

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

Trustees Workshop
3-2-2021

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held an online workshop meeting via video conference pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 on Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 6pm. Present were: Mayor Merandy and Trustees Heidi Bender, Marie Early, Kathleen E. Foley and Frances Murphy. Also present was OIC Larry Burke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Merandy made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending legislation and to seek the advice of counsel (at 6:01pm). Trustee Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Foley made a motion to exit executive session (at 7:08pm). Trustee Bender seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF DRAFT POLICE REFORM & REINVENTION PLAN

Trustee Foley summarized key items of the draft and noted that:

- Draft is expected to be released for public comment next week
- Plan includes the following key elements:
 - Village demographics
 - Village municipal structure
 - Police department staff and structure
 - Police department statistics
 - Primary police department areas of concern and ongoing efforts
 - Recent Village policing issues
 - Onboarding police policy
- Village has learned from coordination with Putnam County that:
 - There must be enough time given for substantive public review and comment
 - Stakeholders should not be siloed into interest groups and prevented from exchanging ideas
 - Stakeholders should have access to police department policies for review
- Resident survey questions are being uploaded onto Survey Monkey
- Community discussions will continue after submission of draft plan to NYS on 4-1-2021
- Tentative public meeting on the plan scheduled for 3-16-2021
- Survey proposed to be kept in the field through mid-May, then reviewed and analyzed by VBOT and stakeholder group

- Survey of broader community (Nelsonville, Philipstown, visitors) during the summer 2021
- Stakeholder group will make monthly reports to the Village Board and present findings/recommendations to the public
- Where policies have overlap with contractual items, the PBA will review as well
- Plan to be posted on Village website, with a link on the Village Facebook page, and a hard copy available at the Village Hall
- After public comment 3/16, the board will discuss any necessary edits on 3/23. If additional work is needed, time is reserved on the 3/25 meeting schedule
- Current milestones
 - Mid-March – release policy for public review and implementation of chapters in logical groupings. First chapters will be available for review by the VBOT by the end of the week
 - 3-9-2021 VBOT agrees on content of and release of draft plan for public comment
 - 3-16-2021 Public meeting
 - 3-23-2021 VBOT review of public comments and their possible inclusion
 - 3-25-2021 Final VBOT review

During the Board's discussion it was noted that:

- OIC Burke has been and will continue to be available to members of the community to discuss police policies or any other areas of concern

TOT'S PARK RE-OPENING PLAN

Trustee Bender summarized the plan and noted that:

- Draft plan has been submitted to the Recreation Commission for review and comment. Action on the plan is expected at their 3-16-2021 meeting with a recommendation to the VBOT
- Key plan elements include:
 - Hand sanitizing stations
 - Hand wipe stations
 - Social distancing
 - Signage
 - Maximum capacity limits and wait-list sign up
 - Time limits
 - Removal of some toys and equipment (that can't be easily or reliably sanitized)
 - Opening for the coming spring

DRAFT PANDEMIC OPERATION PLAN

NYS is issued a new law requiring all municipalities to develop a Pandemic Operation Plan for its employees. Plan to be implemented should a public health emergency involving a communicable disease be declared. The Village has prepared a draft plan with the following key provisions:

- List and description of positions considered essential

- Protocols for non-essential employees for working remotely
- Implementation of staggered shifts
- Procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Protocol should an employee be exposed
- Leave policy for employee testing, treatment, quarantine, etc.
- Protocols to document specific hours and work locations, including off-site visits for essential employees and contractors
- Protocols for emergency housing for essential employees impacted by the disease subject of the public health emergency
- Other NYSDOH requirements, such as testing and contact tracing

Trustee Early made a motion to adopt the plan. Trustee Foley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mayor Merandy inquired about steps being taken to prevent “Zoom-bombing” (the high-jacking of a Zoom meeting by anonymous persons, usually inserting offensive materials and comments). The Village clerk is modifying Zoom meeting protocols (to prevent Zoom bombing). Zoom meeting host has the ability to remove any meeting attendee (at the Board’s direction)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eliza Starbuck noted her appreciation and support for all of the Board’s efforts (re: police policy reform, pandemic related issues and reopening of Tot’s Park)

Lloyd DesBrisay noted he continues to work on an illustration for the draft Fence chapter of the code update.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:09 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date