

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Mayor Dan Richardson called the Board of Trustees virtual Regular Meeting to order on May 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present for roll call:

Mayor	Dan Richardson
Trustees	Marty Silverstein
	Ben Bohmfalk
	Lani Kitching
	Luis Yllanes
	Erica Sparhawk
	Heather Henry

Student Trustees	Grace Jardine
Absent	Diego Valdez

Staff Present:

Town Manager	Jay Harrington
Town Clerk	Cathy Derby
Town Attorney	Mark Hamilton

COMMUNITY HERO AWARD

Mayor Richardson presented Mary Kenyon and Valley Meals with the Community Hero Award. During the COVID-19 crisis Valley Meals has increased the amount of meals they provide to seniors.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Accounts Payable totaling \$399,673.06
- Liquor License Renewal – Sopris Liquor & Wine
- Tobacco License Renewal – Sopris Liquor & Wine
- Tastings Renewal – Sopris Liquor & Wine
- Automatic Voltage Regulator Agreement

Trustee Bohmfalk made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Sparhawk seconded the motion and it passed with:

7 yes votes: Richardson, Yllanes, Silverstein, Bohmfalk, Kitching, Henry, Sparhawk

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

David Johnson, Redstone, stated that he understands the intent of the mask ordinance. Government mistrust at all levels is at an all-time high. Adjusting to COVID-19 health orders is difficult; people want to move on. People were allowed to by liquor and marijuana but his store had to close. He went to Town Hall last week to pay his bill but no one at Town Hall had a mask on. It's a public building and town staff should be leading by example.

Jay responded that Town Hall (other than the lobby) is closed to the public. Staff will wear masks when they meet with the public in the lobby.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Bohmfalk stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed the possibility of replacing the BOT representative to Coventure. Trustee Bohmfalk talked to Mike Lowe after the Coventure Board meeting and Mike would prefer that Trustee Bohmfalk remain on the Board through the COVID-19 crisis. Trustee Bohmfalk stated that Coventure will re-open the downstairs co-working space on June 8th. They are moving programming, podcasts and webinars on line. They are also considering allowing members' kids to attend a summer camp at a ranch up the Crystal River Valley as part of the member's benefits.

Mayor Richardson stated that he met with member of the Carbondale Age Friendly Community Initiative and they expressed the sentiments of many older adults during the pandemic. Seniors are forced to stay at home and they feel isolated. They are afraid that the COVID-19 Task Force will dissolve. Mayor Richardson asked what can we do to help the seniors? Trustee Silverstein agreed that the seniors are experiencing a great deal of anxiety, depression and feelings of isolation – it's a complex situation.

Trustee Sparhawk stated that shed attended the Third Street Center Board meeting. The Third Street Center is being flexible with tenants who can't make their rent. They are re-navigating opening the Center with extreme caution. Trustee Sparhawk noted that the Third Street Center has a very tight budget.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

The attorney did not have any comments.

PUBLIC HEARING – RETAIL MARIJUANA STORE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant: HQ Sopris, LLC
Location: 922 Highway 133

Renee Grossman, representing HQ Sopris, LLC, was present for the public hearing.

Cathy explained that HQ, LLC has applied for a Transfer of Ownership because they would like to consolidate all of their businesses under one LLC. The Board did not have any questions for Cathy or Renee.

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing. There was no one present who wished to address the Board so Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing.

Trustee Sparhawk made a motion to approve HQ Sopris, LLC's Transfer of Ownership Application for their retail marijuana store. Trustee Yllanes seconded the motion and it passed with:

7 yes votes: Yllanes, Richardson, Silverstein, Sparhawk, Henry, Bohmfalk, Kitching

DISCUSSION ON COVID-19 BUSINESS ACCOMODATIONS

Jay explained that this discussion is a continuation from last week's meeting. The Chamber, Coventure and Carbondale Arts created and distributed a survey to businesses asking them what assistance they would need to re-open during the COVID-19 crisis. Since the last meeting the State approved the County's variance with specific components. Restaurants may re-open at 50% capacity. They must file a safety plan with the County prior to opening. The Homestead Restaurant patio is open. Allegria is installing their deck. Jay asked the Board how do they want to utilize the Right-of-Way for businesses.

Chamber Executive Director, Andrea Stewart, stated that the results of the survey show that businesses are in favor of closing Main Street from 4-8 p.m.

Discussion ensued and the following points were made/questions asked:

- The Resolution would give the Town Manager the ability to approve modifications administratively in order to act quickly
- What is the threshold to close Main Street? 20% of the businesses would benefit
- The majority of restaurants can operate at 50% capacity
- A temporary Main Street closure would require constant set up and take down and would require a lot of energy, businesses would need storage – could the restaurants use the ice rink shed for storage?
- The Town could acquire pedestrian barricades
- A fun atmosphere is super important, it needs to be fun and inviting – planters, greenery
- Is there a benefit to having vehicle traffic down Main Street
- Signage is important
- How much space is needed by each venue?

The Board agreed that businesses will be allowed to temporarily expand in to the Town's Right-of-Ways; a Revocable License Agreement will be required. Main Street from 3rd Street to 4th Street will close while allowing for a one-way traffic lane down the middle of the street (for the foreseeable future) in order for businesses to use the Town's Right-of-Ways. On Friday and Saturday, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., the one

way traffic lane will switch to a pedestrian walkway. The Town will purchase barriers and handicap ramps for the businesses to use.

Trustee Bohmfalk made a motion to approve Resolution 7, Series of 2020 – Outdoor Dining. Trustee Silverstein seconded the motion and it passed with:

7 yes votes: Henry, Silverstein, Yllanes, Sparhawk, Bohmfalk, Kitching, Richardson

COVID-19 UPDATE OF TOWN FACILITIES

Jay informed the Board that the Town's playgrounds, picnic pavilion and skate park opened today. The Recreation Center and Gateway RV Park are anticipated to open on June 1st; reservations are required for both facilities. The Recreation Center locker rooms are closed and there is a 20 person capacity.

COVID-19 UPDATE – RE-VISIT COVID-19 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Jay reviewed the Town's sales tax returns for April. April sales tax is down 7.4% - likely due to lodging, restaurants and bars being closed. Retail food, liquor and marijuana sales were strong. Year-to-Date revenue is up 6.77%. The revenue is generated off of county sales tax and building permits. The share back does not include groceries. The General Fund is 9% below what was budgeted, however, expenditures are also less. Jay stated that the Town is in a better position than staff anticipated.

Trustee Silverstein stated that Lift-Up is trying to re-open their food pantries. Trustee Silverstein recommended giving them \$5,000. Trustee Bohmfalk stated that we need more information from Lift-Up and the Aspen Community Foundation. The Board agreed to continue the discussion to the next meeting on June 9th.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Board agreed to meet virtually through June.

ADJOURNMENT


The May 26, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held virtually on June 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED

ATTEST:


Cathy Derby, Town Clerk




Dan Richardson, Mayor