



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 - 7:00 PM
South Orange Performing Arts Center
1 SOPAC WAY - 3rd Floor - Loft
South Orange, New Jersey 07079

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call Meeting to Order

President Collum open the meeting at approximately 7pm:

2. Roll Call

Village President Collum
Trustee Brown - Absent
Trustee Greenberg
Trustee Haskins
Trustee Hartshorn Hilton
Trustee Jones
Trustee Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

3. Meeting Notice Statement

Clerk Davis read the following statement:

In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the official newspapers of the Village, posted on the Village's website and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk. The meeting has been called to discuss revision of the Village Charter. No formal action shall be taken.

4. Trustee Jones and Trustee Hilton

- Overview of Proposed Changes – Trustee Jones thanked all members of the public for attending this special meeting. She explained the Charter review is supposed occur every 12 years and 2011 was the last time it was reviewed. Some of the major changes include the following:
 - Changing the town's name from Township of South Orange Village to South Orange Village



- Title of Elected Officials to Mayor and Council
- Title of the Village Treasurer to Chief Financial Officer
- Removal of male only pronouns
- Changing the Election from May to November
- Allowing for compensation in the form of a stipend for elected officials

Trustee Hilton discussed the importance of knowing that this amendment to the Charter is to allow the board to have the option to make these changes.

5. Village Counsel

- Explanation of Legislative Process – Mr. Rother explained since the Charter was first created in 1869, there had only been one change which was adding "Township" to South Orange Village in order to receive grants which is now no longer needed. He then further explained the process following the adoption of the ordinance is to be forwarded to current legislative district officers for introduction to the legislature for review and if approved signed by the Governor.

6. Public Comments

Village President opened meeting for public comment:

There were several members of the public in attendance. There were questions pertaining to clarification of the Chief Financial Officer duties, stipends and whether or not it should be a referendum. Some members expressed not being in support of allowing stipends to the elected officials, felt that these changes would open Pandora's box, elected officials serving as volunteers has been a long time tradition and is part of the history of the Village and they would prefer the Charter remain as is. Also, there were members of the public who were in support of the Charter changes some of the comments included in favor of compensation to the elected officials, gave some suggestion on the language, discussed right choice voting, moving the election to November.

In response to some of the comments, President Collum discussed right choice voting, compensation for the elected official throughout the County and how compensation it would affect the budget.

Mr. Otis explained that included the stipend would require an amendment to the ordinance with a public hearing.



7. **Discussion** – There was no further discussion.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, President Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:20 pm.

***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**

<https://southorangenjwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2511/media>

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village President