1	INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF THOMASTON
2	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3	JULY 13, 2020
4	
5	
6	
7	PRESENT:
8	STEVEN WEINBERG, MAYOR
9	JAMES E. SHARKEY, DEPUTY MAYOR
10	JILL MONOSON, TRUSTEE
11	TO-ON PANG, TRUSTEE
12	BURTON S. WESTON, TRUSTEE
13	DENISE KNOWLAND, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	JENNIFER DEVLIN COURT REPORTER
22	COOKI KELOKIEK
23	
24	

2.2

MAYOR WEINBERG: It's Steve Weinberg,

Mayor of the Village of Thomaston. And we're

opening up the Village of Thomaston Board of

Trustees meeting for Monday, July 13, 2020

via video conference. We're opening the

meeting at 7:36 p.m.

There is a statement that I have to read before the actual meeting occurs and before we call the roll.

Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, and pursuant to Governor's Executive Orders, this meeting of the Board of Trustees is not being held in person.

The Board is meeting by video conferencing. The meeting will be recorded and a transcription will be provided at a later date. The public has the opportunity to observe this meeting live online and to submit comments pursuant to instructions given on the Village website and in the meeting notice.

Interested members of the public may provide comments on an agenda item or public

1	hearing by calling in during the meeting at
2	(646) 558-8656. Meeting ID: 838 5593 2477.
3	Password: 681998, or through the written
4	chat section of the Zoom meeting. Comments
5	may also be provided via email before and
6	during the meeting to
7	clerk@villageofthomaston.org.
8	The Village Administrator will now call
9	the roll for attendance at this meeting by
10	members of the Board and relevant Village
11	staff.
12	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
13	Steve Weinberg.
14	MAYOR WEINBERG: Here.
15	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
16	Mayor James Sharkey.
17	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Here.
18	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
19	Jill Monoson.
20	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Here.
21	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
22	To-on Pang.
23	TRUSTEE PANG: Here.
24	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee

1	Burton Weston.
2	TRUSTEE WESTON: Here.
3	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: And
4	Denise M. Knowland Village Administrator
5	present.
6	MAYOR WEINBERG: The board is in
7	attendance and we'll begin the board meeting.
8	* * * *
9	MAYOR WEINBERG: Jim, can you give me the
10	resolution of the adoption of the minutes of
11	June 8, 2020?
12	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: The minutes of the
13	meeting of June 8, 2020. Adoption of
14	minutes. RESOLUTION 20-55.
15	MAYOR WEINBERG: 20-64.
16	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'm sorry. 20-64.
17	RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board
18	of Trustees held on
19	MAYOR WEINBERG: For June 8th.
20	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: June 8, 2020,
21	are hereby approved and accepted as
22	presented.
23	Are there any questions?
24	MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a second?

1	TRUSTEE WESTON: Second.
2	MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Before we call
3	the question, are there any comments about
4	the minutes? Questions or corrections?
5	Hearing none, call the question.
6	Denise, would you call the roll, please?
7	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
8	Mayor Sharkey.
9	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.
10	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
11	Monoson.
12	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.
13	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
14	Pang.
15	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
16	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I didn't
17	hear that.
18	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
19	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Thank
20	you.
21	Trustee Weston.
22	TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.
23	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
24	Weinberg.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: There are four votes in favor, zero votes opposed. The motion is adopted.

MAYOR WEINBERG: Should be five.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Oh, sorry. I'm sorry. Five votes in favor, zero votes opposed and zero abstentions. The motion is adopted. I apologize.

* * * * *

MAYOR WEINBERG: There was a proposed general resolution to allow an extension of any permits, building permits or approvals, that may be expiring due to COVID-19. So I'm going to make the motion for the RESOLUTION which is 20-65.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 111 of the Laws of 2020, the Board of Trustees is authorized, by acting in a single resolution, to extend for up to 120 days approvals issued prior to March 7, 2020, for building permits and zoning and planning approvals; and

WHEREAS, holders of such permits and approvals have sustained delays in being able

to act in furtherance of permits or approvals due to restrictions imposed during COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees hereby

finds and concludes that extending the

duration of some or all of such permits and

approvals is in the best interest of the

Village.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby extends the following permits or approvals for the indicated periods of time.

- (a) All building permits issued prior to March 7, 2020, and which had not expired prior to that date, are hereby extended for a period of time until 120 days after the otherwise applicable expiration date of such permits;
- (b) All zoning and planning approvals granted prior to March 7, 2020, and periods of time contained in such approvals within which any action was required to be taken or completed, which were in effect on such date, are hereby extended for a period of time

1	until 120 days after the otherwise applicable
2	expiration date of such approvals or
3	requirements.
4	Is there a second?
5	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'll second.
6	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Okay.
7	James Sharkey seconded.
8	MAYOR WEINBERG: Does anyone have any
9	questions before we call the question?
10	Hearing none and no comments, Denise,
11	would you please call the roll.
12	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
13	Mayor Sharkey.
14	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.
15	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
16	Monoson.
17	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.
18	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
19	Pang.
20	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
21	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
22	Weston.
23	TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.
24	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor

1 Weinberg. 2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye. 3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: There are five votes in favor, zero votes opposed, 4 5 zero abstentions. The motion is adopted. 6 7 MAYOR WEINBERG: The next item on the 8 agenda is RESOLUTION 20-66. Setting the 9 village election polling place to have our 10 long awaited and delayed Village election. 11 Burton, would you like to read the resolution? 12 TRUSTEE WESTON: Surely. 13 14 RESOLUTION 20-66. 1.5 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Election Law, the Board of Trustees is required to 16 17 designate the polling place for the village 18 election to be held on September 15, 2020, 19 and the hours of election. 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT 21 RESOLVED, that the polling place for the 22 village election to be held on September 15, 23 2020, shall be Thomaston Village Hall, 100 24 East Shore Road, Thomaston, New York, and it

1	is further
2	RESOLVED, that the hours of said village
3	election shall be from noon to 9:00 p.m.
4	inclusive.
5	MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a second to the
6	motion?
7	TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll second.
8	MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Any questions or
9	comments?
10	(None)
11	We'll call the question. Denise, would
12	you call the roll.
13	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
14	Mayor Sharkey.
15	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.
16	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
17	Monoson.
18	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.
19	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
20	Pang.
21	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
22	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
23	Weston.
24	TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

1	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
2	Weinberg.
3	MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.
4	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: There
5	are four votes in favor, zero votes opposed,
6	zero abstentions. The motion is adopted.
7	MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, I think it's
8	five.
9	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five.
10	Did I say four again? Five votes in favor,
11	zero votes opposed and zero abstentions. The
12	motion is adopted.
13	I'm sorry. I have four in my head.
14	TRUSTEE WESTON: Somebody just doesn't
15	count.
16	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I have
17	eliminated one of you.
18	TRUSTEE WESTON: That's it.
19	MAYOR WEINBERG: All right.
20	* * * *
21	MAYOR WEINBERG: We had a suggestion from
22	a Thomaston resident, and so I just wanted to
23	have a little board discussion of this.
24	Based upon landscapers using, in

particular, gas-powered blowers which we have a prohibition against during this period of time -- I believe the prohibition is from what is it? May 1st to September 15th?

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: May 1st to September 30th.

MAYOR WEINBERG: And out of all the powered equipment, obviously the gas-powered blowers certainly make the most noise. And the landscapers typically operate on a holiday. They're not prohibited from doing so under the code.

So they typically do not operate on

Sundays for simple reasons that they rarely
operate 7 days a week, although an individual
resident can certainly take care of their own
landscaping on a Sunday. But the complaint
was the use of the gas-powered blowers and
operating on holidays, which maybe
landscapers continue to work on.

So one thought was either bar the -either changing the Village Code to prohibit
landscapers from working on Sunday or a legal
holiday. Another possibility or both was

licensing of landscapers. And the idea behind licensing, in order to work in the village, it would require landscapers to certify that they have the proper equipment to actually operate in the village.

Specifically they have, again, battery operated or electric blowers instead of gas blowers in order to operate in -- within the village. Some landscapers do utilize those devices, and others do not. And the reality is our inspectors, while they are there on a staggered schedule, they aren't always available when the landscaper is using a -- improper equipment.

So I just wanted to get some general feedback to see if there was a consensus as to whether we should do one or both measures, or none of the above, or whether we should consider one or both measures, or none of the above.

I will open it up to comment from the Board.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Question. Are we talking about a license or a fee, or is it

interchangeable?

MAYOR WEINBERG: We're talking about a license that you would be subject to a violation. There would be a minor fee for the license. It's not — the purpose of this is not merely for revenue as much as it is to really make sure that if a landscaper is operating, they're licensed by the Village and they have the proper equipment.

Also arguably it makes -- it might make it a little easier for our inspector to write a ticket as to whether or not they have a license as oppose to whether or not they're using the appropriate equipment during the appropriate periods of time.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I know from experience my own landscaper complains about if he had to use, say, an electric lawnmower or electric blower it would be very expensive for him to do so. And they're not as efficient as the gas blower. It's obviously a higher cost to run, own and operate.

Incorporated Village of Thomaston - 7-13-20

1.5

2.2

they have electric powered equipment. 1 2 MAYOR WEINBERG: This is only to enforce 3 the laws as they're currently written. So they wouldn't have to change all the 4 5 equipment. They would just have the electric powered or battery-operated blower instead of 6 7 the gas blower. 8 TRUSTEE WESTON: Can I ask a question? 9 How pervasive are the complaints and how pervasive are the violations? Are these 10 11 isolated complaints or is there an endemic 12 problem within the Village? 13 MAYOR WEINBERG: The complaints are a 14 particular resident. The problem does seem 1.5 to be endemic as the leading violation that 16 could be written. Despite violations being 17 written for gas-powered blowers, landscapers 18 are routinely ignoring that part of the law. 19 We did have a hearing -- oh, Denise, do you 20 remember, about a year ago on this? 21 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: About a 2.2 year ago. 23 TRUSTEE MONOSON: We had that very, very

well attended meeting.

MAYOR WEINBERG: It was very well attended. And there were quite a number of residents who truly wanted not only the blower restriction to remain part of the Village Code which we -- which it has and we agreed, they wanted it enforced.

And -- so that's something that's always in the back of my mind that unfortunately the current situation before or after COVID is that landscapers are routinely ignoring the gas blower law or the law that prohibits gas blowers for a particular part of the season.

TRUSTEE PANG: I think we've discussed this before and we kind of agreed that an electric blower and gas blower is probably the same kind of noise except the gas makes that much smell. In terms of noise there's not much difference.

And I'm also concerned how to enforce this rule. Do we have, you know, people, you know, walking the village 7 days a week? On one Sunday there is a landscaper start at eight o'clock next to my house. I talked to them and I told them they have to start at

10:00. But I am worried that no one will be able to enforce that code.

MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a continuing problem? If it is would you please give Benny a call?

TRUSTEE PANG: No. Just one time.

TRUSTEE WESTON: I mean, I'm not sure if there is a major issue in terms of enforcing a blower law or enforcing a regulation that somebody is unlicensed. I mean the question is if there's a widespread complaint. I think it's more so a question of enforcement and a question necessarily of licensing.

Whether somebody is going to be licensed,

I'm not sure it's going to change anything,

but are they going to get a ticket for being

unlicensed, or are they going to get a ticket

for violating the code? I'm not sure it's

going to add anything to the enforcement

powers.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Could the Village mandate gasoline only or mandate only electric? Do we have the authority to make one or the other?

MAYOR WEINBERG: Well, we do, but -- and again I'm not proposing that. I'm just proposing utilizing licensing as just a tool to try to get better compliance with the blower -- with the current blower restriction.

TRUSTEE MONOSON: Right. But more to

TRUSTEE MONOSON: Right. But more to

Burton's point, you can have the same people

can be violating it whether they're licensed

or unlicensed. So --

MAYOR WEINBERG: The only reason why I think it's a valid -- I think it's a valid comment. The only reason why it may help is that if you're requiring them to actually have the equipment -- the electric or battery-operated equipment, if you've required them to buy it and they have it --

TRUSTEE MONOSON: Yeah.

MAYOR WEINBERG: -- you would hope they're more likely to actually use it as oppose to just get it for you to show they're in compliance and then go back to the gas blower. I think in that way the licensing restriction could help.

1.5

TRUSTEE MONOSON: Okay.

1.5

TRUSTEE WESTON: Could a license force them to buy it? Perhaps they don't use blowers. That's all.

TRUSTEE WESTON: I don't know if we're the only village or if there are multiple villages that requires electric blowers.

MAYOR WEINBERG: There are multiple villages that require it. And there are multiple villages that require licensing.

And those are certainly -- and Burton knows those are excellent comments. And if there is interest in doing this, licensing of landscapers, it is -- we can follow up with the Village Attorney and see how that can be accomplished.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: The reality is that they do not use their blowers after September 15th. So that when springtime comes around, they have a mountain of leaves to clear up and they charge their customers three times what they would in a normal month. So one way or the other the customer is going to pay for it.

Personally I feel that if we're going to 1 have a license, then it should have some 2 3 teeth and it should be specific. Burton is right. If we have a -- we issue a license 4 5 but it doesn't mean anything, what's the point of having a license? 6 7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. All right. Any 8 other comments? 9 (None.) 10 MAYOR WEINBERG: Let me continue the 11 discussion with the Village Attorney and 12 we'll see if it's -- I think the only --13 again I -- Ben, I think you said this and 14 Joe, our inspectors are not working 7 days a 1.5 week 24 hours a day or -- not necessarily 24, but obviously you would need them out there 16 17 literally 16 hours out of the day. 18 TRUSTEE MONOSON: And very early in the 19 morning. 20 MAYOR WEINBERG: And that's the only way 21 you're going to have the enforcement. And 2.2 that's not our situation. 23 So let's explore whether or not licensing 24 can be utilized with certain teeth to get

that -- that could add to the enforcement of it, or if it's just a matter of once again leaving it up to an inspector being there at the appropriate time to witness the violation and then issuing the summons.

Was there any -- what was the feeling of the Board in terms of whether or not there should be a prohibition of the landscaping work on Sunday or on a holiday? Should we leave the situation as is, or should there be a restriction of the hours of operation?

TRUSTEE PANG: If the landscaper come to work on Sundays, homeowners can tell a landscaper to not do it. I don't know.

Should we apply the rules to all people?

MAYOR WEINBERG: Well, you don't -construction by contractors under a permit is
not permitted on Sunday, but a homeowner can
do construction if they're doing their own
work. So there is a distinction between the
homeowner versus a contractor performing work
in the Village.

TRUSTEE PANG: Okay.

MAYOR WEINBERG: Any other comments?

DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Just an observation. My guy, I've had him now for nearly 35 years. He comes on Tuesdays. He only comes on Tuesdays. So I'm curious as to how many customers. If he has, say, 100 customers or 200 customers, for the amount of time that he would show up on the weekends is dramatically reduced.

So I don't know if we're chasing windmills here. I would have no problem, at least from my personal point of view, of saying no landscaping on Sundays. That makes a lot of sense. You need one day of rest.

Some peace and quiet.

MAYOR WEINBERG: All right. Thank you.

We'll table the discussion and continue at another time after we get some additional feedback from the Village Attorney.

* * * * *

MAYOR WEINBERG: All right. Next item on the agenda is the Public Works Report.

Street sweeping did continue. There was obviously lawn maintenance and maintenance of the islands throughout the Village. We did

get some storms come through. We did get some much needed rain, but clean up continues from the storms.

The -- finally we were able to get the concrete contractor out, pour the concrete to finish the sidewalks at Lodge and Windsor and Crescent and Windsor. The storm drains were cleared. Planting. They actually recommenced work on cracked sealing of the roads.

And there was street light repairs.

There was an underground repair at Lincoln and Crescent. Also a street light repair consisted of the lamp and the photocell. And there was some eight resident requests that were addressed. And all of those items will continue in the upcoming month. There may be an addition to upcoming work which will probably include removing a village tree at 235 Shore Road. That's it.

TRUSTEE WESTON: Quick question.

There was planting that was done today on the island at the intersection of Grace and Colonial just as you hit the bridge. Was

1	that done by us, or was that being done by
2	the railroad?
3	MAYOR WEINBERG: That was being done by
4	the Village.
5	TRUSTEE WESTON: By the Village. I
6	figured. I didn't think it was the railroad.
7	Very attractive. Mulched and planted. It
8	was very pretty.
9	MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you. They try
10	hard.
11	* * * *
12	MAYOR WEINBERG: In terms of any other
13	items of New Business?
14	Denise, were there any questions from any
15	callers?
16	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I'll
17	just check the email in case any have come in
18	while we were here.
19	No. There were no questions or comments.
20	There is a couple of callers listening in
21	perhaps via the Zoom chat.
22	* * * *
23	MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Would someone
24	like to read the be the movant for the

1	motion on the vouchers?
2	TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll do it if you want.
3	Let me just see the bottom line here. Okay.
4	Denise, the one in our packet today is
5	the final number?
6	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.
7	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Okay.
8	RESOLVED, that the vouchers sorry.
9	RESOLUTION 20-67 or 68? I guess it's 67.
10	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: 67,
11	because we didn't have a resolution for the
12	prior.
13	TRUSTEE MONOSON: RESOLVED, that the
14	vouchers, in the aggregate amount of
15	\$87,279.26 (as itemized on the Abstract of
16	Vouchers dated Monday, July 13, 2020), are
17	hereby approved for payment, all allocated to
18	the General Fund. A copy of the approved
19	voucher list is attached to these minutes.
20	MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a second?
21	TRUSTEE WESTON: I'll second it.
22	MAYOR WEINBERG: Any questions or
23	comments?
24	(None.)

1	Call the question. Denise, please read
2	the roll.
3	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
4	Mayor Sharkey.
5	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.
6	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
7	Monoson.
8	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.
9	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
10	Pang.
11	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
12	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
13	Weston.
14	TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.
15	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
16	Weinberg.
17	MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.
18	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: There
19	are five votes in favor, zero votes opposed,
20	zero abstentions. The motion is adopted.
21	MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.
22	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I demand a
23	recount.
24	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I got it

1	right.
2	* * * *
3	MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a motion to
4	adjourn?
5	TRUSTEE WESTON: Sure. I will make a
6	motion to adjourn.
7	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'll second.
8	MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. All those
9	Denise call the question. Denise, please
10	call the roll.
11	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
12	Mayor Sharkey.
13	DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.
14	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
15	Monoson.
16	TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.
17	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
18	Pang.
19	TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.
20	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
21	Weston.
22	TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.
23	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
24	Weinberg.

1	MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.
2	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: There
3	are five votes in favor, zero votes opposed,
4	zero abstentions. The motion is adopted.
5	MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you one and all,
6	and turn off the transcription.
7	(Time noted: 8:04 p.m.)
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	