

Minutes - Special Board Meeting Village of Greenwich
Public Hearing
July 18, 2023
7:00pm

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held May 31, 2023 in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Fuller, Trustees Brown, Robinson, Grimmke, as well as Attorney Kelly. Trustee Vandewater was absent. Mayor Fuller opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Sign-in sheet: Liv Thygesen, Andrew Doonan, Dawn D. Sharts and Morgan Snyder

Public Hearing – Mayor Fuller read the Resolution No23 of 2023

In part as follows:

On July 18, 2023, at a Special Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees and in compliance with Public Officers Law (POL) § 103-a(2)(a), the Village of Greenwich, following a properly noticed public hearing, passed a resolution authorizing the use of videoconferencing as described in POL § 103-a and established meeting procedures in conformance therewith, as follows:

WHEREAS, by passing Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 (“Chapter 56”), the New York State Legislature amended Section 103 of the Open Meetings Law; and **WHEREAS**, Chapter 56 adds Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law, permitting the Village of Greenwich to authorize its members to attend meeting by videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances; and **WHEREAS**, Section 103-a(2)(a) requires the Village of Greenwich to adopt a resolution following a public hearing authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances.

Comments were invited:

Liv Thygesen asked about remote voting privileges. Answer: quorum of officials must be present at the physical location which allows remote voting by an official. It was remarked that the Town of Greenwich does not allow remote voting, but does accommodate remote meeting attendance.

She followed up with a question about the mental capacity of the remote attendee and whether public notice would be given. Mayor Fuller answered that the attendee must inform the Clerk no fewer than four days prior to the meeting, and that notice would be given.

Dawn Sharts asked what precipitated this decision. The Mayor answered that a Board member in the hospital was the reason for this action. A follow-up statement about mental capacity of an ill person may be problematic, but this particular situation is not pertinent to that issue. The question of what constitutes an impairment of judgement was discussed further and left unresolved.

No other questions.

Motion was made by Trustee Brown to close Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Permits:

- **Liv Thygesen Parks Permit app;** Mowry Park July 26, August 2, August 9, 2023 from 5:00-9:00pm Music in park and fundraising for nonprofits. Mayor Fuller explained that the Board had a question about fundraising which was asked prior to the meeting. Liv Thygesen stated that the

fundraising component was no one's business. The second issue was the "Hold Harmless Agreement". Attorney Kelly has taken responsibility for the error in questioning a Village generated document. Trustee Brown asked for more information on the fundraising. The answer was that there will be opportunity to donate to a highlighted non-profit on each of the event evenings. **Approved.**

- **Angela Lynds Parade Permit app;** Walk for Freedom October 14, 2023 noon-3pm. Walk on sidewalk from Mowry Park to MAG Chevrolet and back again. Discussion was had at the last meeting deeming the Parade Permit unnecessary because the participants will be on the sidewalk, but to ensure the safety of the group, the Parade Permit is **approved.**

Resolution No.23 of 2023 – Approval of the use of videoconferencing in compliance with Public Officers Law (POL) § 103-a(2)(a), the Village of Greenwich, following a properly noticed public hearing, passed a resolution authorizing the use of videoconferencing. **Passed** on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Brown and carried by all.

Technology upgrades to support videoconferencing include large screen TV, camera, laptop, speaker/mic and TV mount, set up and support of the system will be needed. Trustee Brown made a **motion to approve** these purchases not to exceed \$3,000 from the Building Reserve Fund as quoted by Tech Monkeys. To be accomplished by August 14th. Seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Public Comment

Dawn Sharts asked if other quotes for videoconferencing were procured. Answer; no, it's under the threshold of the Village Procurement Policy. She pointed out that even a small savings is important to tax payers. Why not procure multiple quotes? Dawn Sharts voiced that it; "seems like a lot of money to spend on one person. What is the rush? Standard procedure is to get multiple bids." Liv Thygesen commented that the Board has accepted late bids in the past. Why not advertise publicly?

Liv Thygesen asked about where the funds came from to hire the Chaizen/LaBella facilitator for the Parks and Recreation task force. Were other bids procured? Answer; these are professional services, no other bids needed. What was the vetting process used for this facilitator? Which firms? Answer; Barton & Loguidice, Sharon Reynolds and LaBella. Who at these firms was interviewed? Who on the Board was in on this process? The Board did not answer these questions.

Dawn Sharts asked a follow-up on the what the Walk for Freedom was about. Answer; Human Trafficking and Slavery.

7:34 Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted
Jane Dowling – Village Clerk