

1 INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF WEST HAMPTON DUNES  
 2 PLANNING BOARD  
 3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
 4 Public Hearing On A Local Law  
 5 June 7th, 2022  
 6 5:00 PM  
 7 Meeting held via  
 8 Zoom Video Conferencing  
 9 and at  
 10 906 Dune Road, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

11  
 12 MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 13 GARY VEGLIANTE - MAYOR
- 14 JOHN EFF, JR. - TRUSTEE
- 15 HARVEY GESSIN - TRUSTEE
- 16 MICHAEL CRAIG - TRUSTEE

17  
 18 ALSO PRESENT:

- 19 JOSEPH PROKOP, ESQ. - VILLAGE ATTORNEY
- 20 ANGELA SADELI - VILLAGE CLERK
- 21 CLAIR VEGLIANTE - TREASURER
- 22 KARLYN SABO - VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

23  
 24 TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY:

- 25 WAYNE GALANTE - COURT REPORTER

1                   **(\*The Meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM\*)**

2                   MAYOR VEGLIANTE: We'll open the Public Hearing  
3 for Local Law.

4                   MR. PROKOP: Okay, this is a Public Hearing on  
5 Local Law No. 1 of 2022 for establishing virtual  
6 meetings for the Village of Westhampton Dunes.

7                   When the governor adopted her budget in March of  
8 2022, there were a number of, possibly as many as  
9 100 different laws that were attached to the budget,  
10 which she was forcing the legislature to adopt by  
11 virtue of the fact that they were attached to the  
12 budget.

13                   One of those laws was a new statute, Section  
14 103-A of the Public Officers Law, and what that  
15 statute does is it allows villages in the State of  
16 New York to conduct virtual meetings now, from now  
17 until 2023, and in order to do so you have to adopt  
18 a local law.

19                   So that's the local law that is before the Board  
20 tonight.

21                   One of the things that I wanted to mention about  
22 this law is it will change the way that we are doing  
23 virtual meetings. So in order to have a Trustee or  
24 the Mayor participate in the meeting, we need three  
25 of those people, a combination of three or a total

1 of three of those people to, in the public notice  
2 and also on the website, identify the location that  
3 that they will be at during the meeting. And the  
4 public has to be able to attend the meeting in  
5 person at that location.

6 So, you know, whatever it is, if we have two  
7 Trustees attend at 906 Dune Road, they can identify  
8 906 Dune Road, and if the third Trustee or the Mayor  
9 wished to participate in the meeting from their home  
10 or from another location, from say the Village  
11 office on Arthur Street, they would have to identify  
12 that location in the public notice and the website,  
13 and the public would have to be able to attend at  
14 either of those locations.

15 And that's the substance of the local law.

16 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: And I want everybody to  
17 understand, you also need a viable reason you will  
18 not be able to make it, not just that it's  
19 inconvenient for me to be here. But if you can't  
20 make it and you are doing it from your home, you  
21 have to publish that location and that location will  
22 be open to the public for the duration of the  
23 meeting. So I just want to be very clear about that.

24 I have no problem with it because we'll be  
25 always available for the meeting.

1           Also I want to note, this is not a regular  
2 meeting. Our regular meeting will on be on June  
3 what, 17th, Angela?

4           MS. SADELI: Yes, June 17th.

5           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: On Friday. And we'll be  
6 hosting that at 906 Dune Road, correct?

7           MS. SADELI: Yes.

8           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Okay, so what do we do now, do  
9 we open it up for public comment, Joe?

10          MR. PROKOP: Yes.

11          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Okay, it's open to public  
12 comment. If anyone wants to say anything at all,  
13 you are welcome to join in. Just signal to Angela if  
14 you want to speak.

15          MS. SADELI: I don't see anybody's hand up.

16          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Nobody? Come on, doesn't  
17 anybody want to say something?

18          (No response).

19          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Five, four, three, two, one.  
20 You can always come to the meeting on the 17th and  
21 speak your piece. And you can always call me. I'm  
22 in the office. But I may not be here tomorrow.

23          Maryjane, do you want to say something?

24          MS. O'CONNELL: Yes, please. I'm not sure if I'm  
25 audible.

1           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I can hear you.

2           MS. O'CONNELL: I just wanted to say, I think  
3           it's very important that the residents all have the  
4           opportunity to tap into this law. It's very  
5           important to the integrity of the Village and to the  
6           participation of all the residents on the largest  
7           scale possible.

8           I know it has received support by the Board of  
9           Trustees in the previous Village meetings, and I  
10          just wanted to affirm that I think it's very  
11          important for all of us to allow us the maximum  
12          participation of all the residents. Thank you.

13          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Thank you. That's the reason  
14          we have been doing it.

15          MS. O'CONNELL: Yes.

16          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: We particularly have far many  
17          more people participating in this venue than we do  
18          at the public meetings that they have to attend.  
19          Unfortunately, the governor is not very receptive to  
20          our request to do that and now she is finally, I  
21          think getting closer to the election, recognizing  
22          the need for public participation. So we'll take  
23          advantage of it.

24          Joe, how long will this be in effect that we'll  
25          be able to do this?

1 MR. PROKOP: Until 2023. I'm not sure of the  
2 exact date, but it is until 2023.

3 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Good, good. Anyone else want  
4 to comment on anything?

5 (No response).

6 Okay, if that's all.

7 MR. PROKOP: We should have a vote to close the  
8 public hearing, please.

9 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Motion to close the public  
10 hearing.

11 TRUSTEE GESSIN: I'll make the motion.

12 TRUSTEE EFF, JR: Second.

13 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Seconded by John. All in  
14 favor?

15 (ALL AYES).

16 MR. PROKOP: Now we are back in the public  
17 portion of the meeting. So if you like, we could  
18 adopt the Local Law. It's an Administrative Law  
19 that does not require SEQRA. It's a Type II action  
20 for purpose of SEQRA, and therefore no environmental  
21 review is required.

22 So if one of the Trustees would like to make a  
23 motion to adopt the Local Law, you can do so at this  
24 time.

25 TRUSTEE EFF: I'm make the motion.

1 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: John, second?

2 TRUSTEE GESSIN: Second.

3 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: All in favor?

4 (ALL AYES).

5 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: None opposed. Does anyone else  
6 have anything else they want to speak about?

7 MR. PROKOP: We have the contract. A contract  
8 was submitted for the constable. Is that -- do we  
9 want to approve that in public?

10 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Which contract is that, Joe?

11 MR. PROKOP: There was a contract that was  
12 submitted for execution for, I thought it was the  
13 reader or signal system or something?

14 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I think we'll wait for (AUDIO  
15 FEED IS LOST) -- it's a week from Friday, the  
16 meeting.

17 MR. PROKOP: Okay.

18 TRUSTEE EFF: Are the meetings going to be on  
19 subsequent Fridays now?

20 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I think for the summer months  
21 it's not (AUDIO FEED IS LOST) -- is that true,  
22 Angela?

23 MS. SADELI: Yes, for the summer months, for  
24 July, and we have not picked an August date yet, but  
25 the meeting in August. And I think the Board said

1 we would go and figure out a permanent day moving  
2 forward for the Fall and the Winter. If that works  
3 for everyone.

4 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I think clearly (AUDIO FEED IS  
5 LOST) 907, 906, sorry, works well. But they attend  
6 by video now.

7 Does anybody else want to speak?

8 TRUSTEE CRAIG: One thing. Off of topic, away  
9 from the meeting, so you tell me when I can bring it  
10 up.

11 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I think it's pretty much ready  
12 now. Go ahead, Mike.

13 TRUSTEE CRAIG: Okay, it comes to our attention  
14 that, and it shouldn't surprise anybody, that we are  
15 paying our part-time constables at a below-market  
16 rate, and it's making it very difficult for the  
17 constable to hire part-time help.

18 I think the number is around \$23 an hour. So I  
19 would like to float the idea, and we can talk more  
20 about it, but the impact is very, very negligible  
21 because we don't have a lot of part-time hours.  
22 It's more in the summer, it's not in the off season.  
23 But I think we need to be more competitive or we are  
24 not going to be able to hire.

25 So Westhampton is, I think is about \$26 an



1 hour. We have contractual obligations not no exceed  
2 the per-hour rate of our lowest paid constable, so I  
3 would like to float the idea of raising our  
4 part-time rate up to three dollars an hour, to \$26,  
5 but not to exceed the hourly rate of our lowest paid  
6 full-time guy.

7 So with a little bit of leg work from Claire,  
8 we can back into that number. But that's the idea.  
9 We need more money.

10 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Claire will be doing updates  
11 on the pay now. So we'll have that before next  
12 week, before the next meeting you'll have it and  
13 we'll do it then. How about that, Mike?

14 TRUSTEE CRAIG: Okay. Gary, I don't think, I  
15 mean, you're the police commissioner, and I mean,  
16 the mayor, obviously. I don't think we need to have  
17 a vote on it. I think we just need to have a  
18 meeting of the minds, would that be right?

19 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Well, I don't know. We'll see.  
20 Whatever we have to do, we'll do.

21 TRUSTEE CRAIG: Okay.

22 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: And I agree with you, Mike, we  
23 are suffering in undervaluing the part-time work.

24 TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: How many part-timers do we  
25 need?

1           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: It depends, but right now I  
2 believe we have four.

3           TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: We have them or we need them?

4           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: We have. We just dismissed --

5           TRUSTEE CRAIG: One just left.

6           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: But I think, well, we have not  
7 established in the budget a certain amount, but I  
8 think we can maintain course.

9           TRUSTEE CRAIG: We can do an analysis. It going  
10 to be negligible, \$3 an hour spread across four  
11 guys, spread across X-amount of shifts, across 12  
12 months. It's, listen, inflation is inflation,  
13 right? Hourly inflation has picked up for Main  
14 Street America. We've got to keep up.

15           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Yes. (AUDIO FEED IS LOST).  
16 We have to get competitive.

17           We'll run the analysis for you during the week  
18 and during the meeting it comes out, we'll discuss  
19 it publicly.

20           TRUSTEE CRAIG: Great.

21           TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: These are part-time officers,  
22 correct? They are out in the cars performing the  
23 duties of constable.

24           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: That's right.

25           TRUSTEE CRAIG: That's right. And they don't

1 have any benefits or anything really to speak of  
2 other than the hourly rate.

3 You know, safety is our number one priority in  
4 the Village, and we want the best cops. We don't  
5 want to just get get square badges. We want the  
6 best guys.

7 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Our officers are fully  
8 trained, you know, with police tactics and they have  
9 to graduate the academy or they are recent retirees.

10 So in order to maintain that level of  
11 performance, we have to, we have to be competitive  
12 with the pay.

13 TRUSTEE CRAIG: I agree. All right, thanks,  
14 that's all I have.

15 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: All right, does anyone else  
16 want to speak, raise your hand now or forever hold  
17 your peace. Or get on the mobile phone and call me.  
18 But go right ahead. Anybody have anything?

19 (No response).

20 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Okay, once again I'll count  
21 this down.

22 MR. GREEN: Alan Green.

23 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Hi, Al.

24 MR. GREEN: I just have a comment. Recently we  
25 have been finding dead birds and a dead raccoon on

1 the beach, and we were wondering how to get rid of  
2 them. Animal Welfare? What do we do?

3 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Well, if you call the office  
4 and let us know, we'll get somebody out there to  
5 collect them. If we think there is a reason that  
6 they should be looked at by someone from the Board  
7 of Health, we'll do that. But just let us know.  
8 Call the office and we'll have Mike Burnett (sic)  
9 send a team down to pick it up.

10 MR. GREEN: Sure. Sorry.

11 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Sure. No problem.

12 MR. GREEN: I also want to throw one more thing  
13 at you. We have access to the bay, that's right  
14 next to the access to the beach 6, and all the  
15 boards to the access are all loose. And I don't  
16 know who is in charge of doing that. I know the  
17 water company has property right next to it.

18 MS. SADELI: Usually the county handles that and  
19 we are in touch, to help get that.

20 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Are you talking about bay-side  
21 or ocean-side access?

22 MR. GREEN: Bay-side.

23 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: That's privately owned.

24 MR. GREEN: Okay, I didn't know who to contact.  
25 It's dangerous. The boards are all loose and if you

1 walk on it, you can fall.

2 MS. SADELI: You can probably call the office  
3 and we could figure it out.

4 MR. GREEN: All right. I was going to save a  
5 call to Gary.

6 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: No, it's difficult because  
7 those are not deeded lots. They're easements. Most  
8 of them are not deeded lots. Some of them are. But  
9 we have to look it up in the deed who has the  
10 easement there or who the owner is. But if anyone  
11 has an easement across their property, and looks  
12 like it's not functional, or creating a problem,  
13 they have to be aware of it because they could be  
14 liable. If it's an issue.

15 MR. GREEN: While I have you on the phone,  
16 there's three guys that come by with small boats,  
17 and they have hundred-foot nets, and they are  
18 capturing all of the basically the bait fish,  
19 anything small, by the shore. And we happen to have  
20 a lot of fish, and I've seen one boat alone take in  
21 ten cartons of these bait fish and not look at them.  
22 And I called the bay constable, and he doesn't want  
23 to do anything.

24 And also, I think there is a limit as to when  
25 they can do that. And they seem to do it all summer

1 long. So I think it's denuding our bay of fish.

2 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Well, you know, commercial  
3 fisheries -- I'll look into it. But I know that  
4 bait fish are traditionally not very well  
5 controlled. These guys make a living doing that.  
6 But I'll look into it and see what I can do.

7 MR. GREEN: I don't want to stop them making a  
8 living, but, you know, we have a number of people  
9 who make a living fishing around here, too, taking  
10 people out on the boats, like Rosie, to catch fish.  
11 And if they are going to take all of the baby fish.

12 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Well, let me know, I'll find  
13 out what the limits are on harvesting the bait fish,  
14 and we'll see what we can do.

15 MR. GREEN: They have hundred-foot nets, and  
16 they come out almost every day, and there are three  
17 of them, and they keep taking, taking and taking.

18 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: You know, I really don't  
19 think -- I think they limit the net size, but not  
20 the amount.

21 MR. GREEN: I think the net size is exceeding 30  
22 feet.

23 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Well, I'll see if I can  
24 motivate the bay constable. It's in their  
25 jurisdiction.

1           MR. GREEN: Yeah. I tried the bay constable. He  
2 doesn't answer his phone. Ever. He never answers  
3 his phone.

4           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Tell him you are complaining  
5 about me, they'll be there in a minute.

6           MR. GREEN: Thank you. Okay, that's the three  
7 things I threw at you, I'm sorry.

8           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: No, that's problem. That's  
9 what we're here for. Let me find out and I'll get  
10 back to you tomorrow. I'll get in touch with  
11 somebody at the town.

12          MR. GREEN: Okay, thanks, Gary.

13          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Sure. You didn't see numbers  
14 on the boats that are doing the hauling, are you?

15          MR. GREEN: I took pictures of them. Yeah, I  
16 have the numbers.

17          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Could you e-mail me those  
18 pictures?

19          MR. GREEN: I would be happy to.

20          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: That would be great. Thank  
21 you. I'll get on it.

22          MR. GREEN: Okay, thanks.

23          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Merl, do you want to say  
24 anything? Merl? Un-mute yourself. Angela, un-mute  
25 Merl.

1 MS. BRENNER: Okay, we are all set for the blood  
2 drive on July 30th, Saturday. It will be from 9:00  
3 until 1:30. Okay? And very little that we have to  
4 do. The only thing we have to do is secure a  
5 porta-can for that morning. Okay. So that's the  
6 only thing. When we have the waste, I remember, we  
7 had it donated by the sanitation group that comes  
8 down this way. So, they might do the same again.

9 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: I'll see what they do.

10 MS. BRENNER: Okay. And other than that, they  
11 take care of everything, because they are so  
12 grateful that we are doing it. What we would like  
13 do is, though, contact everyone after July 1st, we  
14 are going to be putting up posters and everything  
15 all around, but through contacts and by e-mail, and  
16 tell them how they can register to sign up. Okay?

17 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Yup, we'll mention that on the  
18 17th as well. This one. We'll get somebody.

19 (AUDIO FEED IS LOST).

20 MS. BRENNER: Okay. And that's it. That's our  
21 report.

22 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Very good. Thank you. Okay,  
23 anyone else?

24 TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: Gary, what's the latest  
25 schedule on the new constable headquarters.



1           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: September 15th.

2           TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: That's when it will be  
3 delivered?

4           MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Yes.

5           TRUSTEE EFF, JR.: Okay.

6           TRUSTEE CRAIG: On that front, maybe Karlyn or  
7 Angela, were you guys able to forward the pictures,  
8 the measurements and kind of summary on the ramp to  
9 walkway one?

10          MS. SABO: I'll get to that tomorrow. I'm going  
11 to contact Briele and let her know, and send it over  
12 to her.

13          TRUSTEE CRAIG: Terrific.

14          MS. SABO: But I did get the aerial view in the  
15 relation to the walkway, so --

16          TRUSTEE CRAIG: That's great. Thank you,  
17 Karlyn.

18          MS. SABO: You're welcome.

19          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Joe, do we have rough square  
20 footage on the new constabulary, roughly what it is?

21          MR. PROKOP: No.

22          MAYOR VEGLIANTE: If you don't know, don't worry  
23 about it. We'll look it up.

24          Okay, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

25          TRUSTEE GESSIN: I'll make a motion.

1 TRUSTEE CRAIG: I'll second it.

2 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: All in favor?

3 (ALL AYES).

4 MAYOR VEGLIANTE: Okay, we're all done.

5 (The time noted is 5:29 PM).

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