

1 INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF THOMASTON

2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3 SPECIAL MEETING - VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

4 7:30 P.M.

5 DECEMBER 1, 2021

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8 P R E S E N T:

9 STEVEN WEINBERG, MAYOR

10 JAMES E. SHARKEY, DEPUTY MAYOR

11 JILL MONOSON, TRUSTEE

12 TO-ON PANG, TRUSTEE

13 BURTON S. WESTON, TRUSTEE

14 VILLAGE ATTORNEY, A. THOMAS LEVIN, ESQ.

15 DENISE KNOWLAND, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

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22 JENNIFER DEVLIN
23 COURT REPORTER
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1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Good evening. My name
2 is Steve Weinberg, Mayor of the Village of
3 Thomaston. And this is a Special Meeting of
4 the Board of Trustees of the Village of
5 Thomaston.

6 I thank everyone for their patience while
7 we work through some technical difficulties
8 and make sure everyone was able to join.
9 Since we're conducting this meeting via Zoom
10 -- it is now 7:44 p.m. And I will read the
11 following statement.

12 Due to the public health and safety
13 concerns related to COVID-19, and pursuant to
14 New York State law, this meeting of the Board
15 of Trustees is not being held in person. The
16 board is meeting by videoconferencing. The
17 meeting will be recorded and a transcription
18 will be provided at a later date.

19 The public has the opportunity to observe
20 this meeting live online and to submit
21 comments pursuant to instructions given on
22 the village website and in the meeting
23 notice.

24 The Village Administrator will now call

1 the roll for attendance at this meeting by
2 members of the Board of Trustees and relevant
3 village staff.

4 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
5 Steven Weinberg.

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: Here.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
8 Mayor James Sharkey.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Here.

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
11 Jill Monoson.

12 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Here.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
14 To-on Pang.

15 TRUSTEE PANG: Here.

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
17 Burton Weston.

18 TRUSTEE WESTON: Here.

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: A quorum
20 of the Board is in attendance, and we can
21 begin the business of the meeting.

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: Before we begin, I will
23 be considering a motion. There has been a
24 request that has been made to the village, to

1 myself as the mayor, to recuse myself from
2 any and all proceedings in any way relating
3 to the Landmark Commission.

4 I have certainly consulted and reviewed
5 the matter with the Village Attorney. And
6 without disclosing obviously what was
7 discussed with the Village Attorney, the
8 basic standard is whether or not it is
9 discretionary with the Mayor.

10 And I want to just say that there is no
11 doubt in my mind, as with the underlying
12 application, anything with respect to the
13 Landmark Commission that the -- I personally
14 do not have a conflict of interest. I held
15 the village and the village's needs and
16 interest as my guiding standard of any
17 decision that I would make.

18 There is no statutory or regulation that
19 requires me to recuse myself. And I can
20 certainly tell you and everyone that I will
21 keep an open mind throughout this process.
22 And after the Landmark Commission makes its
23 recommendation, conducts the review with the
24 Board of Trustees, with the public at a

1 public meeting, and will certainly make any
2 decision with respect to reviewing the
3 Landmark Commission's recommendations with an
4 open mind. I have not made any decision or
5 pre-determination with respect to any of
6 these matters that will come up. And I will
7 certainly continue to work in that light.

8 With that in mind the -- yesterday there
9 was a meeting of the Landmarks Preservation
10 Commission. And the purpose of the meeting
11 of the Landmarks Preservation Commission was
12 -- is to -- was to retain a consultant in
13 order to aid the Landmarks Preservation
14 Commission with respect to their review at a
15 public meeting in making a recommendation
16 with respect to whether what is commonly
17 known as "Tower Ford" should be landmarked,
18 and under the landmark statute under what
19 findings and what should be made with respect
20 to a landmark determination regarding the
21 exterior of the building.

22 The minutes will speak for themselves.
23 But the -- but Mr. Stern had certainly
24 reviewed and requested the -- at least

1 something in the neighborhood of
2 approximately 10 consultants. They received
3 three. And the consultants were requested
4 from the Preservation Long Island, the New
5 York State Parks Recreation and Historic
6 Preservation and also from the Village
7 Attorney as to who the consultants were that
8 worked in this area.

9 There is one consultant that the
10 Landmarks Preservation Commission wishes to
11 retain. They have retained them. And it is
12 subject to the Board to authorize the payment
13 for the consultant that the Landmarks
14 Preservation Commission wishes to utilize in
15 reviewing the recommendation -- in preparing
16 their recommendations. On that basis I would
17 like to make the following motion:

18 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation
19 Commission held a public meeting on November
20 30, 2021, to consider retention of a
21 consultant to advise the Commission in
22 connection with their duties to determine
23 whether or not 124 S. Middle Neck Road, Great
24 Neck, New York 11021 and also known as

1 Section 2, Block 250, Lots 5 and 25, be
2 designated a landmark in the Village of
3 Thomaston, and

4 WHEREAS, the Commission has the power to
5 retain consultants, including but not limited
6 to technical experts, engineers, architects
7 and historians, to render assistance and
8 advice in connection with any project to
9 fulfill the duties of the Landmarks
10 Preservation Commission, and

11 WHEREAS, retention of a consultant which
12 involves the expenditure of village funds
13 subject to the approval of the Board of
14 Trustees, and

15 WHEREAS, the Commission reviewed three
16 proposals from Archaeology & Historic
17 Resources Services, LLC, also known as AHRS,
18 Cashin Spinelli & Ferretti, LLC, and Simeon
19 Bankoff, and

20 WHEREAS, the Commission selected to
21 retain the services of archaeology and
22 historic resources (Audio distortion)

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We lost
24 the audio, Mayor Weinberg. You're not --

1 TRUSTEE WESTON: Steve, we lost you.

2 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Can't hear you.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: It is further

4 RESOLVED --

5 TRUSTEE MONOSON: We lost the audio.

6 TRUSTEE WESTON: Steve, you have to go
7 back. We lost audio after the "WHEREAS"
8 regarding the three proposals.

9 (Whereupon, there is a brief pause in the
10 proceedings.)

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Can you hear me
12 okay?

13 TRUSTEE WESTON: Yeah. Now we can.

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry. Where did it
16 leave off?

17 TRUSTEE WESTON: We lost -- WHEREAS, the
18 Commission reviewed three proposals from
19 Archaeology & Historic Resources, Cashin
20 Spinelli & Ferretti and Simeon Bankoff.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: And

22 WHEREAS, the Commission selected to
23 retain the services of Archaeology & Historic
24 Resources Services, LLC

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

2 RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees
3 hereby approves the expenditure of Village
4 funds in the amount not to exceed \$6,000, for
5 the retention of Archaeology & Historic
6 Resources Services, LLC, by the Landmarks
7 Preservation Commission. And it is further

8 RESOLVED, that the Village Administrator
9 shall advise the Landmarks Preservation
10 Commission of the Board's approval of
11 funding.

12 Okay. Is there a second on the
13 resolution?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'll make a
15 second.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Any comments or
17 questions by the Board?

18 TRUSTEE PANG: I do have a question.

19 I note that there was deposit, what,
20 \$15,000 as expense account for village. I
21 want to clarify.

22 For this landmark study, the money, is it
23 coming from that account or is it from the
24 village account?

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: The landmark -- Denise.
2 One, I don't know what you're talking about
3 in terms of \$15,000 expense account. The
4 amount of the -- for the consultant, the lump
5 sum bid was \$5,250. The recommendation was
6 to have a "not to exceed" number of \$6,000 in
7 case there is a small cost overrun.

8 Denise, do you know the answer to the
9 question as to under which line item of the
10 budget the consultant would be paid from?

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: It would
12 be from the village fund. The \$15,000
13 expense deposit I think is what Mr. Pang was
14 referring to with regard to the application
15 that was withdrawn.

16 Is that correct, Mr. Pang? Is that what
17 you meant, the \$15,000?

18 TRUSTEE PANG: That's right. Yeah.

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Okay.
20 So it will not be out of that because -- it
21 will be out of the General Fund of the
22 Village of Thomaston.

23 TRUSTEE PANG: Okay. Thank you.

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Please understand

1 that in terms of any request to landmark,
2 that would be an item that would be paid for
3 from the General Fund. That request of
4 course can be made at any time. And at any
5 time the village would be obligated to act
6 and act pursuant to the Landmarks
7 Preservation Commission Code and utilize the
8 Landmarks Preservation Commission. And that
9 would be a village expense.

10 Any other questions or discussion?

11 TRUSTEE WESTON: I mean, I think just to
12 point out. Look. Given the importance of
13 the issue, the (breath) of public interest in
14 the issue, the pending litigation that exists
15 with respect to the original application and
16 the prospect of that in connection with this,
17 I think the -- having the input of an
18 independent expert is absolutely essential.
19 So I think the expenditure is warranted and
20 in fact in the best interest of the village
21 and of the populace.

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: I think that's -- and I
23 concur.

24 TRUSTEE MONOSON: I agree.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Any other comments or
2 questions from the Board?

3 (There was no response.)

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hearing none, Denise,
5 call the roll.

6 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
7 Mayor Sharkey.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

9 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
10 Monoson.

11 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

12 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
13 Pang.

14 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

15 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
16 Weston.

17 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
19 Weinberg.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

21 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
22 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
23 adopted.

24 * * * * *

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Is there a motion
2 to adjourn?

3 TRUSTEE WESTON: I'll make a motion.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Is there a
5 second?

6 TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll second.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Denise, please --
8 any discussion or questions?

9 (There was no response.)

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hearing none, Denise,
11 please call the roll.

12 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
13 Mayor Sharkey.

14 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

15 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
16 Monoson.

17 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
19 Pang.

20 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

21 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
22 Weston.

23 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

24 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor

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Weinberg.

MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
adopted.

The meeting is closed.

(Time noted: 7:56 p.m.)

* * *

CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE
TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES OF THIS HEARING AS TRANSCRIBED
FROM A AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING, DONE TO THE BEST OF MY
ABILITY.

JENNIFER DEVLIN
Court Reporter