



Village of Lake in the Hills

600 Harvest Gate, Lake in the Hills, Illinois 60156

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

March 24, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m.

Roll call was answered by Trustees Huckins, Bogdanowski, Harlfinger, Dustin, Murphy, Bojarski and President Ruzanski.

Also present were Village Administrator Jennifer Clough, Assistant Village Administrator/Finance Director Shane Johnson, Chief of Police Dave Brey, Public Works Director Dan Kaup, Assistant Director of Community Development Ann Marie Hess, Village Attorney Brad Stewart and Village Clerk Cecilia Carman.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Ruzanski.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Consent Agenda: None

Omnibus Agenda: None

Village Administrator and Department Head Reports: None

Board of Trustee Reports:

Trustee Dustin asked if there are any updates pertaining to Covid-19. Administrator Clough stated there are no additional updates. He then thanked Administrator Clough for keeping the Board well informed.

Trustee Bojarski stated everyone needs to work together in these difficult times. A resident had asked if the Village website could have updates on which local businesses are open. Administrator Clough stated it is posted on the Village's Facebook page but can add it to the website. Trustee Murphy added the Chamber of Commerce is a great resource for local business's openings and closures. President Ruzanski added Woods Creek Tavern will reopen soon with carry out. He also added the Illinois Liquor Commissioner is extending all licenses that expire on March 31, 2020, April 30, 2020 or May 31, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Trustee Murphy asked if there has been any resident feedback concerning the closure of buildings. Administrator Clough stated there has been concern about Park equipment usage and if local projects will continue. Trustee Huckins asked how park closures are enforced. Chief of Police Brey stated it was been posted on social media. The only concern is many young residents are still using the basketball courts. Public Works Director Kaup stated the department will be removing the rims to deter usage.

Village President Reports: Illinois Covid-19 cases have now reached 1,500 with six deaths. He asked everyone to be diligent and follow the social isolation mandates.

New Business

A. Rescheduling of Committee of the Whole and Village Board Meetings - Trustee Harlfinger stated the Board decided to combine the meetings and is unsure why it was canceled. Trustee Huckins stated the meeting is not only about agenda items and reports and public comments are just as important. Trustee Dustin asked if meetings are canceled how are bills paid. Administrator Clough state they would be presented at the next meeting.

B. Cancellation Authority of Committee of the Whole and Village Board Meetings - President Ruzanski stated he did want to cancel the meeting. He had spoken to Administrator Clough and she had stated no agenda items would be presented. He believed he has the authority to cancel meetings but should have called everyone. He apologized and stated the Board can resume meetings on Thursdays as planned.

Trustee Huckins stated in 13 years he had never seen a meeting canceled and it was not appropriate to receive this information from Deputy Clerk Sujeet. Trustee Harlfinger asked Attorney Stewart to clarify the stature. Attorney Stewart explained there is no code provision or state stature for canceling a meeting. It would need to be done by the Board. Trustee Harlfinger stated President Ruzanski you cannot cancel a meeting. Trustee Huckins asked about IML recommendations for canceling meetings. Attorney Stewart stated there is none but the Governor has directed the state to minimize the amount of meetings.

Trustee Harlfinger stated he wants to maintain the current schedule of meetings. The Trustees concurred. Trustee Bogdanowski stated a mistake was made and the Board should move forward.

C. Telephonic Attendance at Meetings in time of Declared State or Federal Emergency and/related Declarations - Trustee Huckins asked Attorney Stewart to explain the executive order from the Governor. He explained OMA requirements are suspended and physical quorums do not have to be met. The Village cannot suspend on their own due to it being a state law.

D. Chapter 2 – Board of Trustees - Trustee Harlfinger commented the ordinance needs to change to allow visual and audio conferencing. A discussion ensued and it was decided this would be addressed at the next set of meetings.

Trustee Harlfinger suggested the ordinance should allow a President Pro temp be nominated and not wait until it is needed. A discussion ensued and concerns of how long the term the pro-temp would serve, when the Board would vote and what happens if a board member leaves before the term is over were addressed. It concluded Attorney Stewart would draft the code and it will be discussed at a later time.

E. Chapter 3, Section 1 – Village President - Trustee Harlfinger stated he does not understand the communication breakdown and why the meeting was canceled. President Ruzanski stated he understands he cannot cancel meetings. He was not trying to deceive anyone. It was just a mistake made on a busy day. Trustee Harlfinger commented President Ruzanski is directing staff and this is not allowed. He is making decisions that he does not have the authority. He suggested he was exploiting his authority. President Ruzanski stated he does not direct staff and his claims are false. Trustee Harlfinger stated he believes the President spends too much time at Village Hall and is disturbing the staff. President Ruzanski stated these claims are false. He can spend as much time as he sees fit and most of the time he spends at the Village Hall he is in his office reading. Trustee Harlfinger stated he directed Attorney Stewart to attend a Covid-19 meeting. President Ruzanski stated that is false he invited him and Attorney Stewart accepted the invitation. Attorney Stewart stated yes he was invited and attended without billing the Village.

President Ruzanski stated there is a big difference between an invitation and a direction. He believes Trustee Harlfinger has a personal vendetta against him. Trustee Huckins commented President Ruzanski has needed direction more than once concerning his role and what he is allowed to do. A discussion ensued concerning who a trustee calls when they will be absent. Trustee Harlfinger stated he will start documenting staff concerns about the President. He states all he has now is hear say.

President Ruzanski asked Trustee Bogdanowski to handle any concerns while he is out of town for the next few days. Trustee Bogdanowski and the Board agreed with the decision.

Audience Participation: None

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn meeting was made Trustee Harlfinger and seconded by Trustee Huckins. On roll call Trustees Harlfinger, Huckins, Dustin, Bojarski, Murphy, Bogdanowski voted Aye. No Nays. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Special meeting of the Lake in the Hills Board of Trustees was adjourned at 8:48p.m.

Submitted by,

Cecilia Carman
Village Clerk