

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

**Trustees Workshop Meeting
3-24-2020**

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held a workshop meeting at the Village Hall, 85 Main Street on Tuesday March 24, 2020 at 7:30pm. Present were: Mayor David Merandy and Trustees Marie Early, Lynn Miller and Frances Murphy. Trustee Voloto was absent.

APPROVE 2-YEAR RENEWAL OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE WITH COMP ALLIANCE

During the discussion it was noted that:

- The 2-year option, will lock in the rate
- Cost of 2-year option is \$118,590 plus NYS estimated assessment of \$2,500
- Payment is made in yearly installments

Trustee Murphy made a motion to approve the renewal. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE QUOTE FOR WIRING OF COURT ROOM

During the discussion it was noted that:

- The TV monitor and control station should have lockable casing to prevent damage.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN LETTER OF SUPPORT TO ESTABLISH PUTNAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

During the discussion it was noted that:

- Not all Board members have had an opportunity to review the letter (suggested by Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery)
- Board is uncertain about the tasks and activities that would be undertaken by such a commission
- Board is uncertain whether the County needs this commission

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN 2019 SPONSOR AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR SERVICE AWARD (LOSAP)

Trustee Early made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the LOSAP form. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ON PAYING EMPLOYEES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the discussion it was noted that:

- This may apply to several village employees

- The hours worked may be reduced during this time, though part-time employee hours are variable as a matter of course
- Part-time and full-time employees impacted by the pandemic could be paid their normal salary even with reduced hours. In this case, it's understood that future salary payments may be adjusted to balance out the actual time worked. It's not clear whether the Department of Labor permits this.
- The Mayor will speak with affected employees

APPROVE QUOTE FOR HARDWIRING POLICE VEHICLE (FORD EXPLORER)

The Board discussed the quote from Managed Technologies of NY, but did not take any action.

DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

During the discussion it was noted that:

- The tentative budget and related materials have been posted to the Village website
- The public hearing will take place on 4-7-2020 and will remain open until 4-10-2020 (to allow public comment)
- Public comment to be solicited on the Village website, local newspapers and other social media
- Due to the pandemic the budget hearing will not be open to public attendance

REQUEST TO PURCHASE VILLAGE-OWNED PROPERTY ON MOFFAT ROAD

During the discussion it was noted that:

- The Village has received an offer of \$21,500 from Josh Meyer for two parcels comprising approximately one acre

Mayor Merandy made a motion to accept the offer from Josh Meyer. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Miller made a motion to approve Batch #5508 for \$134,435.86. Mayor Merandy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 3-9-2020 minutes. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adopt the 3-10-2020 minutes. Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mayor Merandy noted that he participates in a daily phone call with county and state officials about the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that:

- As of today there are 32 confirmed cases in Putnam County
- The County is out of test kits
- Mayor has met with Philipstown Supervisor Richard Shea and Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery to discuss closing of trail heads and their associated parking areas
- A request has been made to the MTA to close its parking areas on the west side of Route 9D north of the tunnel
- Village and Town are coordinating parking issues on the east side of Route 9D with Town of Fishkill north of the tunnel
- Many New York City residents are relocating to areas north of the city including Cold Spring
- Hospital access for village residents is a concern and there is no plan in place currently
- Putnam County pandemic hotline may be accessed by calling 211
- The information received from the county and state has been forwarded to the PCNR and Highlands Current

The Mayor also noted that a village garbage truck ran into a utility pole, causing damage to the truck and pole, but the driver and passengers were not injured.

Trustee Early proposed the next code update review to be held on 4-1-2020 at 6pm.

Board members discussed the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic regarding short-term rentals in the Village. Of concern is a possible influx of NYC (an identified “hot spot”) residents seeking refuge in Cold Spring and possible increased virus spread. During the discussion it was noted that:

- Short-term rentals have been and remain a contentious issue
- Most Short-term rentals are illegal and owners of short-term rentals will be notified
- The Governor should take action on this
- Should hotels and B & B’s also be closed? How would this be enforced?
- Village attorney will review any letter sent to short-term rental owners before any action is taken
- Is the health issue different from Cold Spring residents who have to commute to NYC?
- The Village needs to do what it can
- Highland Current reporter Mike Turton suggested that if short-term rentals are not an essential service, that they fall under state restrictions for businesses that must close

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date