

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Special Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Virtual Zoom Meeting

- I.

Call to Order

- President Boos called to order a remote emergency meeting of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 10 a.m. Present were Commissioners William Boos, Michael Bibb, Joyce Harrod, Dennis Glackin, and Jaime Windon, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Town Attorney Chip MacLeod, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick and a number of public participants via the internet.

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- II.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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- III.

Item for Discussion

- Special Meeting to discuss and strategize ways to support the business community
- President Boos said he wanted to break the meeting into three sections and first have Attorney MacLeod review and explain the Governor's order. President Boos said the Commissioners would then discuss how they would want to react to the order, make adjustments to it as possible, and then to have an in-depth discussion of how to assist businesses and residents deal with the order. President Boos said Commissioners Jaime Windon and Michael Bibb met yesterday with businesses and will have substantive input for the discussion. President Boos said residents and businesses are encouraged to participate with questions and comments after each segment. President Boos then acknowledged the businesses and residents who had provided feedback for today's meeting.

Attorney MacLeod said the Governor's Revised Executive Order from the previous evening lifts the Stay at Home Order as of Friday May 15th at 5 p.m. on certain businesses. Attorney MacLeod said the Town would need to pass an ordinance and any easement of regulations should be approved by the County Health Department.

A primary concern in the public comments was what are the requirements for opening and how are they to be enforced. Chief Smith responded that the face mask order is still in effect as well as the social distancing requirement, according to the Governor's April 15th order.

President Boos then encouraged suggestions on what St. Michaels should require. Commissioner Windon said she felt strongly that masks should be required within six feet in an inside space in St. Michaels, adding that the masks are a sign of consideration for visitors, who should feel comfortable visiting the town. Chief Smith said that all businesses should have signage requiring masks for social distancing inside buildings and within six feet of people outside, which he believed was in compliance with the Governor's April 15th order, and which assisted law enforcement in dealing with violations. The Commissioners were in general agreement.

Commissioner Windon then made a formal motion that the Commissioners of St. Michaels make mask-wearing required inside establishments, and recommended masks within six feet of people when outdoors. President Boos seconded it. Mrs. Weisman read personal comments that were in agreement. Mrs. Weisman said one suggestion was that law enforcement have masks to hand out to people who do not have them, and Chief Smith agreed that was a good idea. After some discussion, it was decided to amend the motion to require the masks inside, and outside within six feet. President Boos seconded the amendment and the amendment was approved by unanimous consent. President Boos then called for a vote on the main motion, which passed with unanimous consent.

Meeting coordinator Chris Thomas then opened up individual public comment and Mrs. Weisman read the comments, noting that commenters approved of masks and liked the idea of handing out masks to those who don't have them. Mrs. Weisman said she would pursue acquisition of more masks.

President Boos then called for discussion of ideas for opening the town, noting that consistent signage in businesses was key, that additional trash cans and picnic tables were needed, and that public restrooms need to be available for visitors. President Boos also raised issues of the Town's carry laws for alcoholic beverages. Commissioner Glackin suggested getting a digital sign to be placed at the entry to town that would announce the rules. Mrs. Weisman said she would coordinate the production of signage for businesses and at marinas and inquire about obtaining extra trash cans. Chris Thomas of E. Maple Street

suggested that the Fire Department be contacted for the use of their digital sign. The Commissioners agreed to place additional picnic tables in the Town's parks. President Boos and Commissioner Bibb volunteered to look into and acquire the picnic tables.

Mrs. Weisman said she had contacted professional services for cleaning restrooms.

The Commissioners agreed that rest rooms should be open only on the weekends to start, and hours expanded as needed. Commissioner Bibb said he was looking into inexpensive hand sanitizer units to go in the rest rooms.

President Boos suggested that a meeting be scheduled for Monday, May 18th at 11:00 a.m. to do a post-mortem on the Memorial Day weekend. Mrs. Weisman read public suggestions for sanitation, signage and sign positioning.

Attorney MacLeod said he was working on a draft ordinance to authorize the Commissioners to grant waivers of parking or zoning regulations, including signage, that would assist businesses in opening and meeting social distancing requirements.

The Commissioners agreed to form a committee that would review requests for waivers in order to fast-track approvals for the businesses. Commissioner Windon, Commissioner Bibb and Planning Commission members Jeff Knapp and Chris Thomas agreed to be on the committee, along with Zoning Officer Kim Kudla as staff representative. The Commissioners then took public comments.

The Commissioners approved the formation of the committee by unanimous consent. Attorney MacLeod said he had enough information to do a draft ordinance for the Monday, May 18th meeting.

- IV.

Comments from the Public

- V.

Comments from the Commissioners

- Attorney MacLeod said he could have a draft emergency ordinance prepared for review by the Commissioners by the end of business today. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to have another meeting tomorrow, May 15th at 11:00 a.m., to vote on the ordinance. Meeting Coordinator Chris Thomas said he would set up a webinar for tomorrow's meeting at no cost. The Commissioners took final comments from the public. Comments included thanks to the Commissioners for fast-tracking procedures to help businesses.

Mrs. Weisman then summarized the Commissioners' actions at today's meeting as follows:

-approved wearing of masks inside all locations and outside within six feet of others

-approved opening restrooms on weekends; additional sanitizer stations

-approved additional picnic tables for parks; additional trash cans

-directed Town's attorney to prepare draft ordinance for review by end of business today

-agreed to look at how to make the sidewalk areas larger where necessary to accommodate social distancing

-approved and created a committee to review and administer business waivers

-scheduled another meeting for May 15th at 11:00 a.m. to vote on the ordinance

- VI.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.