REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
THE VILLAGE OF McCULLOM LAKE,
4811 W. ORCHARD DRIVE
McCULLOM LAKE, IL  60050
March 17, 2020
All Village Board meetings will be tape recorded.

As each Trustee came in President Shepit told each of them to sit at a table by themselves and a distance away from each other.

President Shepit called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:  By the Village Clerk, Sherri L. Messina

Present:  President Shepit, Trustees Bogacz, Fritz, Given, Matthesius, Mazurek, Walter.

Absent:  Attorney Shaw

President Shepit:  The reason for this meeting is well everyone knows what’s been going on in the Country, right?  Last week there was a lot going on, a lot of information coming in and it dawned on me that we have this building here and that we should probably not be having parties here.  I contacted Attorney Shaw and we discussed about shutting it down right away and last Thursday we declared a State of Emergency for the Village.  This protects the residents of this Village, it protects the Trustees of this Village, employees and the Police Department, everybody.  We still need to keep the Police Department going, we still need to have people in the office answering phone calls and taking care of daily business but we should really not be bringing in any possibility of the virus getting into the building.  After we leave here tonight this room will be closed off and Marty will be spraying down where anyone was seated with Lysol and we are going to let it sit for days.  The area where voting was going on will also be sprayed down and the bathrooms were closed off.  There will be no one going in the office area because the day personnel will be here on a daily basis and they need to be protected.  What Attorney Shaw told her is to let everyone know that she as President is declaring a State of Emergency and taking limited powers to approve bills, call meetings find IGA and waive fees where needed to lessen the financial impact of this for residents.  So what she is working on and what we are looking for now is the approval from the board to let her take care of the few little things that she just mentioned and things that need to be taken care of on a daily basis and look at the twenty (20) or thirty (30) emails that we’ve received from the County, the State and the Federal Government.  President Shepit had a
conference call today with the Governor and she’s gotten two (2) conference calls every day. Everything that they give us has to be acted on and taken care of. We had to shut down the Gaming business, we had to shut down the restaurant and we are working with the restaurant they want to still have things and we have to make sure everything is taken care of and that this information is handed out as it comes in and followed through with. The Police Department has information all day, every day. Right now there are a lot of rumors but there’s a possibility that now because not everyone can get to the grocery store to buy toilet paper or anything else and with people not working there’s a very good possibility that because some people aren’t working if they are going to go out and start robbing and doing whatever they can to get what they need they feel they need for their family or they just want to sell stuff. So we have to watch for that and because of that we have adjusted the Police Department hours and she has asked Chief Beatty if any of his officers were interested in working overnight and a lot of them did so we are scheduling them to work not every night but they will be on until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning so that there is a show of Police presence there. We do not have 24 hour coverage we do not have that kind of help here. They will still be getting the same amount of hours but they will not be going over but they will be working different hours so hopefully this will deter anyone coming through our community that might not have good intentions and stay away from our Village. The is talk about shutting down other businesses that are not food related any place where there are more than a few people gathered so all day, every day there is more and more information. So what this declaration does is give her authority to make sure that things get followed through on. The Village shouldn’t really be having any meetings and most Municipalities have cancelled meetings going forward. This meeting was called for an emergency meeting but to protect everybody and anyone of us could have it right now but we don’t know but to protect that from spreading we have it and it is giving me the authority to pay the bills and she does have a list. Trustee Walter: Are we having a meeting next week? Most everyone replied, No. We will not be having a meeting until the government says we can because right now going forward they do not want us having meetings they want them stopped. So only the employees in the Village that run the daily business of the Village should be here to take phone calls. Our Police Department we are going to do an E-blast tomorrow Deputy Prehn is out of town due to a family emergency out of State but is working remotely everyday and she will be getting a list tomorrow to send out for an E-blast to let all the residents know that we have a lockbox though there is back and forth conversations about whether or not they should be touching the mail because mail can be contaminated so they are working on a process for that. Such as mail coming in, spray it with Lysol and throw it in a box and let it sit until the next day. Trustee Matthesius: Gloves. President Shepit: It doesn’t matter if it’s on there and you touch it or open it, it gets back into the air and that’s what they are worried about. Trustee Mazurek: It can live on paper, steal and plastic
for four (4) days, cardboard for 24 hours. President Shepit: And paper for several hours. So if someone is putting something in the lockbox it would be on there so every little step that has to be taken the office is handling it. The Police Department was told they were either going to be shut down or that everyone would have to have gloves and hand sanitizer. Well there’s no sanitizer to be found so she got some alcohol and aloe and made them sanitizer so they could keep on working. She went out several nights around 10:00 P.M. and found them Lysol and some other supplies they needed so the Department could keep running and the office. The Police Department has been instructed to not go out there and just go after everyone and give tickets but to go out for emergencies, anything that is life saving or anything like that but don’t go out there oh and we also had to cancel court cases. Trustee Mazurek they are basically community service officers, fight crime but not write tickets. The Police Department should not be working unless they have gloves on and hand sanitizer it should be used constantly. That information came from county and actually that’s coming from the State now the State Police. President Shepit stated that she is given on a daily basis and even on the calls to the Governor’s office they were discussing this. The information is constantly changing, future meetings we can skip next week’s meeting, we’ll pay bills just like when we have only one meeting in December and she will be checking those. The Knoll asked if the Village could send out emails or e-blasts to help our local businesses which we normally don’t do that but in a time like this where our businesses are very important to keep here they have to do something to help themselves and if we don’t try to help them we don’t know what’s going to happen to them so she will play that by ear. Clerk Messina: Help them how? President Shepit: by letting people know that they are open for doing carryout’s. People can enter the building to pick up the carryout but they have to stay six (6) feet apart or the food could be brought out to their cars. So all the parties were cancelled that were scheduled here at the Village Hall for the next month and we’ll see how it goes and how things change if it continues we’ll cancel any other events as well. Trustee Bogacz: When you’re saying the next month so are you saying like April 15th? President Shepit: Yes. We did tell people we would keep them on the calendar in case things change but everyone understands that things can change rapidly after that. Trustee Walter: How about car stickers, are we going to give them more time. President Shepit: Vehicle stickers we are going to give them a little bit more time, some people have lost their jobs now so they don’t necessarily have money so we can waive the fee for a little while and see how things go and we might have to go out two (2) months and waving the fee and the late fee. After that when everything is settled then they’ll have to pay now. The residents will have to come forward and let us know they’ve lost their job and prove that they have lost their job. Trustee Walter: Are we going to keep our schedule with the raising of the sewer bill or are we going to put a hold on that. President Shepit: We have to pause that for now, we have to we don’t have a choice right now which is just common sense for us to do. Trustee Walter: We should put that in
the newsletter saying that we’re trying to help and we’re not going to raise what’s due to be raised. Trustee Fritz: They don’t know it’s going to be raised. President Shepit: No, they don’t know it so and if we put out there by the way you can take your time for your village sticker everyone might be like oh I don’t have to pay for that but they still have the money to pay it. We’re trying to help the people who are having a hard time. They just need to come forward and tell us their situation and we can work with them but that will be on a case by case basis. Unfortunately there are some people who if you give them an inch they’ll take a mile. I already let you know about the conference calls that she is on every week, the restrictions on restaurants. If, this all came up today there is a mandate from the Governor that says you cannot have people in a restaurant sitting down and dining. Well there’s a question can I have for instance have a couple friends come in because they are looking for election results and have a little get together they came up with if the County comes out or the State which they will be and if they see any restaurant that have people in there sitting down and dining they will have a cease and desist order from the State and they will take their liquor license away effective immediately. So they are getting answers as the questions are being brought up so now the restaurants are just take out only and now there is no gaming so they are really hurting so we’re trying to help out but it’s not a heck of a lot but we can put an e-blast out there that they are still open for pickup and that the Little store is still open. It just helps are businesses stay here so that after this is over that they are still here. Trustee Matthesius: So the Little store is still open? President Shepit: So far, liquor are next I don’t know if it will affect them because they have groceries there so that might save them but so far yes they are still open. There was talk about closing regular liquor stores. Trustee Walter: I heard that the Police officers can give out a ticket if there are ten (10) people. President Shepit: Yes. O.k. so we’ve done adjusted coverage for the PD that’s already in effect. Zac is getting updates daily just as she is. Also what is going in the e-blast is asking residents if they have a senior neighbor if they need anything or something from the store to keep them protected and stay at home so they don’t contract this virus by going out and being exposed to it. If they can’t do it then they can let the Village hall know or the Police department and the Police department will help if they need something. Some stores are having different hours for seniors because the seniors weren’t getting into the stores and they had no idea what was going on and that some items weren’t in the store for them to buy. The last thing the Human Race was cancelled and Cindy’s ribbon cutting was cancelled. Trustee Walter: All the school graduations are cancelled too. President Shepit: Everything is being cancelled. So that’s where we are at.

**New Business:** Consideration of a Resolution Declaring an Emergency Proclamation Prohibiting the Use of Public Property for Social Events - Trustee Bogacz made a motion to accept the Proclamation; seconded by Trustee
Mazurek. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Given, Matthesius, Mazurek, Walter=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Declaration of Local State of Emergency - Trustee Matthesius made a motion to approve Ordinance #528 a Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Trustee Given. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Given, Matthesius, Mazurek, Walter=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes: Trustee Bogacz made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Trustee Matthesius. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Given, Matthesius, Walter=ayes. Trustee Mazurek: Abstain. Motion carried.

Discussion: Trustee Fritz: Feels we should postpone the Easter Egg Hunt and he thinks that we need to cancel the Steak Fry because of the time frame he needs to pick everything up and there’s no way to do that. They are going to have to have a Neighbors Helping Neighbors meeting with no more than ten (10) people. There are only seven (7) of them so that should be o.k. Trustee Matthesius suggested having the Easter Egg Hunt and the Steak Fry mentioned in the e-blast that everything is postponed at this time, further information will follow in the next few months.

Trustee Bogacz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M.; seconded by Trustee Walter. Voice vote: Bogacz, Fritz, Given, Matthesius, Mazurek, Walter=ayes. All in favor, motion carried.

There will be no meeting until further notice.