

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

Public Meeting
3-16-2021

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 16, 2021 at 6:30pm. Present were: Mayor Merandy and Trustees Heidi Bender, Marie Early, Kathleen E. Foley and Frances Murphy. Also in attendance were OIC Larry Burke and Village Clerk Jeff Vidakovich.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE DRAFT OF THE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION PLAN

Mayor Merandy made introductory comments and read portions of the Governor's executive order and also read selected portions of the draft plan. He noted that:

- The purpose of the meeting was for the Board to listen to comments about the draft plan and that there would be no discussion of the plan
- Only comments from Village residents would be heard at this meeting (but that there would be opportunities at a later date when comments from persons outside the Village would be heard.)

Gretchen Dykstra, 8 Garden St., commended the Trustees and police department on their work. She urged the police department to report in monthly meetings on previous year's data as well as current data to provide context and illustrate any trends. She also commented that important information from board meetings should be shared through village web or social media; and, that village employees should survey village residents – are we shoveling snow, etc? "We're all in this together"

Karen Jackson, 13 Constitution Dr., asked for the location of the survey. Board members responded that the survey has not been released yet.

Sean Conway, 18 Morris Ave., asked:

- How binding is the plan once submitted?
- Can changes be made without resubmittal of the plan?
- Does the executive order require any follow-up?

The Board responded that the executive order provides very little guidance and structure, that the work laid out in the plan doesn't end on April 1st, but will be an ongoing process and that no follow-up is mentioned in the order

Tara Vamos, 6 Rock St., stated that she is:

- Excited about the plan and looks forward to participating
- Glad that visitor input will be included

- Commends the police department

Mike Turton, Highlands Current 142 Main St., asked whether there will be additional meetings for the general public in addition to those planned for stakeholder groups. The Board responded that stakeholder meetings (called for in the plan) would be public, but that there would also be additional general public meetings. These meetings will be posted on the Village website, Village Facebook page and in local newspapers.

Sean Conway, 18 Morris Ave., questioned the methods planned to distribute the survey. After a brief discussion, Mayor Merandy noted that the Board has adopted what it believes to be the most appropriate method to distribute the survey and that this discussion fell outside the scope of the meeting.

Karen Jackson, 13 Constitution Dr., agreed with the Board's decision to limit the initial survey to Village residents.

Michael Bender, 11 Constitution Dr., asked what the police department's jurisdiction is. The board responded that it is the Village only. He also commented that since business owners are taking survey what about regular visitors who are not residents? Trustee Foley explained that the initial data gathering will be from residents and village business owners only, and that surveys from neighboring community members and visitors would be developed at a later stage.

Eri Taylorson, 2 Depot Sq., asked whether there will be opportunities for visitors to have a say in stakeholder groups. The Board responded that stakeholders would only be residents.

Karen Jackson, 13 Constitution Dr., asked whether water/sewer list could be used to identify residents to receive the survey. The Board responded that would not be suitable as those bills are sent to property owners, who are not necessarily residents. She suggested that flyers could be distributed to each home and the Board agreed that would be a good approach.

The public comment period will be held open until the close of business on Friday, March 19, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merandy made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Early seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 7:17 pm.

Submitted by: M. Mell

Mayor Merandy

Date