

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

Session #004

February 27, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the regular session of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 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

Also present were the following: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomasoski; Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson; Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig; Village Attorney Carl Buck; Community and Economic Development Director Matt Ziska; Chief of Police Brian Benton; and Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa

DISCOVER MOKENA

Trustee Dauphinais and Trustee Fedora and presented information regarding the Village's new Hometown Heroes Banner Program that will recognize and honor members of the community who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces. Banners will be displayed on Front Street in Downtown Mokena for a 2-year period beginning on Memorial Day. Thirty-seven (37) banners are available and more information regarding the program can be found at www.mokena.org. Trustee Dauphinais thanked Mayor Fleischer, Board of Trustees, Trustee Fedora, and Village staff including Village Administrator John Tomasoski, Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson, Public Works Director Jim Kulesa, Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin and the Public Works Department for their assistance in bringing the Hometown Heroes Program to life. He thanked local business Image360 for their assistance with the design and creation of the banners. He thanked the Village of New Lenox and Village of Orland Park for sharing their best practices with the Village. He also thanked Mokena VFW Post 725 and Commander Jim Hogan for their partnership.

Senior Vice Commander Paul Cravens of Mokena VFW Post 725 thanked the Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village staff for bringing the Hometown Heroes Banner Program to the Village. He introduced World War II veteran Mr. Raymond McClory, who is honored with the first banner of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

Trustee Dauphinais and Trustee Fedora unveiled and presented the first Hometown Hero banner to Mr. McClory.

Senior Vice Commander Cravens stated that May 6, 2023 is the National VFW Chimney Service and asked the Village Board if there is anything Mokena VFW Post 725 can do for the community.

Mayor Fleischer advised Senior Vice Commander Cravens that he will discuss ideas with the Board of Trustees and follow up with him.

Mr. McClory stated it was a great feeling to be honored and thanked everyone who took part in organizing the Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

Mayor Fleischer, on behalf of the Village Board and residents of Mokena, thanked Mr. McClory for his service.

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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 conditionally approve the Mokena Lions Club's 35th Annual Firecracker Dance Weekend and Fundraiser Event on Friday, July 14, 2023 and Saturday, July 15, 2023 utilizing the Front Street commuter lot from Friday morning, July 14 through Monday, July 17, 2023; and to authorize the use of municipal/Village resources for event coordination, contingent upon staff's confirmation and approval of the applicant's final application materials.
- b. Motion to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 to equip an officer for the Will County Special Operations Group.
- c. Motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7(a), (b) and (c) as depicted in the February 23, 2023 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointment of Sarah McCarthy to Administrative Assistant (PD) Position

Chief of Police Brian Benton stated the Police Department filled the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police position on a temporary basis last year with the hiring of Ms. Susan Perez while the search for a permanent replacement was being conducted. The position was advertised in November and over one hundred and fifty (150) resumes were received from interested candidates.

Chief Benton informed the Board that a committee, consisting of himself, Commander Stumpf and Ms. Perez agreed upon a list of the top ten most qualified candidates and subsequently conducted interviews. As a result, Mrs. Sarah McCarthy was unanimously selected for the position. He discussed Mrs. McCarthy's employment and educational background and further recommended the appointment of Sarah McCarthy to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Police Chief.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Sarah McCarthy to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police at the starting rate of pay as approved in Resolution No. 2022-R-006, effective February 28, 2023. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mrs. McCarthy thanked the Village Board and Village staff for the opportunity.

PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS

N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Landscape Maintenance Bid Recommendation

Director of Public Works Jim Kulesa stated bids for the mowing and maintenance (grass cutting and trimming) of Village-owned properties were recently advertised. The bids solicited from contractors were for work that has been performed by various private entities since the early '90s. The contract for 2023 and 2024 includes mowing at various locations throughout the Village.

Director of Public Works Kulesa advised that each contractor was required to attend a pre-bid meeting on February 10, 2023 and tour the properties to be maintained with Street Department staff to familiarize them with the areas included in the proposed contract. Contractors were additionally required to have successfully operated in the lawn maintenance business for a minimum of five years and provide the Village with a list of references. The contract was bid for a two-year period, with a mutual option to extend the contract for an additional year. The bid opening was held on February 23, 2023. There were eight total known plan holders prior to the pre-bid meeting. Three companies attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Two bids were received from those three companies.

The lowest bid was received from Beary Landscaping, Inc. of Lockport, Illinois in the amount of \$82,404 for the 2023 growing season and \$84,875 for the 2024 growing season. Beary has satisfactorily performed this work for each of the last six years throughout the Village with minimal complaints. Director of Public Works Kulesa further recommended the contract be awarded to Beary Landscaping, Inc.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve and accept the bid for the Village of Mokena's 2023 and 2024 Mowing and Maintenance contract to Beary Landscaping, Inc. of Lockport, Illinois in the amount of \$82,404 for 2023 and \$84,875 for 2024, with a mutual option to extend the contract for 2025, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the necessary contract documents. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Purchase Request: Patrol Rifles

Chief of Police Brian Benton stated many police departments have implemented a Patrol Rifle Program to respond more effectively, as criminals in America have become better armed and commit crimes with high caliber weapons including assault rifles. In the past, the Mokena Police Department has allowed officers to purchase and carry their personally owned AR-15 type Patrol Rifle which is no longer desirable.

Chief Benton advised the Police Department recently sought prices through the competitive bid process in accordance with the Village's Purchasing guidelines to provide Patrol Rifles for duty use. Four reputable police supply vendors were contacted and provided a detailed description of the FN Brand AR-15 Patrol Rifle sought by the Department. In addition, the bid solicitation was posted on the Village's website. Only two responses were received with one vendor, Ray O'Herron submitting an alternate bid offering a make and model different from the bid specifications.

Based on the outcome of the bid process, follow-up research and performance analysis reviews, it is recommended to approve the purchase of twenty-five (25) FN Brand AR-15 Patrol Rifles and fifty (50) Magpul 30-Round Magazines from Kiesler Police Supply, 2802 Sable Mill Rd, Jacksonville, IN, in the amount of \$26,475.00.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the purchase of (25) FN Brand Patrol Rifles and (50) Magpul magazines from the lowest responsible bidder, Kiesler Police Supply, in an amount not to exceed \$26,475.00. Trustee Metanias seconded.

Mayor Fleischer asked if the Village received a better deal by purchasing the rifles in Indiana.

Chief Benton advised that after researching the State-recommended proposed option, it was determined the quality of the FN Brand AR-15 Patrol Rifles as recommended by Village staff is better.

Mayor Fleischer stated that the Village likes to purchase locally or in Illinois whenever possible. He asked if the range for the new police station handles the use of AR-15 Patrol Rifles.

Chief Benton answered yes.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Village Administrator John Tomasoski congratulated Wastewater Plant & Water Operator Sherri Goravica on her retirement after over 28 years of public service with the Village of Mokena.

Chief Benton announced the opportunity for Homeowner's Associations to partner with Flock Safety for the purchase and installation of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras in their subdivisions. Data can be shared with the Mokena Police Department. Interested Homeowner's Associations may contact Flock Safety representative Thomas Davis directly at (678) 928-8786 or thomas.davis@flocksafety.com.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Fedora congratulated Mokena resident Seth Mendoza on his recent first place finish in his weight class while representing the Mt. Carmel wrestling team at the State finals competition. She wished Sherri Goravica a happy retirement and welcomed Sarah McCarthy to the Police Department.

Trustee Budzyn thanked Trustee Fedora and Trustee Dauphinais for organizing the Village's new Hometown Heroes Banner Program. He thanked Chief Benton for his efforts in securing FN Brand AR-15 Patrol Rifles for the Police Department.

Trustee Metanias thanked Trustee Fedora and Trustee Dauphinais for organizing the Village's new Hometown Heroes Banner Program. He congratulated Mokena resident Seth Mendoza on his recent first place finish at the State wrestling finals. Trustee Metanias extended his condolences to Vince DiFiori and family for the loss of his wife, Rita.

Trustee Engler announced the news is currently featuring a story discussing the Police Department's use of drones to assist the Illinois State Police in successfully apprehending three suspects. She congratulated the police force on the positive impacts the use of drones has provided. Trustee Engler congratulated Mokena resident Seth Mendoza on his recent first place finish at the State wrestling finals. She also congratulated Sherri Goravica on her retirement.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Trustee Engler for highlighting the Police Department's news feature and use of drones.

Trustee Dauphinais thanked everyone for the opportunity to introduce the Hometown Heroes Banner Program to the community. He stated he is looking forward to the dedication ceremony on Memorial Day weekend.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer thanked Trustee Fedora and Trustee Dauphinais for initiating the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. He discussed the importance of remembering and recognizing those that serve or are serving our country.

Mayor Fleischer reminded residents to shop Mokena and explained the importance of spending money to support local businesses and explained the benefits residents receive from sales tax and local use tax collected by the Village.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:32 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), 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 Metanias seconded.

Trustee Fedora left the Board Room.

AYES: (4) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Metanias
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (1) Fedora
Motion carried

Trustee Fedora entered the Board Room at 8:03 p.m.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to reconvene the regular session at 8:20 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT


Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 8:21 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (5) Budzyn, Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Metanias
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:


Melissa Martini, Village Clerk