

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Special Remote Session No 4

Wednesday, May 27, 2020, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

- I.

Call to Order

- President Boos opened a remote meeting of the Commissioners St. Michaels at 11:00 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners Jaime Windon, Michael Bibb and Dennis Glackin, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Communications Manager Kimberley Weller, who also was serving as meeting coordinator for the meeting, and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick.

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- II.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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- III.

Items for Discussion

- Re-Opening Businesses

Continuation to discuss, strategize and implement ways to support tourism and the business community

- President Boos said this was the fourth meeting on the topic of re-opening the Town of St. Michaels. He added that the Governor would be making another announcement later today at 5:00 p.m. and there was anticipation that Governor Hogan would make way for further relaxation of the State's regulations, particularly regarding outdoor seating at restaurants and other restrictions in place for the Covid-19 situation.

Topics to be covered include the following:

Trash Cans - Dumpster
Bathrooms (Porta-Pottys)
Face Masks
Picnic Tables

Outdoor Seating for food and drink
Signage

- President Boos opened discussion and asked Chief Smith to provide an update on Memorial Day weekend. Chief Smith reported that the town had approximately 2,000 visitors each day, crowds were orderly, there was about 65% compliance with the mask directive, and he had forwarded body camera footage via email to the Commissioners, from both days to show the mask distribution in the population. Chief Smith said an issue for the weekend was lack of awareness of the open carry laws but he noted that there were no incidents. He added that another issue to be worked out was the porta-potty situation. Mrs. Weisman provided an update on portable rest rooms, noting that there were more porta-potties installed than the Town had restrooms. Mrs. Weisman said she was not sure where more could be placed on Town property, and that she hoped that if the Governor opened up the restaurants for outdoor seating that that would include restaurant restrooms. Mrs. Weisman said she had observed the Town over the weekend and that people were using the parks, including the picnic tables and the dumpsters the Town had provided. Mrs. Weisman said the Town office trash cans were not removed from Hollis Park and people overloaded the cans and did not use the dumpster, so the Town will be removing the Hollis Park cans to encourage dumpster use. Chief Smith added that all the picnic tables in the parks were in use over the weekend. Commissioner Glackin suggested that the business owners in the Mill area be asked to allow the Town to put porta-potties on their property if necessary. He noted that the nearest portable restroom to the Mill end of Town was in Muskrat Park. Chief Smith suggested perhaps Foxy's and the Crab House should have one in their parking lot. The Commissioners agreed to ask some of the property owners in case the Governor's order did not make restaurant restrooms available.

Mrs. Weisman said there had been a request last week about closing sidewalks on one side of the street to make more seating area. The Commissioners did not think that it would be necessary at this time.

President Boos acknowledged several e-mails and comments received, noting that today's discussion and the Governor's announcement at 5:00 p.m. should help to answer many of the questions. President Boos then called for anyone who wished to comment in the meeting to raise their hands. There were no comments.

President Boos opened a discussion of the open-carry laws for alcohol. Chief Smith said he hoped that the Governor's order would open outdoor seating at restaurants so that people could sit and consume alcohol on the premises and not take it to the parks or walk around with it, which he said had been a challenge to confront and enforce. There were no public comments. Mrs. Weisman said the committee reviewing waiver requests for opening businesses has been

working to approve requests quickly, and the businesses have generally been appreciative of the expedited process.

In response to a question from President Boos, Mrs. Weisman said that after the Governor lifts all restrictions, the businesses will have thirty days to remove or eliminate the special dispensations granted by the committee.

President Boos directed that staff reach out to business owners about portable restroom placement immediately after the Governor's order.

- IV.

Comments from the Public

- Mrs. Weisman responded to a public question about Ordinance No. 510 and said she would contact the person directly and supply a copy of the ordinance.

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- V.

Comments from the Commissioners

- There were no other comments.

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- VI.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.