

Village of Elm Grove Special Board of Trustee Meeting
Minutes
DRAFT

Board of Trustee Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk at 9:08AM via Zoom.

Roll Call:

President Palmer
Trustee Cornell
Trustee Haas
Trustee Irwin
Trustee Kressin
Trustee Michalski
David De Angelis, Village Manager
Hector De La Mora, Village Attorney
David Kasenholz, Village Fire Chief
John Robinson, Village EMS Director
Michelle Luedtke, Village Clerk

- 1.) Review and possible action regarding Labor Day fireworks.

President Palmer opened the meeting with asking EMS and Fire to share their opinions.

EMS Director Robinson indicated he believed the downside to having the fireworks far outweighed the upside. People who are paranoid will not attend. All others will attend. He is wondering if we can be responsible enough with our efforts to be preventative. The number do not seem to work in our favor. The Village would also be asking the staff to take on additional risk and potentially expose the staff to the virus. Additional staffing and overtime may also be a factor.

Fire Chief Kasenholz stated that there are still dry conditions in the Village. There is more rain and forecast, but he is not sure if it will be enough or will happen. He believes having this event would be more gratuitous than necessary. He would recommend passing on it at this time.

Trustee Irwin stated she has just been at a Woman's Club even for tailgate trivia with approximately 100 people. She believes there is a more creative way to hold the event where we could still be safe.

Trustee Haas stated he agrees it is a great function, but that it is not appropriate at this time. He does not believe we can hold the event successfully inside of vehicles. He also thinks there would be too much of a crowd. They would be walking shoulder to shoulder across the bridge. The to-from would be an issue.

Trustee Cornell echoed Trustee Irwin's statement about wanting to have the event. She stated she does not know where some of these numbers come from when talking about this type of thing. She anticipates a smaller crowd if it is not heavily advertised. She believes there are safe

Village of Elm Grove Special Board of Trustee Meeting

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ways to have this event. Tunes on Tuesday is another example of an event being held responsibly.

Trustee Michalski has mixed feelings about it. He believes the residents are starved for something to do and that we may be the only ones holding an event. He doesn't think it is expected or necessary. He stated he could go either way.

Trustee Kressin agreed with Michalski regarding the residents being starved for something to do. If we are the only ones, we may not have enough staff to cover it adequately. He would like to find another way to go about it.

Trustee Irwin added that it would not be promoted, we could use other parking lots, and people could stay in their car to be safe.

President Palmer reminded everyone that there are media personalities who live in the village. We won't know until 8:00pm that night what kind of a crowd will attend and how they will act. We would be asking our emergency responders to take on the additional risk.

Manager De Angelis added information pertaining to the Police Department on Chief Gage's behalf. If we only allowed vehicle attendance all of the other vehicles that come will have to go somewhere. There will be a lot of traffic. If you add social unrest to the equation, there might be an opportunity for other causes.

President Palmer allowed a citizen comment to be heard: Mary Inden – She would like to see the tradition kept. She believes those who are unsure/worried will not come and the rest will.

President Palmer recapped the conversation so far.

MOTION BY PRESIDENT PALMER, SECOND BY TRUSTEE HAAS, TO CANCEL THE FIREWORKS ON LABOR DAY.

Trustee Kressin asked about the \$12,000 for the fireworks and if that was lost or refundable. He also asked about the potential for moving the fireworks to the Winter Festival.

Manager De Angelis said there was no cancellation provision in the contract for the fireworks so we do not lose the money. He also indicated there is nothing that says you cannot hold fireworks for the Winter Festival. He also added you could save the money for next year and have double the fireworks for the 4th in 2021.

President Palmer amended his initial motion "in cancelling, plan to hold the fireworks as part of the Winter Festival." Trustee Haas agreed to change in motion.

Village of Elm Grove Special Board of Trustee Meeting
Minutes
DRAFT

Trustee Irwin believes we can be cautious and do this in a safe way. She is disappointed we cannot be more creative to make this happen.

Trustee Haas indicated we are running out of time and manpower to be more creative.

Trustee Irwin stated we could use soccer chairs next to the vehicles. She is disappointed we are blaming time on the reason we cannot have this.

President Palmer indicated we would have to advertise in order to tell people they have to sit in chairs next to their vehicles.

Trustee Cornell still agrees with Trustee Irwin. We opened the pool in the middle of the pandemic and still had great success. She mentioned tunes on Tuesday being successful as well despite there being less people overall to that event. She is sad that we cannot make this work.

President Palmer continued stating he did not want the Village of Elm Grove firework event to be considered the “spreader event” where we end up cancelling school because of something that occurred in Elm Grove specifically.

Trustee Cornell did not think there were that many people at the last Labor Day fireworks.

Trustee Irwin asked EMS Director Robinson if this conversation has changed his mind.

EMS Director Robinson stated that he appreciates the comment made by all, but that it doesn't change his mind about the downsides vs. the upsides.

President Palmer asked for a vote.

Recap of the motion on the table: **MOTION BY PRESIDENT PALMER, SECOND BY TRUSTEE HAAS, TO CANCEL THE FIREWORKS ON LABOR DAY. IN CANCELLING, PLAN TO HOLD THE FIREWORKS AS PART OF THE WINDER FESTIVAL.**

4 WERE IN FAVOR WITH TRUSTEE CORNELL VOTING NAY. KRESSIN ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

There was no further business.

MOTION BY TRUSTEE MICHALSKI, SECOND BY TRUSTEE CORNELL, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Wednesday , August 26, 2020

9:00 AM

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**5 WERE IN FAVOR. KRESSIN ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED
AT 9:43AM.**

Minutes transcribed by: Michelle Luedtke

Minutes Approved on: