

Village of Cold Spring
Village Board of Trustees
85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Trustees Workshop
1-26-2021

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held an online workshop meeting via video conference pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 on Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Present were: Mayor Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Heidi Bender, Kathleen E. Foley and Frances Murphy.

UPDATE ON POLICE REFORM AND POLICY REVIEW

In a preamble to the presentation by Trustee Foley and OIC Burke, Mayor Merandy noted that:

- The Village takes the NYS order seriously and is following instructions from NYS, regarding police reform and policy and being followed by the Village
- A full, complete plan is not required by the April 1 deadline, but a plan in sufficient detail to meet NYS guidelines and it's expected that work will continue after the deadline
- Village has taken a number of steps including:
 - Meeting with County officials
 - Speaking with other towns and villages
 - Preparation of a survey
 - Contracting with Lexipol (to assist the Village to prepare its updated policy)
- Public hearings will be held
- The Village doesn't suffer difficult police relations with the community like larger cities do
- Trustee Foley and OIC Burke are spearheading the Village efforts
- The NYS mandate has been difficult for the Village that has a small government
- The acrimony that occurred at the previous Board meeting was not about the goal, which all Board members agree upon, but the best methods to achieve the goal

Trustee Foley reported on the status of the police reform and policy review noting that:

- First meeting with Lexipol is 1-27-2021
- Surveys prepared by other NYS municipalities have been reviewed
- Many municipalities use a similar survey (taking pieces from NYS guidelines)
- The Village's survey must be customized to reflect its unique nature (rather than taking a boilerplate approach)
- All residents must be encouraged to participate in the survey and the process in general
- The NYS document is available online

During the Board's discussion it was noted that:

- A survey committee has been going through the NYS suggested questions and is working with OIC Burke
- It's important to get the survey out as quickly as possible, in a secure manner and to Village residents
- Survey is anticipated to be issued in a couple of weeks
- Survey should not present artificial barriers to access and participation
- It is acknowledged that input from other groups (from neighboring communities; people who work in the Village, but are not necessarily residents; and tourists) is valuable and necessary, but concern to meet the April deadline may force the initial survey to focus on residents only.
- A single survey could be structured to direct residents to one set of questions and non-residents to a different set of questions. The Board has not yet resolved which approach should be used.
- The timeframe set by NYS, with no possibility of extension, is driving decisions on the structure of the survey
- Additional surveys may be undertaken after the April deadline

Mayor Merandy polled the board on three possible survey approaches:

- I. Residents only
- II. Residents and those who work in the Village
- III. All possible groups

Mayor Merandy stated a preference of approach I.

Trustee Early stated a preference for approach I or II, but definitely not III.

Trustee Murphy stated a preference for approach I or II.

Trustees Foley and Bender stated a preference for approach III.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN 2021 RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH MANAGED TECHNOLOGIES

Trustee Early made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the renewal agreement. Trustee Foley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST BY GIRL SCOUT TROUP 1091 TO CLEAN UP TOT'S PARK ON FEB. 15, 2021 (WEATHER PERMITTING)

During the discussion it was noted that:

- Trustee Bender would like to work with Tot's Park volunteers to explore ways and protocols to allow reopening of the park
- Many Board members remain concerned that even with social distancing, masks and handwashing that proper sanitation cannot be provided
- Feb. 15 was chosen as it's a school holiday and the scouts have done similar cleanups in mid-February

- One day's cleanup may not be sufficient to complete the work and additional cleanups may need to be scheduled
- The Highway Department has agreed to pick up the trash and debris

Mayor Merandy made a motion to permit the cleanup. Trustee Foley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Simon Butts, 13 Parrott Street offered the following comments:

- He supports a "community" outreach for the police policy review survey. The more persons included the more data collected and used
- Public input should come before a draft plan is created
- He is concerned that OIC Burke's comments suggesting the survey be limited to residents may cause the appearance that the police department is attempting to limit the survey and subvert the process. *(OIC Burke responded that this is not the case and that he is open to any and all comments and participation of all interested parties.)*

Eliza Starbuck (Chamber of Commerce President) commented that:

- The police policy review is a "wonderful" opportunity for community discussion
- There is diversity in the Village
- A survey designed to gather the most data is preferable
- She would like to see police department arrest data to determine any racial component *(OIC Burke responded that arrest records don't include this kind of information)*

Trustee Murphy commented that a merchant customer survey could capture data.

Trusted Bender pointed out the distinction between visitors from surrounding communities (Beacon, Garrison) and tourists that my only visit once or twice a year.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Early made a motion to approve Batch #5867 in the amount of \$41,793.15. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 10-28-2020 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed 3-0, with Trustees Foley and Bender abstaining (as they were not present at that meeting.)

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 11-12-2020 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed 3-0, with Trustees Foley and Bender abstaining (as they were not present at that meeting.)

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 1-5-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 1-7-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Foley seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 1-12-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 1-14-2021 minutes as submitted. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CODE UPDATE REVIEW

The Board continued the Code Update review:

- Short Term Rentals (new chapter)

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Foley made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:27 pm.

Submitted by: M. Early

Mayor Merandy

Date