

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR SESSION
11004 Carpenter Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448

Session #001

January 11, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the Regular Session of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Clerk Martini called the roll and the following Trustees were present:

Joseph Budzyn
Debbie Engler
Jillian Hersted (via phone)
George Metanias
Jim Richmond
Joe Siwinski

Also present were: Clerk Melissa Martini (Village Board Room); Village Administrator John Tomasoski (Village Board Room); Village Attorney Carl Buck (Village Board Room); Community and Economic Development Director Alan Zordan (Village Hall); Finance Director Barb Damron (Village Hall); Interim Chief of Police Tim McCarthy (Village Hall); Interim Director of Public Works Mark Detloff (Village Hall); and Civil Engineer Dan Peloquin (Village Hall)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3); and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:52 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

DISCOVER MOKENA

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

Mayor Fleischer read a statement on behalf of the Village Board to residents regarding the recent violent protests at the United States Capitol Building.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Fleischer asked if there was anyone at the Village Hall who would like to speak at public comment.

Mayor Fleischer informed those wishing to speak at Public Comment that they were encouraged to call (708) 478-2148.

Mr. Harley Schinker entered the Board room and asked the Village Board why it cost the Village in excess of \$68,000 to settle with former Police Chief Steven Vaccaro when he resigned.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Mr. Schinker.

Mr. Schinker left the Board Room.

Mayor Fleischer repeated the public comment call-in number.

Mayor Fleischer closed public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented three (3) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Will for the purpose of placing an Automated License Plate Reader Camera on their property located at the southwest corner of Francis Road at Schoolhouse Road, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same.
- b. Motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020 Board Meeting and Work Session.
- c. Motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2020 Special Meeting.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 6 (a), (b) and (c) as depicted in the January 7, 2021 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Siwinski seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Barb Damron entered the Board Room and presented the accounts payable list for January totaling \$902,161.91. She highlighted the following invoice to be paid:

- \$127,500.00 to the Bank of New York Mellon for the final payment on Downtown Bonds.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the monthly accounts payable in the amount of \$902,161.91. Trustee Siwinski seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Finance Director Barb Damron left the Board Room.

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

N/A

PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS/PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS

N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Village Administrator John Tomasoski requested Director of Economic and Community Development Alan Zordan present the Schedule of Development.

Director of Economic and Community Development Zordan presented the Schedule of Development. He highlighted local gyms and health clubs.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski provided a COVID-19 update. He advised residents that NuWay will be disposing of Christmas trees through the month of January on their regularly scheduled residential refuse pickup day. He congratulated Officer Collen Dampf on her retirement after 20 years of service with the Mokena Police Department.

Mayor Fleischer advised residents that Mokena has the lowest number of COVID-19 cases compared to surrounding communities. He thanked residents for wearing masks and social distancing.

Trustee Metanias asked Village Administrator John Tomasoski how many deaths due to COVID-19 have occurred in the Village of Mokena, if any.

Village Administrator advised Trustee Metanias that he did not have that information at this time.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Hersted passed on the opportunity to make comments.

Trustee Budzyn wished residents a happy new year. He congratulated Officer Colleen Dampf on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

Trustee Siwinski congratulated Officer Colleen Dampf on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

Trustee Metanias wished residents a happy new year. He congratulated Officer Colleen Dampf on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

Trustee Engler congratulated Officer Colleen Dampf on her retirement. She advised residents that since Girl Scouts will be unable to sell cookies door-to-door this year due to the pandemic, purchases can be made online at www.girlscouts.org. The website will also advise those interested in purchasing cookies to when and where booths will be located in the area.

Trustee Richmond congratulated Officer Colleen Dampf on her retirement and wished everyone a happy new year.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer congratulated Officer Collen Dampf on her retirement and thanked her for her service.

Mayor Fleischer informed residents of proposed House Bill 163 regarding policing reforms and his opposition to it. He advised residents he has been in contact with State legislators regarding the proposed bill and was informed none of them support it.

Mayor Fleischer also informed residents of proposed House Bill 5871 and Senate Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 2685 regarding lead piping and his opposition to it.

Mayor Fleischer requested residents to contact their State legislators to advise of their opposition to the proposed bills.

Mayor Fleischer advised residents that in the meeting's work session, he will be putting together a committee for a new police station and a Police Chief search committee.

Mayor Fleischer reminded residents that their safety is a priority to the Village Board and stated the Village Board's promises to the community are being accomplished.

WORK SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to call a recess of the regular meeting session subject to recall of the Mayor and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:20 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1); collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3); and litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Trustee Siwinski seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Trustee Siwinski made a motion to recall the regular meeting back to order at 9:44 p.m. Trustee Engler seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session at 9:44 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Engler, Hersted, Metanias, Richmond, Siwinski

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:

Melissa Martini, Village Clerk