

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

Session #002

January 24, 2022

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
Rob Dauphinais
Debbie Engler
Melissa Fedora
George Metanias (via phone)
Jim Richmond

Also present were: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomasoski; Assistant Village Administrator Kirk Zoellner; Attorney Carl Buck; Finance Director Sharon Dangles; Community and Economic Development Director Matt Ziska; Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton; and Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:01 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) and 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). Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
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 6:48 p.m. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

RECESS OF REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Fleischer called a recess at 6:48 p.m.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

The regular session reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Fleischer advised that the night's meeting began with an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

DISCOVER MOKENA

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomaszoski presented one (1) item on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. This item is strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda item 7 (a) as depicted in the January 20, 2022 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointment of Trustee George Metanias as Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Fleischer recommended the appointment of Trustee George Metanias as Mayor Pro Tem.

Trustee Engler made a Motion to appoint Trustee George Metanias as Mayor Pro-Tem for the Village of Mokena, effective February 14, 2022. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Abstain: (1) Metanias

Motion carried

Contract Extension for Brian Benton as Interim Chief of Police

Mayor Fleischer recommended a six-month contract extension for Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve a contract extension for Brian Benton as Interim Chief of Police effective February 27, 2022. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Introduction of Sergeant Stephen Chlebek

Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton advised that due to the recent retirement of Sergeant Michael Keller, there is a vacancy in the police department's staff for the position of Sergeant. Pursuant to Interim Chief Benton's request to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Officer Stephen Chlebek was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant on January 13, 2022.

Interim Chief Benton highlighted Officer Chlebek's educational background and tenure with the Mokena Police Department, stating he has worked as a Patrol Officer and Detective, trained as a Lead Homicide Investigator, Sexual Assault Investigator, served as a Field Training Officer and Evidence Technician, and is a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System. Interim Chief Benton further announced numerous awards Officer Chlebek received during his career, including two Life-Saving awards, one Letter of Meritorious Duty, twenty-four Letters of Distinguished Duty and eleven Letters of Exceptional Duty.

Interim Chief Benton introduced Sergeant Stephen Chlebek to the Village Board and recited a recent Letter of Distinguished Duty. He congratulated Sergeant Chlebek on his promotion.

Sergeant Chlebek reaffirmed his dedication and commitment to the Village of Mokena. He thanked his family for their support and the Village Board for the opportunity.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Sergeant Chlebek for his time and service to the Village.

Appointment of Chief Building Inspector Candidate Krzysztof Kociolek

Community & Economic Development Director Matt Ziska stated that due to his appointment and promotion to Community & Economic Development Director in April 2021, the Village Board authorized Staff to move forward with hiring a Chief Building Inspector. He advised the position was advertised in June 2021 and 123 applications were submitted in interest to the position.

Community & Economic Development Director Ziska informed the Board that 31 interviews were conducted. Upon conclusion of the interview process, it was determined that Mr. Krzysztof Kociolek possessed the skills and qualifications necessary to fulfill the duties of Chief Building Inspector. He highlighted Mr. Kociolek's credentials, educational and career background, and recommended Mr. Kociolek's appointment to Chief Building Inspector.

Trustee Engler made a motion to appoint Krzysztof Kociolek to the position of Chief Building Inspector for the Village of Mokena at an annual salary of Grade 17, Step 10a, effective January 25, 2022. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mr. Kociolek thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Appointment of Civil Engineer Candidate Kyle Vester

Director of Public Works Kulesa advised the Board that because of former Civil Engineer Brian Fei's departure from the Village and the promotion of Daniel Peloquin to Assistant Public Works Director, there are two vacancies in the Village for the position of Civil Engineer. He stated the position was advertised on multiple platforms and the Village received 33 applications in interest to the position.

Director of Public Works Kulesa discussed the interview process. Based on the results of the interviews and review of training, work experience, and references, it was determined Mr. Kyle Vester possessed the skills and capabilities necessary to perform all tasks required in connection with the Civil Engineer position. Director of Public Works Kulesa highlighted Mr. Vester's educational and career background, and recommended Mr. Vester's appointment to Civil Engineer.

Trustee Engler made a motion to appoint Mr. Kyle Vester to the position of Staff Civil Engineer in the Public Works Department for the Village of Mokena at an annual salary of Grade 17, Step 17a, effective January 25, 2022. Trustee Richmond seconded.

AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mr. Kyle Vester thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Mayor Fleischer commented on the importance of the night's appointments and complimented Village Administrator Tomasoski and staff for their patience in filling these roles with the right candidates.

PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS

N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

N/A

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Village Administrator John Tomasoski requested Director of Community and Economic Development Director Matt Ziska present the Schedule of Development.

Community and Economic Development Director Ziska presented the Schedule of Development. The Business Spotlight highlighted mental health and counseling resources.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Dauphinais congratulated the Village's new appointments and welcomed them to the team. He congratulated Sergeant Chlebek on his promotion and Interim Chief of Police Brian Benton on his contract extension with the Village.

Trustee Richmond echoed Trustee Dauphinais' comments and thanked Interim Chief of Police Benton for continuing his role with the Village.

Trustee Engler thanked Interim Chief of Police Benton for continuing his role with the Village. She congratulated Sergeant Chlebek on his promotion and welcomed the Village's new appointments. She thanked the Public Works Department for their snow removal efforts. Trustee Engler recognized and thanked Mokena resident Todd Street for his lifesaving efforts on Old Plank Trail in August 2021.

Trustee Budzyn welcomed new appointments to the Village and congratulated Sergeant Chlebek on his promotion. He thanked Village Administrator John Tomasoski and Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa for their great recruitment efforts in filling the Chief Building Inspector and Civil Engineer positions. He complimented and thanked the Public Works Department for their snow removal efforts.

Trustee Fedora congratulated Interim Chief Benton and Sergeant Chlebek. She congratulated Mr. Kociolek, Mr. Vester and Trustee Metanias on their appointments.

Trustee Metanias congratulated Sergeant Chlebek on his promotion and thanked him for his service. He welcomed Mr. Kociolek and Mr. Vester to the Village. He thanked the Public Works Department on their snow removal efforts.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer commented on social media rumors regarding his resignation. He discussed the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem and advised that he will not be resigning his position as Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:24 p.m. Trustee Richmond seconded.

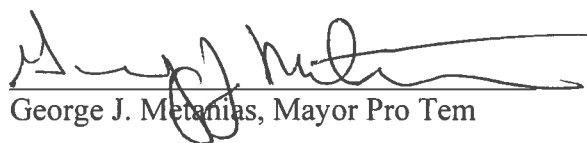
AYES: (6) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias, Richmond

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


George J. Metanias, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Melissa Martini, Village Clerk