

VILLAGE OF OLD FIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Condensed
Tuesday March 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Bruce Feller-Code Enforcement

Deputy Mayor Stephen Shybunko-Fire & Safety, Special Projects

Trustee Jeffrey Owen-Parks, Building and Street Trees

Trustee Thomas Pirro-Street & Road Repairs

Trustee Tommy Gulbransen-Environmental

Attorney Anthony Guardino

Village Clerk Adrienne Kessel

Village Treasurer Andrea Podolsky

Building Inspector Joseph Arico

Pledge to the Flag

The Mayor led the Pledge and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Public Comment

Richard Masino would like an amendment to Village Code to allow a guest house on properties with four or more acres, citing increases in the tax base, and allowing owners to have more freedom with their property.

The Board discussed several concerns, such as illegal rentals, and the impact on other residents. They noted a resident could request a variance for the same thing. Mr. Masino would like to see this in Code, not through other means. The Board will continue to review this request, but did not support it at this time.

Building

Minutes

- Approve the condensed minutes of Feb. 9, 2021. Court Reporter's verbatim minutes on file at Village Hall for review upon request.

Treasurer

- Approve warrants and Treasurer's Report as presented for Feb., 2021
- New tax preparation program from Impact (Harris) cost \$8127. Paid out over 2 years @ \$455 months, cost is \$10,920, over 3 years @ \$315, cost is \$11,240.

Code Report

- Feb. Code Report

New Business

- Brian McCaffrey; Proposal to administer Stormwater Management Program, 03-10-21 to 03-09-22, contract VOF-2021-01, @\$100 per hour, proposed total of \$1700 (no increase from last year)
- Road shoulder restoration; pedestrian and biking safety. The Board discussed safety issues and potential remedies.
- **Public Health Emergency Action Plan approval, required by the state as of April 1, 2021**
WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted legislation (S8617B/A10832), signed into law September 7, 2020, requiring all public employers to create plans to protect workers in the event of another state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease. In accordance with that law, the Village

of Old Field (the “Village”) has developed the following plan, which shall be implemented in the event of another and any future state health emergency like the COVID-19 health crisis.

1. Levels of Actions
2. Personnel, Health Assessment
3. Education
4. Essential Services/Employees, Remote Working
5. Village Hall
6. Resources
7. Costs
8. Vacation
9. Whistle blower
10. Personal Protective Equipment
11. Public Meetings
12. De-escalation of the Action Plan

1. Flexibility in Application

It is the intention of this policy to provide a comprehensive framework for the continued operation of the Village government throughout a future public health emergency. However, it is recognized that not every scenario can be contemplated in writing, and a degree of flexibility is necessary for this plan to be a workable set of guidelines. Therefore, in any event where this plan does not specify a course of action, or in which the plan is unclear, the Mayor—or Deputy Mayor, in the Mayor’s absence—shall decide the action, policy or practice needed to address the situation, subject to ratification of the full Board of Trustees (as necessary) at the next meeting of the Board.

2. Levels of Response

The Village has developed a process to activate levels of response to public health emergencies. This will allow a coordinated effort and response by the Village. The Mayor, or by the Deputy Mayor in the Mayor’s absence, shall determine the appropriate level of response on an as-needed basis based upon information and guidance provided by or obtained from approved information sources, as set forth herein.

Level 1: Active Monitoring

No cases on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk County)

- Assigned staff shall clean and sanitize common areas daily; including desks, countertops, phones, keyboards, door hardware, restrooms, and other high-contact surfaces.
- Village shall communicate level activation online and/or in written memos to Village officers, employees and residents
- Village shall monitor communications with Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- Village Hall shall communicate to officers and employees to stay home, if sick
- Village Clerk shall monitor illness among Village officers and employees
- Weekly management meetings for updates, held virtually or by phone, if necessary
- Potentially limit all unnecessary work-related travel
- Potentially limit gatherings >50 persons to only essential events or consider postponing essential events

Level 2: Containment

Cases identified on Long Island (Nassau or Suffolk County)

- Assigned staff shall clean and sanitize common areas twice daily (once in the morning and once in the afternoon); including desks, countertops, phones, keyboards, door hardware, restrooms, and other high-contact surfaces.
- Village shall communicate level activation online and/or in written memos to Village officers, employees and residents
- Village shall monitor communications with Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- Village shall communicate to officers and employees to stay home, if sick
- Village Clerk shall monitor illness among Village officers and employees
- Weekly management meetings for updates, held virtually or by phone, if necessary
- Trustees shall develop additional contingency plans, as needed, and review business continuation plans
- Non-essential employees may work remotely with the Mayor's approval
- Potentially cancel Village events¹ (the Village will consider whether social distancing or other measures can be implemented to effectively mitigate the risk of infection).
- Potentially cancel all work-related travel
- Potentially conduct Village board meetings remotely, subject to state authorization

Level 3: Mitigation

Confirmed cases among Village officers and/or employees and/or residents

- Perform a deep cleaning of Village Hall
- Assigned staff shall clean and sanitize common areas twice daily (once in the morning and once in the afternoon); including desks, countertops, phones, keyboards, door hardware, restrooms, and other high-contact surfaces.
- Village shall communicate level activation online and/or in written memos to Village officers, employees and residents
- Village shall monitor communications with Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- Village shall communicate to officers and employees to stay home, if sick
- Village Clerk shall monitor illness among Village officers and employees
- Weekly management meetings for updates, held virtually or by phone, if necessary
- Remote work for all non-essential employees
- Cancel all Village events (scheduled Village events shall be cancelled for the duration of the pandemic, unless it has been medically proven that available mitigation measures will prevent the risk of infection).
- Cancel all work-related travel
- Village will communicate to staff about which employees are to report to maintain services and which employees work remotely
- Conduct Village board meetings remotely, subject to State authorization
- Continue updates to Village officers and employees and to the Community

3. Personnel

Preventing the spread of illness is a community responsibility and needs to be a priority of the Village. During state public health emergencies, the Village shall actively encourage all Village officers and employees to practice the following healthy behaviors:

- Frequent handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth

¹ "Village event," for purposes of this plan, means any social, community, political, or cultural event organized by or through the Village. The term does not include essential services performed by the Village, as outlined herein.

- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow
- Stay home when sick and seek medical attention when necessary
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or exposed; official social distancing guidelines may provide specific distance for safe interaction
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as counters, phones, doorknobs, and light switches, etc.

Employees reporting to Village Hall for work are required to submit a health assessment each day prior to the work shift beginning. The assessment may include a temperature check.

Employees shall notify their direct supervisor and not report to work if they show symptoms of the illness. If the employee has no supervisor, they shall notify the Village Clerk. Each circumstance will be handled individually and confidentially while working within all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, New York State, and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. No information concerning the employee's health status may be shared, except in accordance with all applicable State and Federal laws, rules, and regulations.

The Village will maintain flexible policies that permit employees to stay home to care for sick family members.

Village employees who have contracted the illness and/or have confirmed exposure to the illness shall not report to work, and shall work remotely, if their condition permits. They shall notify their direct supervisor, only, of their status, or the Village Clerk, if they do not have a supervisor. All information must be kept confidential. Employees may return to work once cleared with a dated letter from a doctor or other qualified medical professional stating that the employee is no longer infected or infectious. Upon return to work, the employee shall be restored to their full duties, unless modified duties are medically necessary.

Leave taken in response a declared public health emergency shall not count toward an employee's sick or vacation time. The Village's Personnel policy shall be subject to and superseded by any federal or state legislation governing remote work/work-from-home and mandatory sick leave.

Visits to Private Residences

An employee shall not conduct a visit on private property in the Village until they have been properly educated on the target illness, the pathways of infection, and proper means and methods for avoiding infection.

During any visit to a private residence in the Village, whether for a building inspection, welfare check, emergency, or other purpose, all employees present shall take all appropriate precautions to protect themselves and the resident(s) present by wearing appropriate PPE, which shall remain on at all times for the duration of the visit. Additionally, the employee shall take the following precautions before entering the residence:

- Ask whether any occupants of the residence have tested positive for the target illness or have exhibited related symptoms prior to the visit.
- Avoid contact with surfaces and doors within the residence whenever possible.
- Avoid direct contact with all persons in the residence and maintain appropriate social distance at all times.
- Avoid contact with any animals on the premises and ask that they be caged or confined in a separate room for the duration of the visit.
- Limit the number of employees present inside the residence to the minimum necessary, and consider whether the employees can enter and leave one at a time.

Except where an employee is responding to an emergency requiring them to enter a private residence, the decision to enter shall be at the employee's discretion. Unless obligated to do so, no employee shall be required to enter a residence in which they feel they will be unable to adequately safeguard themselves and/or the residents against risk of infection.

4. Education

- Emphasize staying home when not feeling well, educate respiratory etiquette and proper hand hygiene by all employees.
- Instruct employees to clean their hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Provide soap and water and alcohol-based hand rubs in the workplace. Ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Place hand sanitizers in multiple locations throughout Village Hall to encourage hand hygiene.
- Advise employees before traveling to take certain steps.
- Remote working: The Village will attempt to provide non-essential and essential employees the necessary equipment to work remotely when needed. The Mayor, in consultation with the Village Clerk, will determine schedules for departments/employees as necessary (who is in the office and working remotely). A daily/weekly outline will be provided to each employee the expectations of the job duties to be completed remotely.

5. Essential Services and Employees for the Village of Old Field:

The Village has identified essential/non-essential workers and essential services that it will maintain during a public health emergency. During a public health emergency, all non-essential workers shall work from home. Essential workers may work from home, if their job performance does not require that they be present in the Village or Village Hall, and if they have the means to perform their job function from home.

Essential services are:

Village Hall:

- Communications to Village officers, employees and residents
- Answer phones and e-mails
- Receive payment of bills
- Taxes, water billings
- Payroll
- Vouchers
- Budget preparation and management
- Cleaning and disinfection of Village Hall

Building/Code Enforcement

- Inspections of current construction
- Code violation emergencies
- Administration of permits

Roads:

- Maintain Village storm drains
- Keep Village roads open and safe for vehicular and pedestrian use

Essential employees identified:

Village Clerk – Essential to maintain day-to-day operation of Village
Building Inspector – Essential to perform construction and emergency code violation inspections
Senior Code Enforcement Officer – Essential to perform code violation enforcement and inspections
Village Treasurer – Essential to manage Village finances

Non-essential identified (to work remotely, and on-site when safe and appropriate)

Village Attorney
Village Engineer
Village Historian
Any Village employee not designated as essential

Hours and Locations

Unless the Mayor has declared a Level 3 public health emergency response, and unless an individual’s health status requires otherwise, Village Hall employees shall report to Village Hall for work and shall maintain the Village’s normal hours of operation. During a Level 3 response, essential Village Hall employees shall continue to report to work at Village Hall (unless approved and set up for remote work) and shall maintain such hours of operation as determined by the Mayor.

Contractors

Under the new law, Village contractors are counted as part of the Village workforce. Accordingly, all Village contractors expected to provide services to the Village during a declared public health emergency shall be given a copy of this plan and shall be required to adhere to its requirements—to the extent applicable—whenever they are working in the Village or Village Hall. The Village Clerk shall document each and every contractor who receives a copy of this plan.

6. Village Hall

The Mayor shall determine on a rolling basis whether Village Hall should be closed to the public. If Village Hall remains open, the Mayor may modify/reduce the hours of operation, as appropriate under the circumstances.

7. Approved Information Resources

- Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- NYS Department of Health
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services
- Avoid using the news outlets or multimedia sources as a resource of information as they may not provide accurate information

8. Costs

The Village Clerk and Treasurer shall track costs throughout each public health emergency for possible reimbursement from FEMA/SEMO, or other agencies.

9. Vacation

Employees shall follow the State guidelines for traveling and adhere by the recommendations.

10. Whistleblower

The Village will provide an anonymous way to report concerns regarding a declared public health emergency if the employee does not feel they can communicate with their supervisors and/or Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

11. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Village will maintain at least six months of PPE for all employees and shall store all such equipment in a dry, clean and accessible location. The Village will follow CDC, NYS and County guidelines with respect to the appropriate PPE for employees' use.

All PPE shall be acquired in accordance with the Village's established procurement policies; provided that nothing shall prevent the Village from dispensing with normal procurement procedures in the event of a declared public health emergency.

12. Public Meetings

The Village will follow the Governor's guidelines on public meetings. The Village if possible, will offer in person meetings with social distancing as well as offering virtual meetings for residents/attendees.

13. De-escalation of the Action Plan

Local conditions will influence the decisions that public health officials make regarding community-level strategies. The Village will remain in contact with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and other appropriate agencies to assess the progression of disease severity to determine de-escalation timing and plan.

14. Distribution

The Village Clerk shall provide a copy of this plan to each and every Village employee, each of whom shall provide a written acknowledgment of receipt in return.

This policy does not supersede or replace any language in the Village of Old Field Employee Handbook, or in any collective bargaining agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon motion by Mayor Feller, seconded by Trustee Pirro, the Board of Trustees has adopted the foregoing plan by majority vote of the Trustees taken at a regular meeting of the Board held on 2021

Voting: Bruce Feller, Mayor: Yea
Stephen Shybunko, Deputy Mayor: Yea
Tom Gulbransen: Yea
Jeffrey Owen: Yea
Tom Pirro: Yea

Filed in the office of the Village Clerk on the 11th of March, 2021.

Adrienne Kessel, Village Clerk

- **Request from NYS SBU**

Trustee Shybunko discussed a request from SBU regarding seismic sensors placed on Village property.

On a motion by Mayor Feller, seconded by Trustee Shybunko, the Board approved the placement of a seismic sensor device within the Lighthouse park at the request of SBU for educational purposes, subject to the amount and location of devices. Attorney Philip Butler will write the agreement. Approved 5-0.

Old Business

- R & M Engineering, guard rail proposal and bid requests; Trustee Tom Gulbransen will be the lead contact for this project
- Cell phone update
- Update on Lighthouse Renovation Initiative

The Board recognized this is the last meeting for Trustee Jeff Owen, who choose not to run again, and thanked him for his twelve years of service to the Village.

On a motion by Trustee Pirro, seconded by Mayor Feller, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Kessel
Village Clerk

Calendar Next work session on Thursday, April 8, 6:00 PM, Board meeting April 13, 2021,7:00 PM.