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2 IN THE MATTER OF THE VILLAGE OF SAVONA BOARD MEETING

3

4 HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE

5 MARCH 31, 2020

6

7 APPEARANCES:

8 Brian Scott, Mayor of the Village of Savona

9 Heather Swarthout, Savona Village Clerk

10 Mary Finch, Deputy Mayor, Trustee

11 Carl Peters, Jr., Trustee

12 Chris McCann, Trustee

13 Tina Carson, Trustee

14 Elizabeth Oklevitch, Esq., Village Attorney

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24 DAWN K. SMITH, Transcriber

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1 MAYOR SCOTT: Good evening. It is 6:01 on
2 Tuesday, March 31st. I would like to call to order our
3 March monthly meeting to order. It is done via Zoom
4 conference call, and I would now like to take roll call,
5 please. Trustee Peters?

6 TRUSTEE PETERS: Here.

7 MAYOR SCOTT: Trustee McCann?

8 TRUSTEE McCANN: Here.

9 MAYOR SCOTT: Trustee Finch?

10 TRUSTEE FINCH: Here.

11 MAYOR SCOTT: Trustee Carson?

12 TRUSTEE CARSON: Here.

13 MAYOR SCOTT: Are there any other participants on
14 this (inaudible) --

15 (NO RESPONSE).

16 MAYOR SCOTT: Super. Heather and Brian are at the
17 Village Hall. We are going to stand to stay the pledge.

18 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS PERFORMED).

19 MAYOR SCOTT: Thank you. This is just a reminder
20 that this call is being recorded and per NYCOM rules it will
21 be typed verbatim -- sorry, I was trying to read also.
22 Let's go right to the agenda, please. Public speakers; I
23 don't believe there's anybody other than the trustees on
24 this call so we will ask if there are one more time.

25 (NO RESPONSE).

1 MAYOR SCOTT: It is 6:02, we will close the floor
2 to public speakers. You have a treasurer's report. May I
3 have a motion to accept the March, 2020 Village Finance
4 Report?

5 TRUSTEE PETERS: So move.

6 TRUSTEE CARSON: I'll second that.

7 MAYOR SCOTT: Are there any corrections or
8 additions?

9 (NO RESPONSE).

10 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

11 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

12 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

13 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

14 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

15 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

16 (NO RESPONSE).

17 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. May I have a
18 motion to accept the February 20th, 2020 regular meeting
19 minutes, please?

20 TRUSTEE PETERS: So move.

21 TRUSTEE FINCH: I'll make the motion.

22 TRUSTEE CARSON: I'll second it.

23 MAYOR SCOTT: Thank you. Are there any additions
24 or corrections to the meeting minutes?

25 (NO RESPONSE).

1 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

2 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

3 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

4 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

5 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

6 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

7 (NO RESPONSE).

8 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. May I have a
9 motion to accept the March 4th, 2020 budget workshop
10 minutes?

11 TRUSTEE McCANN: So moved.

12 TRUSTEE FINCH: I'll second it.

13 TRUSTEE PETERS: I'll second it.

14 MAYOR SCOTT: All right. Mary, I believe, came in
15 first. Are there any additions or corrections that anybody
16 sees to the March 4th workshop minutes?

17 (NO RESPONSE).

18 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

19 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

20 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

21 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

22 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

23 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

24 (NO RESPONSE).

25 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. Board reports.

1 Carl.

2 TRUSTEE PETERS: Okay. So the state sent out a
3 message yesterday to the members telling everyone that the
4 fire hall is off limits to any public get-together other
5 than emergency calls. Won't answer any calls, of course,
6 but as far as any training or any get-together, you know, of
7 individuals other than emergency calls, it's a no-no. So --
8 and that's a good idea.

9 MAYOR SCOTT: Absolutely.

10 TRUSTEE PETERS: I did talk with Steve in regards
11 of having cameras inside the fire hall and all we did was
12 just kind of break the ice and talk to him about it, and
13 that was a couple weeks ago and I haven't talked with him
14 since. And then the last thing for the fire department is
15 more of a request by Steve to get together with Heather
16 sometime offline and talk about information that previous
17 village clerks used to give him on a monthly basis on
18 expenditures, and it's real helpful for Steve during budget
19 time. But that's --

20 MS. SWARTHOUT: Sure.

21 TRUSTEE PETERS: And that's all I have right off
22 the top of my head, Brian.

23 MAYOR SCOTT: Thank you, Carl. And that is
24 definitely some communication that Heather and Steve can
25 work through.

1 TRUSTEE PETERS: Yeah, I figured that.

2 MAYOR SCOTT: Absolutely. Thanks, Carl. Chris,
3 what do you have for us?

4 TRUSTEE McCANN: There was other softball leagues
5 that wanted to practice down there and I told them
6 everything is shut down until after, you know, this goes
7 through, and you know, I was wondering if you wanted me to
8 tape up the playground with yellow tape or what do you want
9 me to do with that?

10 MAYOR SCOTT: Yeah, and as a matter of fact, Chris,
11 I think we're probably done with snow removal for a while.

12 TRUSTEE McCANN: So do you want --

13 TRUSTEE PETERS: Maybe lock it up.

14 MAYOR SCOTT: Maybe we just lock the gate itself.

15 TRUSTEE McCANN: That sounds good.

16 TRUSTEE FINCH: Good idea.

17 TRUSTEE McCANN: Other than that I don't have
18 nothing.

19 MAYOR SCOTT: All right. Thank you. Tina?

20 TRUSTEE CARSON: This will be really short and
21 sweet. We had three lights out last month. I was able to
22 check the one on Manning Avenue is back on now, but I have
23 not been able to drive around yet to see if the one at the
24 bottom of McCoy Street or the one right there by the Village
25 Hall has been turned back on yet, so I believe we still have

1 two out.

2 MAYOR SCOTT: Perfect. And just to follow up real
3 quick, Tina, to make your job hopefully a lot easier in the
4 future, Elizabeth gave us a couple changes to the agreement
5 that I have sent to NYSEG and I think the ball is going to
6 be rolling there, they do not have an issue, so we're on the
7 list to get the lights replaced.

8 TRUSTEE CARSON: Sounds good.

9 MAYOR SCOTT: Super. Anything else, Tina?

10 TRUSTEE CARSON: Nope, that's all I have.

11 MAYOR SCOTT: Thank you. Mary?

12 TRUSTEE FINCH: Well, I went to the last Bath Town
13 Board meeting and they didn't have too much going on except
14 I guess they've got solar farms going on up somewhere in the
15 Town of Bath. And as we all know, the library is closed
16 down until further notice. They're trying to do a lot of
17 stuff on the website and do a lot of things that they can --
18 books that they can do online, so if people just want to get
19 on the library website, Candy is trying to do all she can
20 from home there. That's about all I have too.

21 MAYOR SCOTT: Perfect. I do believe there's a link
22 on our website to the library as well, and if not I think
23 maybe Heather can put a link on our village website to the
24 library as well.

25 TRUSTEE FINCH: That would be great.

1 TRUSTEE CARSON: There used to be one on there. I
2 don't know if it still is.

3 MAYOR SCOTT: And I'm honestly going to tell you, I
4 don't know when we switched over if the link went with it,
5 but if not we will definitely get it up there.

6 TRUSTEE FINCH: Okay. Thanks. That's all I have.

7 MAYOR SCOTT: All right. Mine is very short as
8 well. Heather and I have gone through some more budget
9 stuff which we will discuss at the end of this meeting and
10 our budget hearing. I have talked with Dave Gee, I have
11 made some phone calls to some asphalt contractors, we have
12 some pretty big potholes starting. My goal is to have them
13 fixed before the Memorial Day parade, even sooner hopefully,
14 but the goal for potholes is Memorial Day. With everything
15 that's going on I'm not promising anything or when they will
16 get to Savona, but the calls have already been made to get
17 on calendars, and if that does not happen by the Memorial
18 Day parade we will get some fill on the parade route for
19 safety purposes. So that's on the front burner there for
20 work that needs to be done in the summer. So we have made
21 some contacts with the various contractors. Everything here
22 seems to be quiet, voicemails are pretty quiet. We are
23 still receiving payments. I talked to Doug, water is going
24 well. We do have a water operator who is being mandatory
25 quarantined because he was in direct contact with an

1 individual that has tested positive, so I have talked to the
2 other water operator and they will fill in. His quarantine
3 date ends, if all goes well, on April 4th, so we do have a
4 water operator out. We're only working with one presently
5 along with Doug. And I believe that's all I have from my
6 end. If there's any questions for me or anything, fire
7 away, or any of the other trustees and their board reports.
8 Is there anything from you guys?

9 TRUSTEE CARSON: No.

10 TRUSTEE McCANN: No.

11 TRUSTEE PETERS: No.

12 TRUSTEE FINCH: No.

13 MAYOR SCOTT: Super. Department reports, they've
14 all been sent that we have. Oh, let me go back real quick.
15 I've had a conversation with Ron at the Town of Bath
16 regarding some financial things, but that will all work out,
17 but just so you know, I did talk to Ron about some issues.

18 TRUSTEE PETERS: Yeah, Brian, this is Carl. I'm
19 looking on emails for the department reports and --

20 MAYOR SCOTT: Did we lose you, Carl?

21 TRUSTEE PETERS: No, I'm here. Right now I can't
22 find the department reports. That's one thing I noticed.
23 And now I might not be looking completely through one of the
24 attachments.

25 MS. SWARTHOUT: Carl, I might have sent that to

1 your village email.

2 TRUSTEE PETERS: Okay. Yeah, I've never used that
3 email. I'll check it out though. I can, you know, offline
4 check that out.

5 MAYOR SCOTT: Can I mention something real quick?
6 Carl, I think what we need to do is get everybody to check
7 that, and the only reason I say that is if something were to
8 ever happen, your personal computer will be foiled.
9 Elizabeth, are you on, by chance?

10 MS. OKLEVITCH: Yes.

11 MAYOR SCOTT: Is that correct? Is my information
12 correct that we should be using just the village email if we
13 can so our personal emails are not foiled?

14 MS. OKLEVITCH: Yeah, I don't think that they would
15 have access to the rest of the information on your email
16 account, but they could certainly get the work-related
17 emails from your account which would expose your private
18 address to the public. I don't think they would go as far
19 as taking your computer into custody, that sort of thing.
20 If there were an actual lawsuit and then there's a subpoena
21 and it becomes evidence, yes, there's a chance they could
22 actually get your personal computer or phone, etc., but
23 mostly it would just be that -- like your email address
24 would become public knowledge if you're using that for
25 public purposes.

1 MAYOR SCOTT: Sounds good. Thank you for that
2 clarification.

3 MS. OKLEVITCH: Yeah. (Inaudible) the public one,
4 again, just so something isn't missed that you, you know,
5 would be responsible for.

6 MAYOR SCOTT: I appreciate it. Thank you. Carl,
7 do you remember what it was in the department report that
8 you had a question about?

9 TRUSTEE PETERS: No, I just like to review them,
10 Brian, that's all. And so, you know, I'll check out the
11 village email and start using that now. I don't want to be
12 associated in any way with Hillary and her campaign.

13 MAYOR SCOTT: I will just take two seconds, the
14 court did report six thousand, seven hundred and four
15 dollars, they filed that on March 3rd so that was for
16 February. They received twenty-one cases, closed
17 twenty-four. Savona Fire Department for February, real
18 quick, eleven EMS calls, eight mutual aid, four hazard
19 conditions, one structure fire, one motor vehicle, one good
20 intent, one vehicle fire. They had twenty-seven calls in
21 February and fifty-three calls to date. Five of those were
22 in the village, thirteen were in the town, average response
23 time is 3.48 minutes. Kenny issued one building permit, one
24 occupancy issued, one construction inspection, three fire
25 safety inspections, two complaints investigated. He

1 traveled thirty-two miles for the month and logged in 23.5
2 hours. Excuse me, that was for -- yes, that was for
3 February. Doug -- I do not have Doug's, or anything from
4 Carl. So those were - just so they're on record for the
5 month. Any questions regarding the department reports?

6 TRUSTEE FINCH: Nope.

7 TRUSTEE CARSON: No.

8 MAYOR SCOTT: Sounds good. New business. The Bath
9 Town Board assignment is myself on April 13th at 7 p.m. Of
10 course, that is a tentative date, and the organizational
11 meeting we have tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April
12 16th. I apologize, Elizabeth, I don't want to put you on
13 the spot, but I was also going to call and get clarification
14 on this from you. The village elections have been
15 rescheduled for June 1st.

16 MS. OKLEVITCH: Yes.

17 MAYOR SCOTT: I don't believe it's possible to have
18 an organizational meeting before an election. Is that
19 possible?

20 MS. OKLEVITCH: I don't think it's possible. It's
21 definitely not advisable. The current rules say that the
22 existing officers just hold over until after the new
23 election, so I would plan the organizational meeting after
24 the election, which is still a tentative date, it may be
25 pushed back further.

1 MAYOR SCOTT: Correct. So the organizational
2 meeting on Thursday, April 16th, let's take right off your
3 calendars, please. Public hearing for budget. This is
4 where I'm going to ask for Elizabeth's expertise again. It
5 should probably be done open to the public; is that correct,
6 Elizabeth, but with the circumstances we advertise in a
7 different --

8 MS. OKLEVITCH: Yes.

9 MAYOR SCOTT: Okay.

10 MS. OKLEVITCH: Technically, I don't see anything
11 in the Governor's rules saying that you don't need an
12 in-person hearing. However, the Governor has said don't
13 meet together unless you need to. So my advice, and NYCOM's
14 advice, is that you make a way for the public to
15 participate, something like a conference call where they can
16 ask questions, make comments real-time, and submit comments
17 in writing either hard copies or emails through the time of
18 the hearing. So that's an informal way to do it. The idea
19 is taking every step you can to allow meaningful
20 participation while protecting public health with all of the
21 restrictions due to the virus. So again, I don't know that
22 that's technically authorized, but it's definitely the
23 spirit of the law and would be our recommendation.

24 MAYOR SCOTT: Okay. So I think what we will do
25 going by that is we will do it electronically as well, the

1 information, and then have another conference call to
2 discuss this and advertise the Zoom meeting password and
3 everything so people have the opportunity to ask questions
4 or partake in the hearing that will not be a "public
5 hearing", with the words open to the public, correct, it
6 will be done via --

7 MS. OKLEVITCH: Correct, so it would not be in
8 person but it would be open to public comment
9 electronically.

10 TRUSTEE McCANN: Brian, how many people can we have
11 on Zoom?

12 MAYOR SCOTT: I was on a conference with up to five
13 hundred. You can do a thousand. I was on a conference last
14 Thursday with five hundred people.

15 TRUSTEE McCANN: So we're good.

16 MS. OKLEVITCH: I believe five hundred is free,
17 what you pay for.

18 MAYOR SCOTT: Correct.

19 MS. OKLEVITCH: And I spoke with Heather about
20 notices that should be okay to -- in the written notice on
21 the newspaper direct to the website for the login
22 information and more specifics.

23 MAYOR SCOTT: Perfect. Thank you very much. Is
24 there any questions regarding how we're going to do this
25 from you guys? Heather will type something up and then

1 we'll send it to Elizabeth for approval before we send it
2 out, but we will make sure it's on the website, we will
3 advertise it like any other public hearing. So that's how
4 we will do it. If there's any questions from you guys?

5 TRUSTEE CARSON: Nope, I'm good.

6 MAYOR SCOTT: Sounds good. So be watching for that
7 information. Next under new business. Garbage pickup date.
8 Again, garbage is an essential -- supposedly essential job.
9 I have talked to Jansen briefly, they are willing to do it
10 again. Last year we did it the week after yard sales. That
11 way people had a chance to throw away everything they didn't
12 sell or even throw away some stuff they did buy. Are we
13 still good with hosting one, doing one, and are we still
14 good with the week after Memorial Day -- or the Friday
15 after yard sale day, excuse me?

16 TRUSTEE FINCH: I guess it depends on if they're
17 still having the yard sales, because isn't that the first
18 weekend in May?

19 MAYOR SCOTT: It is. I mean, we can still have the
20 trash pickup. I'm just saying the day -- we need to set a
21 date if we're going to do it. Or do you want to push it out
22 to June and see what happens?

23 TRUSTEE McCANN: Now, would you want to push them
24 both back?

25 MAYOR SCOTT: I don't want to get involved in the

1 yard sales. That's up to -- I think Jean Mattoon takes the
2 ball and runs with that one. I mean, we were criticized for
3 moving Halloween, I don't know how much I want to touch the
4 yard sales, but my question is, what do we want to do on
5 garbage pickup? Do we want to push it back to June, do we
6 want to go with that Friday whether there's yard sales or
7 not? How do we want to do those?

8 TRUSTEE PETERS: As long as there's no
9 restrictions, you know, from state or federal or county, I'd
10 say just do it again that second weekend of May and be done
11 with it.

12 TRUSTEE CARSON: I agree with Carl.

13 TRUSTEE FINCH: I agree too.

14 TRUSTEE McCANN: I agree.

15 MAYOR SCOTT: Perfect. I will talk to Jansen on
16 that date then and we will go from there. Thank you. Water
17 re-levy. I believe everybody saw the copy of the water
18 re-levy. There is a total of twenty-five people, I believe.
19 Twenty-four people that are going to be re-levied for a
20 total of six thousand, five hundred and eighty-six dollars
21 and thirteen cents. Can I have a motion to accept that
22 water re-levy?

23 TRUSTEE McCANN: So moved.

24 TRUSTEE CARSON: I'll second it.

25 MAYOR SCOTT: Any questions?

1 (NO RESPONSE).

2 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

3 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

4 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

5 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

6 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

7 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

8 (NO RESPONSE).

9 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. Heather will take
10 care of the budget modifications real quick for us.

11 MS. SWARTHOUT: You should have received an
12 explanation in emails what the budget modifications are for.
13 For A1620.4, there is one thousand, eighty-two dollars and
14 fifty cents that needs to be moved. For A1620.42 there is a
15 total of one twenty-seven sixty-seven, and for A8684.4 there
16 is a total of seven hundred and fifty dollars.

17 MAYOR SCOTT: Can I have a motion to accept the
18 budget modifications, please?

19 TRUSTEE PETERS: So moved.

20 TRUSTEE FINCH: I'll second it.

21 MAYOR SCOTT: Any questions or comments?

22 (NO RESPONSE).

23 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

24 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

25 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

1 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

2 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

3 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

4 (NO RESPONSE).

5 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. Heather, the
6 bills, please.

7 MS. SWARTHOUT: So we're paying from the general
8 fund twenty-eight thousand, three hundred and twenty-seven
9 dollars and seven cents, and from the water fund three
10 thousand, one hundred and six dollars and forty-eight cents.
11 As annexed abstract dated March 13, 2020 and pre-paid is
12 from February abstract for a total of thirty-one thousand,
13 four hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty-five cents.

14 MAYOR SCOTT: Can I have a motion to pay the bills,
15 please?

16 TRUSTEE McCANN: So move.

17 TRUSTEE CARSON: Second it.

18 MAYOR SCOTT: Any questions or comments?

19 (NO RESPONSE).

20 MAYOR SCOTT: All in favor?

21 TRUSTEE FINCH: Aye.

22 TRUSTEE CARSON: Aye.

23 TRUSTEE McCANN: Aye.

24 TRUSTEE PETERS: Aye.

25 MAYOR SCOTT: Any opposed?

1 (NO RESPONSE).

2 MAYOR SCOTT: Motion is carried. May I have a
3 motion to adjourn the monthly March village meeting, please?

4 TRUSTEE CARSON: I'll make the motion.

5 TRUSTEE FINCH: I'll second it.

6 MAYOR SCOTT: Sounds good. We will shut the
7 recorder off for the meeting but we will continue on with
8 the budget hearing. Elizabeth, thank you so much for
9 hopping on and providing us your expertise as always.

10 MS. OKLEVITCH: So are you not voting on a
11 tentative budget tonight?

12 MAYOR SCOTT: We are not. We're not in a position
13 to.

14 MS. OKLEVITCH: Okay.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Dawn K. Smith, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Savona Village Board Meeting was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Dawn K. Smith
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