

VILLAGE OF WOODSTOCK
BOARD OF VILLAGE TRUSTEES EMERGENCY MEETING
March 16, 2020
12:00pm
Woodstock Town Hall
Draft Minutes

Draft subject to approval.

Present: Chair Jeffrey Kahn, Cary Agin, Keri Cole, Ana DiNatale (via phone), Frank Heald, Nikki Nourse

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Chair Jeffrey Kahn called the Emergency Village Trustees Meeting of March 16, 2020 to order at 12:04pm.

II. DISCUSSION OF TUESDAY'S SCHEDULED EVENTS

- A. Chair Kahn stated that due to the Coronavirus they have precautions in place for tomorrow's events. For voting there will only be three booths and they will be spaced more than six feet apart. They will encourage everyone to use hand sanitizer when they come into the building and the pens and booths will be sanitized throughout the day. He spoke with the Health Officer David Green and safety guidelines are being met. The most people that have showed up to vote in the past has been around 85 people. He does not think they will meet that number this year.
- B. Ms. Cole stated that people will not vote. She is worried that the vote is not going to be fully legitimate.
- C. Mr. Agin stated that people's voices cannot be heard. This is voter suppression. People are being told not to leave their homes.
- D. Chair Kahn stated that he has spoken to Mary Riley, Don Wheeler, Charlie Degener and there will be one other there to work the voting booths. In the evening there is never a big crowd for the Annual Village Meeting. They are using a very spacious area, the Pentangle theater so people can spread out. David Green does not see a problem with moving forward as planned with both the vote and the meeting.
- E. Ms. Cole stated that these actions may make the spread of the virus get worse.
- F. Ms. DiNatale stated that people have a delayed showing of symptoms with COVID-19. People may have it who do not show any symptoms at all. Therefore, people are at risk. Holding these events are not a good idea. People need to be at home. There is no rush to hold these events.
- G. Chair Kahn stated that there is a fine line between being careful and fear.
- H. Ms. Cole stated that the mortality rate is higher than the flu. They cannot force people who are afraid of this pandemic to vote.
- I. Chair Kahn stated they are following the guidelines of the State and taking the necessary precautions.
- J. Mr. Agin stated they are limiting the amount of people who will come out and vote.

- K. Chair Kahn stated they do not know how long this pandemic will last. Right now, they have Mr. Heald who can be at the meeting to answer questions. Things are still happening in town. Life is continuing as normal for most people. They need to take advantage of the window because it could get worse. If they put this off and one Trustee gets sick, they are down to only two Trustees which is not a full Board. If they have to postpone anything it should be the meeting and not the vote.
- L. Mr. Heald stated he is not as concerned about the virus. He talked with both Chair Kahn and Mr. Green this morning about precautions. They even considered putting a booth outside of the building. If the Trustees are to postpone the meeting, they have to immediately warn another meeting that is to occur within 30 to 40 days.
- M. Chair Kahn asked the board to compromise and let the vote happen and postpone the meeting.
- N. Ms. Cole stated that if people are afraid to come to vote that the vote is not legitimate. They have many elderly voters who should not be out.
- O. Ms. DiNatale stated that the board should not encourage anyone to come out and should be encouraging them to stay home. It is better to air on the side of caution.
- P. Chair Kahn stated he would like to get a new Board established before the virus potentially gets bad here.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to postpone the Village Vote and the Annual Village Meeting for 30 to 40 days.

Seconded: by Ms. DiNatale

Discussion: Chair Kahn stated that he feels this is an irresponsible decision. There may be a lockdown in 40 days. They should have the vote while things are okay. Mr. Agin stated that there must be emergency contingency plans and that they should find out what happens if the budget is not formed by the end of the fiscal year. But he believes it is better to be over cautious during this time

Vote: 3-1-0, passed. Ms. Cole for, Ms. DiNatale for, Mr. Agin for, Chair Kahn against.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Motion: by Ms. Cole to warn the Village Vote and Annual Village Meeting for April 21, 2020.

Seconded: by Ms. DiNatale

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Ms. Cole to adjourn the meeting at 12:40pm

Seconded: by Mr. Agin

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Nourse