Mayor and Board members. So, I forwarded to the Board a memo to look at our tent fee schedule. I've looked at surrounding districts and gave the Board two examples to our West; Southampton Village and Southampton Town, where their fee schedules are based on the square footage of the tents. Some of these events are quite large and we may have two or three pre-inspections and maybe two or three inspections of the actual tent site for electrical, fire safety and other things. We currently have a flat fee of a \$100, which we instituted probably 10 years, maybe 15 years ago, but looking to our neighbors around us and what they're doing Southampton Village's seems to be a very simple one. Southampton Town's is quite involved, a little more complicated math. And the other thing that I do like is they do have a late fee application which does happen occasionally weather will change and somebody who would like to throw a tent up so that they can have their event. And I don't think a \$50 late fee is really that much. So looking at those two things I thought I would bring it to the Board's attention for their discussion to see if that was something that they would like to do and review as far as we're going forward, because some of these events are quite elaborate and take couple of weeks to set up and a couple of weeks to break down. So for the Board's pleasure, I prepared the two things for their review and see what they might like to do. And if there're any questions I could answer. I would be happy to do so.

Mayor Larsen: What... just so it's on TV here. What is the fee that Southampton Village charges?

Mr. Collum: So, Southampton Village bases it on tent. So anything less than 1500 square feet would be a \$100. Between 1,500 and 3,600 square feet of tent is a \$150. 3,600 to 10,000 square feet is \$200. 10,000 to 15,000 is \$250. Any tents greater than 15,000 is \$350. And that is based on the cumulative number of square feet. So a lot of times you'll have a couple of tents with marquees, a cook tent, a bathroom tent. So it's based on all of those membrane structures as a whole.

Mayor Larsen: And what do we do now?

Mr. Collum: We do a flat fee of \$100.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. No matter what size the tent?

Mr. Collum: No matter what size of the tent, correct.

Mayor Larsen: Since we're staying with the road openings, we kind of staying consistent with the town. What does the town charge?

Mr. Collum: I believe that town is either currently a \$100 or \$150, but they're also talking with my counterparts in the town. I think they're looking at reviewing theirs as well.

Ms. Baldwin: I think they are a \$150.

Mr. Collum: I believe that's correct. I think there are \$150. Yes.

Mayor Larsen: And you said Southampton Town is a little complicated, but do you know the numbers?

Mr. Collum: Yes, I do. So, Southampton town starts at tents less than a 1000 square feet is \$75, a 1000 to 5,000 are \$200, 5,000 to 10,000 are \$300, 10,000 to 15,000 is \$500. Tents between 15 and 50,000 square feet is \$700. And then greater than 50,000 is \$1500. And then they have something for each additional tents of a 1000 square feet is a \$100. And their late fees range from a \$100 to \$250, depending on the size of the tents. Then they have a whole calculation for commercial tents, which is another kind of...

Trustee Graham: I would love to see a 50,000 square foot tent.

Mayor Larsen: Kenny, what do you propose?

Mr. Collum: My thought is Southampton Village's seems to be fairly simple. I reached out to Dean McNamara, the Fire Marshal over there. I'm going to touch base with him on and I think that seems to be fairly fair. They're not crazy monies, but they're a little bit more for the larger tents. And it allows us to do a late fee currently now, 10 permits... Although we don't really enforce this, it's supposed to be in two weeks prior to the event so we can review location and all of those things, but you know, things happen, life happens and they... You have an event and all of a sudden now they want to put a tent up because they're going to have rain or something like this. That's so force that residential property owner to be able to do that and get us some expedited review so they can have their event.

Mayor Larsen: I like that. Okay.

Trustee Melendez: I would agree with the village. It's better prices I think. It's not that bad.

Mr. Collum: It seems it's, it's, user-friendly, it's easy to understand. I think when you start making things complicated and hard to do, people tend to not do them. I think we keep it straightforward and very simple, easy to understand. I think it'll be easier for people to understand and actually use.

Mayor Larsen: Well, I agree. Is everybody okay with that?

Mayor Larsen: Southampton Village?

Trustee Brown: I think that mirroring what they are doing is a good idea. And then that the fees should be based on the square footage of the tent. There's obviously more review and scrutiny that goes into a larger tent than probably a smaller one. So, I think it's probably a good idea and the fees are reasonable then the Town for sure. The Southampton Town.

Mr. Collum: Correct.

Trustee Minardi: I had a question, Kenny. How many tent permits roughly do we issue every year? And on the larger tents, how many times do you have to go inspect it?

Mr. Collum: So, that's an interesting question. Pre-COVID we were probably doing around, I want to say 50, on average year 50 tent permits. Larger events we've had several where we would have to do like a, what we call a, a pre-inspection where we would meet with the tent company, the event coordinators and the decorators on-site to site the tent to make sure that it actually is going to fit. And then generally you'll have on those events, you'll have two, three, maybe even more depending sometimes we'll do a Saturday morning inspection cause they didn't have bonding and grounding for the generators or the fire extinguishers weren't... So, they could be more complicated. The average family gathering family birthday party there is generally a Friday afternoon inspection. And so one time inspection, unless they're missing something, we'll come back. But those are fairly simple. Now the ratio of large event tents versus the family barbecue, birthday, they're probably 10 to 15 of these very large-scale events. And the rest of them are very simple backyard wedding or backyard barbecue type of things. So, it's not terrible.

Trustee Graham: I know the Historical Society Antique Show on Mulford Farms - multiple tents and multiple electricians and that's got to be a headache.

Mr. Collum: Those type of events are... they are challenging and they require multiple inspections.

Trustee Minardi: I would just look to make sure we're charging enough on the larger ones. Again, I don't think there's a problem with the small residential birthday parties and gatherings but it's the large ones, which I would want to make sure we're charging enough for Code Enforcement. They're going back there multiple times, they're meeting with them a lot and it's important. And they house a lot of people, they need to be safe. So, whatever we adopt, I would like to just make sure that on the large ones, that we're not missing the boat.

Trustee Graham: Well, what about perhaps you get one inspection free and if you have to go back for another inspection, there'll be another fee for that. Is that too cumbersome?

Mr. Collum: My only concern is the nice thing about doing permit fees upfront is you don't have to bill somebody and go back. It's generally paid on the head end instead of chasing somebody for money on the backside of it. That's my only concern with that.

Mr. Baladrón: The invoicing, correct?

Mr. Collum: Correct. That would be, I think, a headache for Dominique and for the folks at Village Hall.

Mayor Larsen: We had the same, same issue with the certificate... the COs. So, I'll be talking about it in a minute, but we were talking about per visit Tiger and, from the department heads just seem to be too much of a problem to go with.

Mr. Collum: I mean the Board can revisit those numbers on those fees if they want, but it is cumulative on the square footage. So, the larger tenants would generate more money and it's not just that main tent, it's the marquee tents, cook tents, restroom tents any of the other tents that all gets tallied in there so I'll-

Mayor Larsen: Okay.

Mr. Collum: ... Let the Board decide.

Trustee Brown: I'm fine with the way it is a \$350 for the largest tent as Southampton Village has. I think that the fee schedule being reflective on the, the size of the tent makes sense if we were just doing a flat fee of \$100 and now we're doing \$350 for those larger tents, certainly your work and efforts are being compensated in some way. They seem reasonable. I'm not sure if we need to increase them.

Mayor Larsen: Any more than that? I would agree. Chris, you okay with that?

Trustee Minardi: I am, but has anyone ever thought of raising the 15,000 plus to \$500? Because again, Southampton Town is seeing tents up to 50,000 square feet, which is a lot more money. And man, I don't know how big these tents get visually, but if there's a very large tent I would think Kenny would have to go back there a lot and spend a lot of time there. I mean I'm talking about giant tents.

Trustee Brown: Maybe we need a second category such as Southampton Town has they have the 15,000 square feet to 50,000 square feet, which is one number. In our case it would be \$350 and then anything greater than 50,000 square feet is another number. We could add that category and \$450.

Trustee Minardi: Do we see that, Kenny? Kenny, what's the big tents that we get? Like, could you give us some history on like exactly...

Mr. Collum: Sure. So, like there used to be an event that was at a Rush Foundation for Russell Simmons. That tent was roughly just shy of 10,000 square feet. The High Holy Days, tents are roughly in that area too. They're just shy of 10,000 square feet. I think what you're seeing with Southampton Town is if anybody remembers the Two Trees Polo Matches, those tents there were extremely huge. And I think that was for these tents that were out on these polo pony games and things that you would see on fields. We really don't see that in the village so much. You could put a category in there. I mean, if the tent was to go up, maybe somewhere in an open field in the village, you could maybe see that. We could add another category if the Board would like.

Trustee Graham: Kenny, do you recall of-hand how big the tents are at the antique show?

Mr. Collum: I don't. I know they have the one on the front, is it a 40 by 40 and a 40 by 80? And the ones in the back are not very deep. Those, the stall ones, I think they're only like 10 feet wide and run 40 to 60 in length. I'm not sure if they're getting... Well, here's the other thing on the village code for not-for-profits on their own property. We do not charge tent fees for not-for-profit organizations that utilize their own property. So the library, churches and the Historical Society, they are not charged tent fees.

Mayor Larsen: Okay.

Trustee Graham: Maybe we should charge a \$100 tent fee because you have to go over and inspect.

Mr. Collum: I mean, whatever the Board's pleasure is. That's fine with me.

Trustee Graham: I mean, I don't think a non-for-profit or a church is going to balk at a \$100 fee.

Mayor Larsen: I'm not... I'd be out on that one. I'm not in favor of that.

Trustee Melendez: Me neither. I would not like to charge the not-for-profit. But I would do okay to do another category, just make it \$500 or \$700. Just think whoever that, in case we ever get that size tent we have already a category.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. So do we want to add another category?

Trustee Brown: Yes.

Mayor Larsen: Kenny, just make it 500 bucks, \$500.

Mr. Collum: Sure. Okay. So we'll do. So let's see what Southampton goes. So I'll do 15,000 to 50,000 we'll make \$500?

Mayor Larsen: Yes.

Mr. Collum: Okay. I'll put that-

Mayor Larsen: Is that all right?

Mr. Collum: Sure, I'll put that together and get that over to Beth so that she can review it.

Mayor Larsen: Okay.

Trustee Brown: And we'll just leave the non-profits alone right now. Let's just go with this fee schedule and see what happens. I'd be more comfortable with that too.

Mayor Larsen: Me too.

Trustee Graham: Okay.

Mr. Collum: Very good.

Mayor Larsen: Thanks Kenny.

Mr. Collum: You're very welcome.

Mayor Larsen: Next up is Chris with C of O's?

Trustee Minardi: Me?

Certificates of Occupancy

Mayor Larsen: You are there. I don't know.

Trustee Minardi: Okay. Well-

Mayor Larsen: We can have Tom talk about it.

Trustee Minardi: Have Tom talk about it please.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. You're up Tom? Good morning.

Mr. Preiato: Thank you Mayor. Hello Village Board. So yes, we discussed perhaps slightly increasing the Certificate of Occupancy fee to make it more equal to the surrounding municipalities. Currently it's \$150, which is not a lot of money especially considering the value of the homes, what they're being sold for? So I don't think anyone would balk at if it were to go up from \$150 to \$250. I would hope not. Anyway, the Town of East Hampton is currently at \$200 and Sag Harbor, the other day I had mentioned was \$200, but it's actually \$150. I guess, I'm quickly forgetting, Sag Harbor maybe, but it was \$150. So that haven't been said, I know originally it was discussed, how many visits do we make for CO inspection? If it's an updated C of O, generally, it wouldn't be more than two. The other, C of O's not an updated one. If it were to be just a C of O with the building permit, there'll be... It's hard to say. I mean, you could be doing 10 inspections on a home, but like I had said previously, some of that would be absorbed by the permit fee, which we get a decent permit fee compared to the surrounding municipalities. So, I would obviously leave it to the Board, but I think I know Chris had mentioned a bigger number.

Trustee Minardi: Again, we have a very busy building department and what we've tried to do is we tried to speed things up and Tom and Kent and Rob and Kenny have been great, but I think it's very important that we service our real estate contingence and be able to produce these COs in a timely fashion. And I think that for a \$100 or \$150, and to be... It's just not enough money in today's world where these guys are going out there multiple times. I mean, one, two, three, four, five times seems to be the normal and I think the fee is too low. So, I'm in favor of increasing this. I don't have the set number in mind, but I'd like a minimum start of \$250. And if someone thinks we should be more than that, then I'd be in favor of that, to be honest with you.

Mr. Preiato: Understood.

Mayor Larsen: Chris had another idea that he had mentioned a while. Well, what if we did say \$250 like what Tom is saying for the regular C of O, but if you wanted to expedite your C of O, which seems to be very popular, there would be a higher fee if you wanted it done say in five days. Because roughly we're running what, maybe two weeks, Tom?

Mr. Preiato: I'd say that's a fair approximate..

Mayor Larsen: So, if somebody was in a hurry to close right away, we would have a way of moving them to the top of the pile, if you will.

Mr. Preiato: I think Southampton Town has that available-

Ms. Baldwin: Town has something like that.

Trustee Minardi: Then my question, Tom would be, how many C of O requests do we normally have at any given time and moving someone to the top of the pile. I wouldn't want that to make the turn time for the regular people longer because everyone starts moving to the top of the pile. I would love this. I would say, great. If you want your CO in five days, it's \$500. However, I would not want to jeopardize the rest of the people, because again, we require a CO upon the new transfer taking ownership or at least residing in the house. And so, I think we have to do it right. But if there's a way to expedite it, I think that would be wonderful and I think people would choose that more than the regular option.

Mr. Preiato: Yes, understood. And I think that's kind of is what happened in Southampton Town. I'm not a 100% certain, but I think they may have discontinued it because you put a number out there and people are going to pay the number. It's just, what's a fair number? So sometimes the normal business I'll call it, gets put by the wayside a little bit. I think they were experiencing that in South Hampton where the expedited requests were obviously they were expedited, so they're going to take a precedent. A lot of time must go into that.

Mayor Larsen: What if we did it in reverse, Tom? That we said our fee is \$500 and if you're not in a rush, it's \$250.

Trustee Melendez: Do we have the personnel to say, we're going to give it to you in five days? Because we're going to charge an expedited fee but if we don't go about it in an expedited manner, that's not going to help. It's going to be worse.

Trustee Brown: Well, and to Chris's point as well, that could also weigh like the regular applications. Tom, could you say that East Hampton Town, their regular building permit certificate of occupancy, their C of O is \$200 or \$250?

Mr. Preiato: Theirs is \$200.

Trustee Brown: Okay. And ours currently is?

Mr. Preiato: Ours is currently should be \$150.

Ms. Baldwin: Can I just clarify too?

Mr. Preiato: Yes.

Ms. Baldwin: The Town of Southampton has expedited building permit, application review, which they charge a \$1000. I don't see expedited C of O's. They might do it. I just don't see it on their list.

Mr. Preiato: Thank you. I may stand corrected on that.

Mayor Larsen: I wasn't saying if we did it in reverse and we charged a fee for a building permit, not expedited, just a fee. Like we all agree, it has to be raised. We're too low. So whatever that fee is, Tom's running about a week to 10 days, two weeks.

Mr. Preiato: Yes.

Mayor Larsen: That would be the normal turnaround, but that's the fee. But if you're not in a rush, you could save a couple of bucks and maybe it will only cost you 200 bucks, it might take you a month. Some people may not be in a rush for this. They just need it, but they're not in a rush and they could save a couple of bucks by going that way and I don't think that would hurt the regular business because we're not offering to expedite anything. I mean, I think the argument's going to be that everybody's going to want the expedited, we're going to be in the same situation.

Mr. Preiato: That's what I'm afraid of. I don't want to be able to promise something that can't be delivered, but we certainly would look to where-

Mayor Larsen: We could work later.

Trustee Minardi: Tom, roughly what's the percentage of your CR requests for real estate transactions?

Mr. Preiato: That's kind of hard to say. I mean, especially having just landed here, but I guess just as a general rule, 50/50 maybe.

Trustee Minardi: Alrighty. Well, I mean 50/50-

Mr. Preiato: It's hard to say. I don't want to.

Trustee Minardi: Well, maybe Kenny Collum might know too, but I mean, 50/50 is actually is lower than I expected because I think that the expedited fee is [01:43:00] going to be requested from attorneys representing buyers, looking to close on their purchases and they want the CO and they want it right away. And if it's 50/50, we figure you've got 30 CO's in the queue. That's 15. Can you do 15 in a week? And if you can't, then the mayor's suggestion might be a little bit better. Now, if that number is five, six, seven, eight, where you think you and your team can get those done in a week, then an expedited fee might make more sense and some more money. I don't know.

Mr. Preiato: Okay. It would make sense. And I could be way off on the 50/50. I mean, just to be clear, everyone wants them right away.

Mr. Collum: Hey, Chris. Tom is right. It is about 50% real estate transactions and about 50% within reason for Building Permit closing out. So it is about half and half right now, or at least it was when I was there.

Mr. Preiato: Okay, thanks. Okay.

Trustee Graham: Thinking about this, there is money when people get a building permit, all right, they're spending a substantial hunk of money on the building permit and the close out of that building permit, which results in a C of O, that should be part of the building permit, right?

Mr. Preiato: Well, Tiger actually, we do charge a separate fee for the C of O in addition to the permit fee and we do get that upfront.

Trustee Graham: Okay. Then I think that for my two and a half cents, I think this whole thing about the expedited building permits. I mean, I think that what we do, I mean, we have a building department that we have properly staffed, I believe. And I think that whatever the number we charge is the number we charge. And I think that going to this expedited stuff would only potentially gun things up a little bit where the people who are in the regular queue might end up getting pushed back because of all of the expedited people. I think we just pick the number and that's the number. And I think that, I mean, if it's \$250, that's fine. If it's \$500 we can do that too. But I don't think that we should get involved in this expedited stuff where we end up with different classes of people getting their permits done. We just pick the number.

Trustee Minardi: One thing, tiger and sorry to interrupt but not 50% of those COs are not in reflection of a building permit, they're just because you need an updated CO to transfer the house. So, it's not all just people have not paid their building permit fee and then they come back and get their CO. Half of those applications are people just wanting to update their CO and they have not submitted a building permit.

Trustee Graham: Right? No, I understand that. I think that for an updated C of O, the process is probably less time consuming, less rigorous. They go in to make sure that things are legal the way they are, that they have the proper, that everything is up to code. I think that, I don't know. I would just keep doing what we're doing.

Trustee Brown: I'd be inclined. We have mirrored what the Town is doing. We just did that with the Road Opening Permits. We currently are charging \$150, the Town charges \$200. It makes sense to mirror what they're doing, where it's applicable as in this situation. I'm not sure about that.

Mr. Preiato: I'd like to say that my way of thinking is that everything basically gets expedited, but if you need it, that's the way it is. We're moving things. We've stepped up the pace here. We're moving along at a good clip. It would give undue pressure, but I'm not opposed to it. But we move along. Everything gets expedited. You're going to have people that want it tomorrow. For those people, can we do \$5,000? No, I'm only kidding, but some people you just can't satisfy. It's going to be....

Mayor Larsen: So why don't we just decide on a flat fee? I think Rose makes a good point. Just mirror the town. It's just simpler to keep everything as close as we can unless we find it not within our agreement.

Mr. Preiato: I agree.

Mayor Larsen: Chris.

Trustee Minardi: I think that's great. I'm all in favor of that. And I think they're doing a great job. I mean, the one thing that we have to realize too, is that it takes a lot longer to get a CO in the town than it does the village. And that's all because of our department here. So they're doing a great job. So, I mean, I don't know where you guys think. Is \$250 somewhere that you wanted to land on this CO?

Trustee Melendez: I would agree to the \$250.

Trustee Graham: Well, the towns, if we're going to standardize with the town, the Town's at \$200.

Trustee Melendez: We can say we're giving a better service. It's faster.

Trustee Graham: Well, that's probably true. Now, one question I did have is when you have to get a C of O when you transfer a house, could the seller get a C of O before the house is sold and get a jump on that?

Mr. Preiato: Well, I mean, it's going to be CO to who is on the deed. So, they often apply in advance, but we can't give a certificate of occupancy obviously to something that somebody doesn't own.

Ms. Baldwin: I see.

Trustee Minardi: Isn't the CO good for a certain amount of time?

Mr. Collum: Yes. It's good. CO is good for one year. A lot of times the seller, it will be part of the real estate deal as the seller will obtain a C of O prior to the sale and that meets the requirement and the intent to that section of law. If the buyer would like to have their name on that C of O, then they would just have it redone

and they would pay the \$150 or the new fee. And we would just go back and reinspect it very simple. But that C of O is good for one year.

Trustee Minardi: Right. So tiger to answer your question. If you're selling your house, you can get the updated CO and you sell your house in six months, that satisfies the village. And the new owner does not have to go through that process as long as it trades within the year from when the new CO was updated.

Trustee Graham: Well, I think that maybe sellers, if they are anticipating a quick close, could get that done.

Trustee Minardi: They do. Yes. That happens.

Mayor Larsen: All right. So we're all in agreement. We're going to raise the price. What are we raising it to? \$200 or \$250?

Trustee Brown: Well, South Hampton Village is \$150, East Hampton Town is \$200. Do we want to make it consistent with the town or do we want to be more than them is the question?

Mayor Larsen: Right. Tiger?

Trustee Graham: I'll go with either. I mean a \$50 difference is not going to make one bit of difference to anybody that's getting a C of O.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. Then let's go to \$250.

Trustee Melendez: \$250. All right.

Mayor Larsen: Thank you all. All right. Let's go to Chief Tracey. This is about the American flags. This is in a little bit of a sore subject because it hasn't been done consistently. The posting on the holiday of the American flags along our Main Street. We have agreed, I think to take this over and we're willing to assign it to the Police Department and have a TCO do it. The issue with the Highway Department doing it is that they're off on the holidays and it would be double time every time for a highway department member to come in, to put the flags up and then take them down. So, we decided to ask the Chief to do it. Go ahead, Chief.

Chief Tracey: Yes. I had to call in to Dave Collins yesterday, when he gets back, I'm going to have a discussion with him. We're going to identify the exact number of spots. I was given two numbers, one current locations of flag pole receptacles.

Mayor Larsen: He can tell you. He's here, Chief.

Chief Tracey: Well, what it didn't do is, it didn't say when the project is going to be done, how many are going to be taken out and so forth. And the other quandary is depending on who you speak to, there are different number of dates where the flag would be going out. And that includes sites from the military that discuss flag days, flag viewing days or posting days by municipalities. So I want to tie that down. I've got a couple of people I'm going to speak to get an actual number of dates, where the flags should be put out. If that's not done correctly, you'll have about a 100 dates because depending on who you ask, I mean, it's really, there can be a tremendous amount, but I would assume that we're going to go with the federal holidays and those that are honoring the veterans in our military. So really, I just need to know how many we're going to end up with after the project is finished. And we're going to assign as you stated the full-time traffic control officers, and that'll be overseen by a Sergeant to make sure there's no holes in the process. They'll go out about eight o'clock in the morning, and they'll come in around four o'clock in the afternoon, which was discussed at the department head meeting the other day, that the thought being there, that they need to come in before dark or sunset and because of the work schedule of the people that are going to be doing it, the only way to guarantee consistency is to have it scheduled by the hour. So, we're anticipating 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. So it should not be

a problem. I don't anticipate a problem and we'll figure out a way to do it so it's done right.

Mayor Larsen: Mike, can you add anything to those locations? I know I saw the same memo from Dave Collins that we reduced from a number to a lower number. Is that done?

Mr. Bouker: We reduced the flags down to about, I don't have it in front of me about like a 45 to 50. All the flag bases were relocated so they're next to an existing streetlight. So, technically the flags are already illuminated at night. That was why we moved them because there was a complaint from a member of the community that the flags weren't being properly lit. So, we did that last spring, last summer. So, they've all been moved. They all got light on them. And the final number is between 45 and 50 flags now.

Chief Tracey: All right. So that changes things because the other day we were told that they were definitely

not lit. And in fact, we discussed it that there was a need to take them in at the end of each day. So that's not the case.

Mayor Larsen: It is the case, Mike, because I don't think that that lighting qualifies.

Mr. Bouker: So just real quick, that was something we did at the interim to try to satisfy the public. But the final decision again is up to you folks as whether that meets the criteria or the proper lighting of the flag.

Trustee Brown: In other municipalities like Southampton Village or Sag Harbor Village, they put the flags on the actual lamp posts, which is something that we could consider doing. It would just be a fastener that would have to go to the lamppost and then it would be well lit for sure, the flag. And I think I'm in favor of the village taking it over. The flags look beautiful on Main Street and Newtown. It's a big job. I think there's quite a few 50 as Mike says on Main Street and possibly another dozen on Newtown. As we all know, they go all the way from Pondview down Main Street, all the way to in front of the strong agency, I believe. And then down North Main Street all the way underneath the trestle. So, it's a big job. We've been lucky that there've been groups that have volunteered to do it. There's been individuals. Most recently, we thank Coach McKee, who did it before that I can remember Mr. Buckout doing it. So, I think that it would be great for us to take that on. And certainly if we put the flags on the lampposts, we could do it on a Friday or Saturday for July 4th that we celebrate on a Monday or any holiday that's celebrated on a Monday. We could do it earlier in the weekend, which might be easier for us to do.

Ms. Baldwin: I just looked up on the American Legion website about the flying at night. And it says, you can keep your flag flying 24 hours if it's properly illuminated during all hours of darkness. But what exactly is proper illumination? The American Legion interprets that as a light source that is specifically placed to light up the flag at night. The light must be bright enough that the U.S. flag is recognizable by the casual observer passing by.

Trustee Brown: So, that would work.

Ms. Baldwin: That's per of the American Legion.

Trustee Brown: I know that the village is considering as a project another project for DPW, which we appreciate painting all of the lamppost. So, this would, if we want to put the flags on the lampposts, this would be the ideal time to do it while they're painting them. They're up on the ladder. They can do the fastener. We could try that. Then we know they're well-lit at night for sure.

Mayor Larsen: The other thing, since we're talking about the light posts, the other part and you've seen in other communities is they hang nice flower baskets from lampposts.

Trustee Brown: Yes, absolutely beautiful.

Mayor Larsen: I'd like to see us even move to that. And then we would have really between the flowers and the flag and it would look really nice. So anyway, you're going to work on that, Chief?

Chief Tracey: On it already.

Mayor Larsen: All right, terrific. All right. So let's see, we're going to move to public comment before we get into the public hearing. Is there anybody on the phone, Jody?

Mr. Gambino/LTV: Currently there's nobody on the line.

Mayor Larsen: All right. So let's get into the public hearing. June?

Ms. Lester: It's a public hearing just to talk about the proposal to permit one food truck in Two Mile Hollow Beach for the 2021 season on a trial basis.

Mayor Larsen: Okay. Anybody on the phone?

Mr. Gambino/LTV: No, there are no callers on the line.

Mayor Larsen: Anybody from the Board? All right. So can I get a motion to close the hearing?

Trustee Graham: So moved.

Trustee Minardi: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Okay. All right. So now we're going to get into our resolutions.

Ms. Lester: Resolution # 1; To employ Michael Reed as the full-time public safety dispatcher one pending civil service approval effective March 15th at a starting base salary of \$96,491. Mr. Reed is an experienced dispatcher transferring from the village of South Hampton.

Trustee Brown: So moved.

Trustee Graham: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #2; Notice to bidders for contractual cleaning services for the bathrooms at Main Beach, Georgia Beach and Two-Mile Hollow Beach with the bid opening to be held Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 at two o'clock.

Trustee Brown: So moved.

Trustee Melendez: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Ms. Lester: #3; Notice to bidders for a mobile food truck at Two Mile Hollow Beach for the 2021 beach season with the bid opening to be held on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

Trustee Brown: So moved.

Trustee Melendez: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Trustee Graham: Will that bid include a sample menu like we got at Main Beach?

Ms. Lester: That's going to be required.

Trustee Graham: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Lester: #4; Notice to bidders for a four year traffic signal maintenance contract with the bid opening to be held on Thursday, March 25th, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

Trustee Melendez: So moved.

Trustee Brown: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #5; Deem as surplus and approved for sale by auctions international online auction and accept all bids received that meet or exceed minimum bids set for the 2013 Ford ambulance number 9116. Vin# 1FDXE4FS8DDA3964 with various equipment.

Trustee Brown: So moved.

Trustee Graham: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #6; Appoint Heather Baris as a member of the Short-Term Rental Committee effective immediately.

Trustee Melendez: So moved.

Trustee Minardi: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #7; Appoint Terry Wallace as Museum Promotions Consultant at no compensation for one year.

Trustee Melendez: So moved.

Trustee Graham: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #8; Approve Whitmore's \$22,490 proposal to perform tree work as listed in David Collins, February 25th memo.

Trustee Brown: So moved.

Trustee Graham: Seconded.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #9; Adopt resolution #20-2021 hereby amending the Village's Check Writing Signature Policy to include the Treasurer.

Trustee Melendez: So move.

Trustee Minardi: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #10; Accept John S. Target's resignation from the Planning Board effective March 12th, 2021.

Trustee Graham: All move.

Trustee Brown: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried. I'd just like to say John has provided a long time service to the village and we thank him for that. He is selling his house and moving out of the village, unfortunately. So he had to resign effective, I think it's the 12th. So I would like to do something formal for him on the next board meeting. So to honor his service with us, just to let everybody know. All right, so next June.

Ms. Lester: #11; Appoint Carrie Doyle as a member of the Planning Board effective March 16th, 2021 with the term to expire July 7th, 2025. This would complete Mr. Target's term.

Trustee Melendez: All move.

Trustee Brown: Seconded.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #12; Approve an agreement with Andrew Saunders to provide live cam and free wi-fi at the village beaches.

Trustee Melendez: So move.

Trustee Minardi: I'd like to recuse myself from this, please.

Trustee Graham: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Ms. Lester: #13; Approve the annual software agreement with IPS Group at the cost of \$7,100.

Trustee Graham: So moved.

Trustee Minardi: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

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

Mayor Larsen: Passed and carried.

Mayor Larsen: That concludes our resolutions for today. We are going to go into executive session for litigation and personnel matters. If there's anything to report after that, I'll certainly notify the press. Can I get a motion to close?

Trustee Melendez: So move.

Trustee Graham: Second.

Mayor Larsen: All in favor?

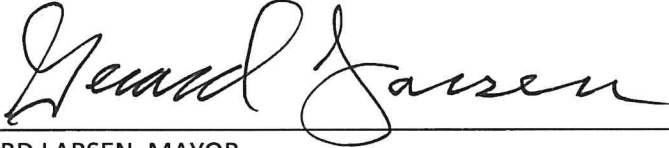
Trustee Minardi: Aye. **Trustee Melendez:** Aye. **Trustee Graham:** Aye **Trustee Brown:** Aye.

Mayor Larsen: Thank you all for coming. I know it was another long meeting, so we'll see everybody in executive session.

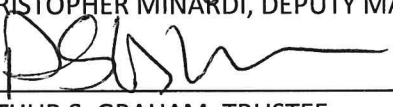
Meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

(APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JUNE 18, 2021)


PAMELA J. BENNETT, VILLAGE CLERK


GERARD LARSEN, MAYOR


CHRISTOPHER MINARDI, DEPUTY MAYOR


ARTHUR S. GRAHAM, TRUSTEE


ROSEMARY G. BROWN, TRUSTEE


SANDRA MELENDEZ, TRUSTEE