

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees of the
Village of Larchmont held on
Wednesday, March 18, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Lorraine Walsh
Carol Casazza Herman
Trustees Peter Fanelli

ABSENT: Trustee Malcolm Frouman, Trustee Sarah Bauer

Also Present: Dep. Clerk Rilley, Attorney Staudt, Administrator Datino, Treasurer Siegrist

Mayor Walsh welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:05.

The Mayor addressed the current status of Covid-19 crisis. Over the past few weeks she and the Board have been in many conference calls with the state, county and other municipalities. The goal right now is to flatten the curve by slowing the spread of the virus to protect the most vulnerable. That can be done by adhering to these guidelines:

1. Repeatedly washing your hands for at least 20 seconds at a time.
2. If you cough or sneeze, do so in your sleeve or best into a tissue and immediately dispose of it.
3. Most important is social distancing. Keep at least 6 feet between you and the closest person near you.

Mayor Walsh stated that the playgrounds in Village parks have been closed. With the amount of children who use the playgrounds, especially with the schools currently closed, it would be difficult to properly keep them sanitized. The parks will remain open for residents to walk in but not in large groups.

Village elections that were supposed to take place today, have been postponed to April 28th by Governor Cuomo.

The Governor has ordered all bars and restaurants closed for sit down service. They will be allowed to remain open for take-out orders. Mayor Walsh asked that residents support the Village restaurants by ordering take- out food from them. Bars will be allowed to serve alcohol in to-go cups.

The Mayor said she has received written requests for the Village to close barber shops and hair and nail salons. The Village does not have power to close businesses, only the governor can.

To lessen the foot traffic in Village Hall, in the lobby there will be an employee behind a desk with a window to assist visitors.

Beginning this Monday, anyone who would like to visit the Building Department will have to do so by appointment only. There will be a link on the Village website to schedule an appointment.

Mayor Walsh announced measures the Village has taken concerning Covid-19:

1. DPW crews have been moved to 3 separate work areas.
2. The meetings of the Planning, ARB, Zoning and Traffic boards have been postponed.
3. Apartment residents who have to work from home and who have a night parking permit, can park in the daytime at the train station till March 31st. At that time it will be re-evaluated.

The Mayor said that residents should know that she and the Administrator and both Chiefs are in constant contact with Westchester County, the Town and Village of Mamaroneck and the schools.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer was next to address the meeting on the COVID-19 crisis. C.E. Latimer Thanked the Mayor and said she has given a very thorough report on most of the topics. He stated since the start of this crisis, at 4PM every other day, he has had conference calls with the elected official in the county. In the State today there were 2,300 confirmed cases and yesterday it was 1,374. Westchester County is second to only New York City to confirmed cases in the state. As of today the count of Covid-19 cases in the county was at 538. Up from yesterday's total of 380 and up from the prior day's total of 221. C.E. Latimer added the reason for those numbers are because of two things; more testing and with more testing the more positives you will get. The county's 538 was done against the testing of 4,000 and that means over 3,400 tested negative which is good.

C.E. Latimer said that medical professionals state that 80% of those who contract the virus or test positive will fight it off with their anti-body's, age and or good health. Those in advanced age or with compromised immune or respiratory systems are the most vulnerable. Last Friday through New York State and Northwell Health, a Drive-Thru testing facility opened at Glen Island that requires an appointment. When it is working properly 500 people can be tested every day. He said anyone with questions can call the New York State Department of Health hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or the Westchester County hotline at 211.

Mayor Walsh thanked County Executive Latimer for all the efforts by him and his staff.

To watch all this portion of the meeting, cut and paste below into a web browser:

https://lmctv.org/videos_list/village-of-larchmont-board-of-trustees-meeting-03-18-2020/

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to appointment Jeremy Hazen as a member of the Finance and Budget Committee.

Next Mayor Walsh stated that this evening she would be appointing Jay Rubin as Village Prosecutor for a term of one year to begin April 1, 2020. Mr. Rubin is an attorney and a longtime Village resident who has served on the Traffic Commission since 2013 and the last four years as co-chair. The Board gave their approval of this appointment.

Administrator Datino next gave a review of the 2020-21 Tentative Village Budget. Some of the items he addressed were:

1. The number of meeting with staff, department heads, budget committee and the Board to develop this budget.
2. Projected budget gap and 18 months projections.
3. Tentative Budget is currently at a 1.78% tax levy. Under the 2.00% mandated by NYS Law.
4. Percentages of where a Larchmont resident's taxes go: Village 21.65%- Town 2.25%- Schools 56.65% & County 19.4%.

Administrator Datino added that as with this budget, the last 3 budgets were all under the tax cap. Due to the COVID-19 virus, this year's budget may need further review.

The Board thanked Administrator for his efforts on the budget.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Herman, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to open the Public Hearing to consider a local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law.

The Board agreed to adjourn this public hearing to a future date.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to adjourn the Public Hearing to April 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Chief Poleway made the following report.

1. Corona Virus email "fishing" scams.

2. Postponement of Coffee with a Cop at Snackery on March 14th.
3. Changes to PD operations due to virus. Courts are closed, fingerprinting for civilians and installation of child protective seats continue.
4. See Something, Say Something. If you observe something that may be suspicious, please, do not keep it to yourself - call the Larchmont Police Department at (914) 834-1000 or simply dial 911 or call the 24 hour NYS Terrorism Tips Line at 866 SAFE-NYS (866-723-3697)

Chief Caparelli gave the following report.

1. Lieutenant John Adams will complete his four weeks at the FDNY First Line Supervisors Training Program or FLSTPS, at the Fort Totten training facility in Queens NY. Lt. Adams successfully completed supervisory, instructor and situational awareness training while establishing relationships with other officers from around the state. He will return to his duties here in Larchmont next week.
2. Our newest firefighter, FF. John Pilla III began his employ within the Larchmont Fire department on March 16, 2020. He is under the direction of Lt. Adams for a few weeks and will attend the Fire Training Academy at the WCFTC. Tentative dates are May 4 to July 30. He is progressing well and has begun to settle in to his role here in Larchmont learning our procedures and equipment with enthusiasm.
3. Due to the restrictions set forth by the CDC, Federal, State and Local governments, the Larchmont Fire Department has taken steps to ensure the safety of our personnel so uninterrupted service to our residents can be maintained. Access to the fire department for visits by residents with children has been limited. All apparatus bay doors will remain closed but fire department personnel can still be summoned by ringing the bell outside firehouse. In the event of a medical or fire related emergency, please dial 911 and report your emergency as you normally would. Our personnel will respond as we have always done. Nothing has changed in our response to emergencies. The residents are our number one priority so please don't hesitate to call.

The Fire Department carries all appropriate equipment to deal with this newest threat to our safety. We are fully prepared to respond to, treat and assist in transport of residents affected by the Covid-19 virus. Other steps we have taken:

Monthly volunteer drills are cancelled, twice daily cleaning of the firehouse and all touch surfaces has been implemented, access is limited to essential personnel only, distancing of personnel within the firehouse is being maintained, monitoring of the health of personnel is ongoing. Remain calm and follow the direction of the health care professionals and we will all get through this.

All apparatus are in service and all equipment is operational.

Code Enforcement Officer:

1. Letters were sent to owners of property that contain vacant store fronts requiring compliance with Local Law-1, the covering of vacant store windows with an opaque film to maintain an aesthetically pleasing business district. I have been in contact with all owners of buildings with vacant properties and they have acted to comply with Local law 1. Film has been installed, paper is covering vacant windows, tenants are in the process of opening and /or tenants are anticipated to occupy the space shortly. I can report tonight that only 1 vacant storefront remains uncovered, two remain with paper covering with the promise that film will be installed and 10 have complied with Local law-1. New businesses have opened or will be opening in 6 vacant storefronts since the beginning of the year.
2. Another issues I have been working on along with Rick Vetere, Public Works, Benny Salinitro Village Consultant and the Village administrator is the Dry Weather Flow of water. Many residents have corrected their individual water discharge issues. The list will be reevaluated and follow up visits and letters will be sent.
3. The last item I have been working on is commercial properties that need property maintenance as per the NYS and Larchmont Codes. I have been in contact with those property owners and have indications that improvements will be made in short order. The Mavis building has begun to improve the appearance of the exterior of the building. Other properties have had contractors submitting bids and improvements should be moving forward with the better weather ahead. I will follow up to ensure progress is being made on all identified properties. Getting back to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 virus. I have circulated an order from the Governor concerning the closing of all restaurants, bars and gyms as of 8pm on March

16, 2020. Takeout and delivery of food is allowed, no table seating is allowed. The sale of alcohol to go and be consumed at home is allowed. Please consult the NYS Liquor Authority for further guidance on the sale of alcoholic beverages. I took a walk around the village last night and noticed full compliance with the order. I would like to thank all those affected for complying. Please patronize local restaurants and bars during this time with take out orders., the fire department is trying to spread around our meal orders each day.

4. Finally, I would like to remind all residents now that the weather is improving and your landscapers will be coming to do a cleanup. Please place all yard debris and leaf bags out for pick up on the correct day. These items should be placed out for collection the night before their second trash pick up day. That would be Wednesday night for those homeowners East of Boston Post Road, and Thursday night for homeowners West of Boston Post Road.

Trustee Herman made the following report.

1. Arbor Day has been cancelled. Look for it to be rescheduled in the fall.
2. Thanks to Administrator Datino for his meeting with the Parks and Trees Committee.

Trustee Fanelli gave the following report.

1. Thanks to the FD, PD and DPW for their work during the current crisis.
2. The Fire Department needs volunteers. If interested call Trustee Fanelli at 403-2387.
3. Thanks to LMC for taping this evening's meeting.
4. The Bonfire on the Beach had to be cancelled. Hope to reschedule in the Fall.

Administrator Datino made the following report.

1. Water bills are being mailed. Because of the COVID-19 residents are asked to pay them online.
2. Governor Cuomo has called for a reduction of staff by 50% because of the crisis. The Village has scaled back non-essential staff.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing is hereby scheduled by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Larchmont to be held in the Court Room in Village Hall on Monday, April 20, 2020, at 7:30 PM to take comment on the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said Public Hearing.

The Mayor announced resolutions approved at recent work sessions.

1. Approve Increase for 2020 Flint Park Day Camp fee from \$950 to \$955.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Herman, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the work session meeting held on February 24, 2020.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2020.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Herman, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.