

**Special Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

This meeting was held at the L.C.H.S. Cafeteria and Zoom participation was encouraged.

Mayor Leon Ricca called the November 4, 2020 Special Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:01 with roll call.

Present: Trustees Donley, Leibach, Carroll, Zachman, Hoopingarner, and Lawless.

Absent: None.

Quorum present.

Also present: Village Administrator Joy Morris and Village Clerk Michelle Carr-Bruce.

Mayor Ricca read the following statement:

“As The Village continues to navigate through this difficult, unprecedented time, we find ourselves faced with yet another challenge. A rolling positivity rate of over 8% for three consecutive days, has triggered enhanced mitigations for our region. These mitigations include the cessation of indoor dining in bars and restaurants. The Village of Bartonville has actively encouraged our residents and business owners to practice the safety measures issued by the IDPH and outlined in the Governor’s mandate. In an effort to protect the health and safety of everyone, we will continue to do so.

That being said, we are also mindful of protecting the business owners, and their employees, within the Village who rely on this income for their personal and business survival. In addition, many of our elderly residents rely on these businesses as a resource for daily meals. As a result, I will take no steps to forcefully close or discourage businesses from operating in the mode they so desire. Although taking actions contrary to the Governor’s mandate is discouraged by the Village, the Village will take no actions unless required to do so by either a court order or directive from the Peoria County State’s Attorneys office. I also advise all business owners who operate in opposition of the Governor’s mandate to consult with their own legal counsel.

As previously stated, I respectfully ask and strongly encourage all business owners, residents and business patrons to diligently follow the Governor’s mandate and the Covid-19 Protocol Guidelines issued by the IDPH which includes the wearing of masks and social distancing at all public venues. I would also like to encourage business patrons to choose alternative options such as carryout as opposed to the dine in option for meals.” Leon Ricca, Mayor, Village of Bartonville.

Mayor Ricca noted that since the original release of this statement on November 2, 2020, he had only received one negative email.

Trustee Lawless stated that he and other Trustees have spoken to each other, that this was not an easy situation and that he supports the Mayor.

Trustee Zachman stated that he supported the Mayor and his statement. Trustee Zachman stated that that the Village doesn’t have the resources to enforce the rules and it is not in our best interest. Businesses are cautioned that the State Police, Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Gaming Commission and the Liquor Commission could have an impact.

Trustee Donley agrees with the Mayor, Trustee Zachman and Trustee Lawless. She stated that it was not an easy decision but she encourages following the rules so there is not a large resurgence in mitigations. Trustee Donley also agreed that the Village doesn't have the resources to police restaurants and she will stand in support.

Trustee Leibach stated that the Mayor has his full support and worried that many small businesses could end with closures. He urges residents to support their local small businesses.

Trustee Hoopingarner stated that the Mayor had his total support and was happy that they are all on the same page. Trustee Hoopingarner lamented on the lost tax dollars for the Village.

Trustee Carroll stated that he had nothing new to add and urges all people to use common sense, social distance, mask up and try to use carry-out instead of dine in options for the local restaurants.

Mayor Ricca spoke of an Illinois Department of Public Health report for Will County that he obtained that listed bars as only having a 1.4% positivity rate.

Mayor Ricca stressed that he doesn't mean any disrespect and did not reach this decision easily and hopes the positivity rate decreases.

Trustee Lawless encourages patrons to wear masks and to respect the local business owners by wearing them when not eating or drinking.

Trustee Zachman thanked the local citizens and business owners that attended tonight's meeting.

With no public comment or further business being brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Michelle Carr-Bruce, Village Clerk