

# **VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW**

## **VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**May 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Sleepy Hollow Corporate Authorities was called to order at 7:37 p.m. at the Sleepy Hollow Village Hall. President Stephan Pickett and Village Clerk Anthony Mills and Thomas Merkel attended in person and Trustees Steven DeAtley, Anthony Piraino, Edward Harney and Joseph Nemec attended by remote video-conference via Zoom. Trustee Donald Ziemba joined the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Also attending via video-conferencing was Public Works Director Kyle Killinger.

### **MINUTES**

Trustee Merkel moved with a second from Trustee Harney to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2020. On a voice call vote with trustees DeAtley, Piraino, Nemec, Merkel and Harney voting aye. The motion passed and the minutes of May 4,-2020 were approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Pickett reported All Pets Wellness Center ("APWC") submitted a petition to occupy the old Maxway Motors building and that the petition has been referred to the Village Attorney and Village Engineer for analysis and recommendations.

Trustee Piraino asked President Pickett to read aloud a portion of the President's Message to be printed in the summer 2020 edition of *The Legend*. That paragraph states:

Going forward the impact of this pandemic on the finances of the Village is going to be close to devastating. The overall revenues that the Village depends upon are going to be reduced for the foreseeable future. Fortunately, Sleepy Hollow has not been dependent upon local retail sales tax. The Village does get a per capita of the state collected sales tax which is going to be down from what has been forecasted for the coming fiscal year. Another source that is decreasing is the Motor fuel tax which Sleepy Hollow depends upon to repair and replace deteriorating streets. The revenue loss that will put a real kink in things will be the share of income tax that will come from the state in the future.

### **CLERK**

No report

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

No report.

### **ATTORNEY**

The Village Attorney submitted an update which was provided to the Trustees in their packet regarding the status of the claim by Mona Auer which was addressed later in the meeting.

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### ENGINEER

No report.

### DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Trustee Piraino moved with a second from Trustee Merkel to approve the accounts payable of May 4, 2020 in the amount of \$105,269.15. By a roll call vote with all trustees voting aye the motion passed.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Hollie Bauron, 1146 Anne Court, appeared and read a prepared statement to urge the Board to “re-open the community” now that the COVID-19 curve has been flattened. A complete copy of Ms. Bauron’s statement has been scanned and is incorporated herein as if reported verbatim.

Mary Gardner, 106 Thorobred Lane, appeared and acknowledged that while the financial constraints caused by the pandemic were significant she asked the Board for assurance that the repair work on the swale to the north of her house was still on the Village’s list of drainage repair work. While still on the list, due to all capital expenditures being on hold, President Pickett could not state when the repairs would be made.

The Village received public comments from three (3) residents by way of email. President Pickett read each email verbatim to the board and all individuals who connected to the meeting online. [Clerk’s Note: Since each statement is available online those requests will not be reprinted in the minutes. Instead, the name and the subject matter of the statement will be listed herein.]

*Ron Biskup* Reopen covered storm sewer

*Delainah Carver* Pledge of Allegiance

*CM Parker* summer edition *The Legend*

CM Parker submitted the draft edition of *The Legend* for the board’s review. It was noted that there was no need to publish the yearly water quality report since that was provided to the residents on the back of their water bills.

### PARKS, ROADS AND STREETS

No Report – but Trustee Harney noted that there was an issue listed under OLD BUSINESS which would be discussed later in the meeting.

### FINANCE

Trustee Ziembra reported the Finance Committee needs the budgetary submissions from each department head in order to continue working on the Committee’s recommendations for next year’s budget. The Committee also needs the payroll and benefits information prepared by the accounting firm.

### WATER AND SEWER

No report. Trustee Piraino asked if there was a process whereby Public Works could locate the Buffalo Box which connects to his residence. Kyle Killinger responded saying that they could attach a location hose which will pinpoint the location of the box.



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**POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

Trustee DeAtley recognized the many problems caused by the hazards caused by the COVID-19 virus and thanked Chief Rivas and his officers for their service during this pandemic. He stated he would meet with Chief Rivas in the near future to discuss the issues involved in reopening the Village. Trustee DeAtley stated the Village needs to move forward in a smart and cautious manner.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**

No report

**BUILDING AND ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

No report

**OLD BUSINESS**

The board discussed the drainage issue situated at 1756 Hillcrest Park. Due to technical and legal issues involved in the proposal, it was the consensus of the board to continue the discussion pending further analysis by the Village Attorney and the Village Engineer. The discussion focused on the presence and use of a drainage easement which is on the highpoint of the property. To use this easement would require extensive ground work with the removal of trees and shrub which would increase the cost of repair substantially. Public Works was asked to prepare an estimate of the cost to perform this work which will require the analysis of the relative elevations on the property. President Pickett reminded the Board that the Village could not use public money to repair private property. This issue will be revisited at the next board meeting.

President Pickett reported Mona Auer has accepted the insurance company's proposed settlement offer and has signed a release. The Village Attorney submitted an update which was provided to each trustee in their meeting packet.

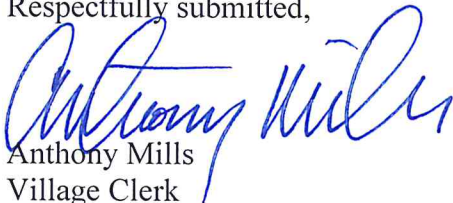
**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The board having no further business to discuss Trustee Nemec moved with a second from Trustee Piraino to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Mills  
Village Clerk

Hi. I'm here tonight to talk about our town's current situation.

I hate to be the bearer of GREAT news, but we've successfully flattened the curve, our original goal with the shutdown. I'm here to open up the conversation on how to reopen our community.

I have deep concerns on multiple levels.

On a human level, and as a daughter of a mother that chose suicide 6 years ago, I am deeply concerned for the happiness and mental health of people and <sup>more</sup> specifically, those of our SH residents. We must get back to life. A lot of people depend on the Spring + Summer months to collect energy to make it through the winters.

There is no factual reason that outside events can not resume <sup>asap</sup>. We know that Corona viruses are killed by the sun, that fresh air is good for our health and ~~and~~ <sup>physical + mental</sup> immune systems. ~~We can place certain restrictions on social distancing.~~



~~\* We know that~~ There is no reason, especially because of what I just listed, that our pool needs to be closed. What social distancing or the sun may miss, the chlorine will do the rest.

On the business side of things, St is already struggling to stay afloat. The loss of <sup>any amount of</sup> sales tax as a result of the shutdown could, and I believe ~~is~~ already is, causing irreparable damage to an already weakened small town. And this is not even mentioning the loss and catastrophe this all is causing to the owners of our businesses.

My proposal to this board is, the same way you took immediate action to protect our most vulnerable ~~at~~ at the beginning and throughout, that you now begin to protect the other, much ~~much~~ larger, portion of our community and take into <sup>account</sup> their well-beings as well, in addition to ~~the~~ our town's.

We are already on shaky ground, long before Covid-19, and I know the majority of our residents would hate to see the ~~large~~ <sup>potentially</sup> special, unique village of Sleepy Hollow go down.

Our events and businesses can open with guidelines <sup>and</sup> restrictions. There are many variables to this. The board can <sup>choose</sup> decide on these details ~~regarding~~ or by giving our business owners permission to make their own business decisions. - However they ~~may~~ might be comfortable.

By taking this initiative, that doesn't mean forcing anyone to do anything. There are multiple levels of consent and choice <sup>available</sup> here. Individuals can and will make their own decisions as they see fit. The business owners can do this too.

I understand ~~our~~ events are the responsibility of the Service Club. <sup>\*I know they're listening.</sup> ~~and~~ I strongly encourage them to be opening up this discussion as well.

On the legal side <sup>of this</sup>, our country's Attorney General ~~and~~ our Kane county sheriff and many more <sup>surround</sup> us have issued statements that they will not pursue prosecution of anyone or any business that chooses to disregard the Governor's over-reaching, irrational stay-at-home order.



Time is of the essence and  
it's time that we get off of this sinking  
ship.

Chief Rivas, <sup>is there</sup> could you elaborate on the  
legal law enforcement side of this

Chief Rivas, is there any way you  
could elaborate on the legal law enforcement  
side of this?