

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
11004 Carpenter Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448
Monday, June 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

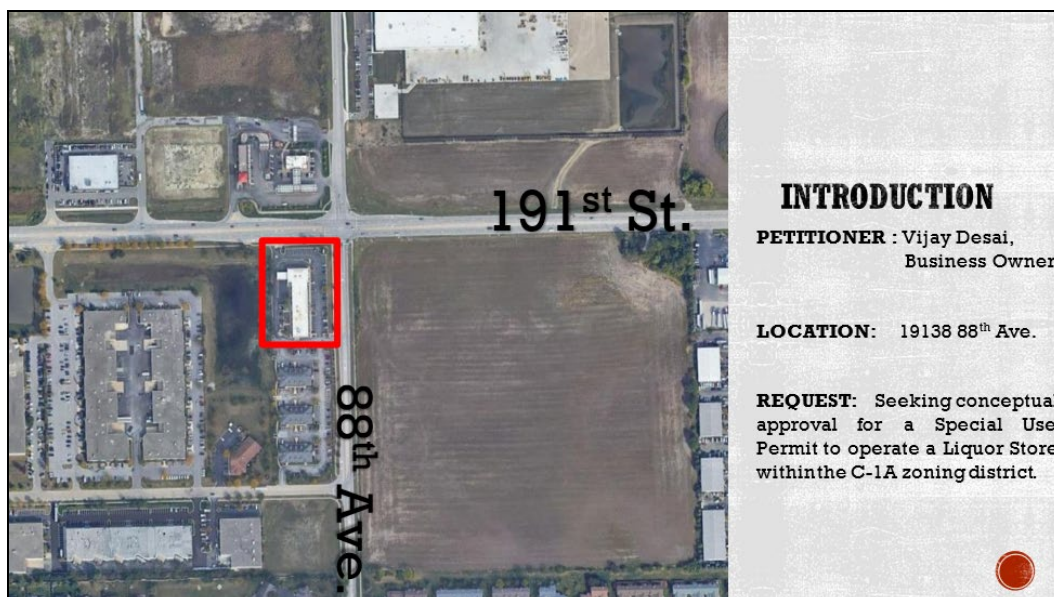
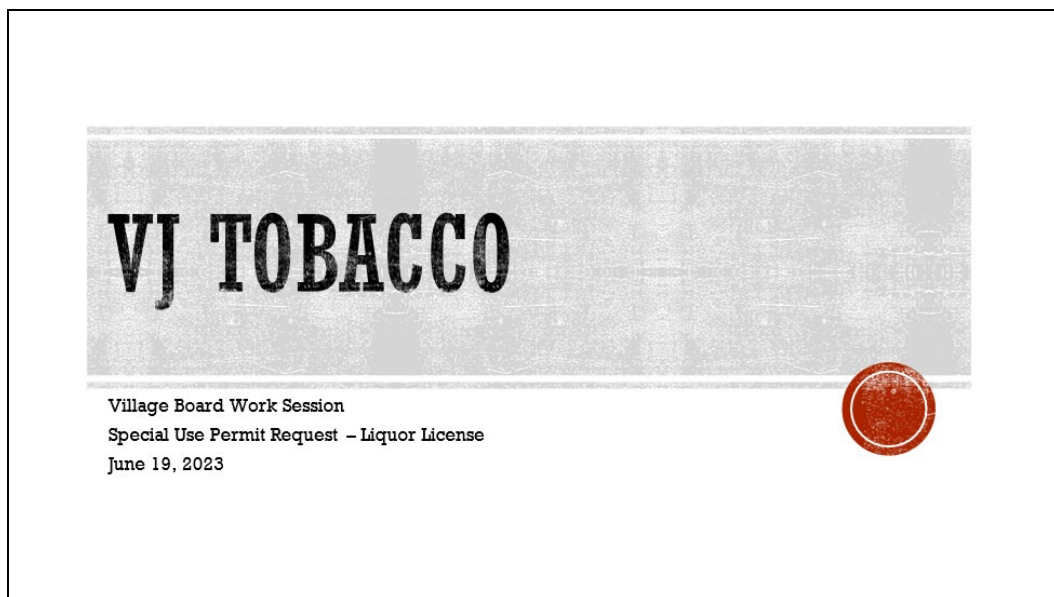
The following Trustees were present:

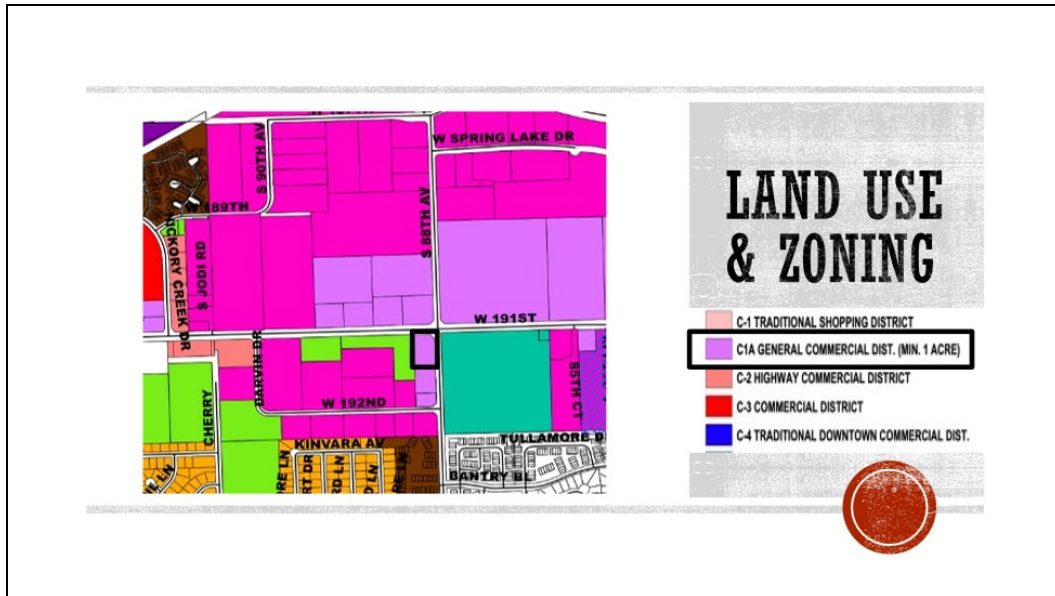
Rob Dauphinais
Debbie Engler
Terry G. Germany
Melissa Fedora
George Metanias
Terence Smith

Also present were the following: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomasoski; Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson; Village Attorney Carl Buck; Assistant Director of Public Works Dan Peloquin; Chief of Police Brian Benton; and Planning Technician Emily Cabay

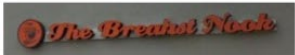


VJ Tobacco, 19138 88th Avenue: Special Use Permit Request

Planning Technician Emily Cabay presented the following item:






BACKGROUND:

- Prairie Commons received Special Use approval in September of 2001
- 66 parking spaces required/ 76 provided based on 4,000 sq./ft. of retail
- Additional parking on adjacent lot (*lot 15*)
- Notable businesses in the plaza are The Breakfast Nook, Fajitas, Mokena Emergency Vet and CoVantage Credit Union
- VJ Tobacco – November of 2020

DISCUSSION:



HOURS OF OPERATION	
Monday - Saturday	9 AM – 9 PM
Sunday	9 AM – 7 PM

- **Inventory Includes:**
 - Tobacco Products
 - Lottery Tickets
 - General Merchandise
 - Water
 - Soda
 - Snacks

BOARD DIRECTION

- Is a Special Use Permit for a Liquor Store appropriate for this location?
- Are there any special restrictions that the Board would like to apply to this business proposal at this time?
- Should the proposal be forwarded to the Planning Commission for a Public Hearing?



Discussion:

Applicant and Business Owner, Vijay Desai was in attendance on behalf of VJ Tobacco. Following the Staff's presentation, Mr. Desai thanked both the Community Development Department and Attorney Carl Buck for their help and guidance throughout the Special Use Permit process. He continued to give a brief history of his time in Mokena and concluded by thanking the Village Board for their time and consideration.

The Village Board did not have any questions or comments and unanimously agreed to advance the proposal on to the Planning Commission for a formal Public Hearing.

Economic Development Commission Ordinance Amendment

Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson presented the following item:

Economic Development Commission Ordinance Implementation

Village Board Work Session
June 19, 2023

Overview

- ▶ In 1982, the Village Board approved an Ordinance creating the Economic Development Committee (EDC) as part of Title 2, Board and Commissions.
- ▶ Subsequently, a resolution was approved articulating membership, terms of members, and duties.

Key Provisions

- ▶ Structuring sound economic development programs
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Expend no municipal funds other than those approved
- ▶ May enlist volunteer services
- ▶ EDC shall review and make recommendation to the Board within 60 days

Staff Recommendation

- ▶ Staff believes codifying the provisions of the EDC is appropriate at this time.

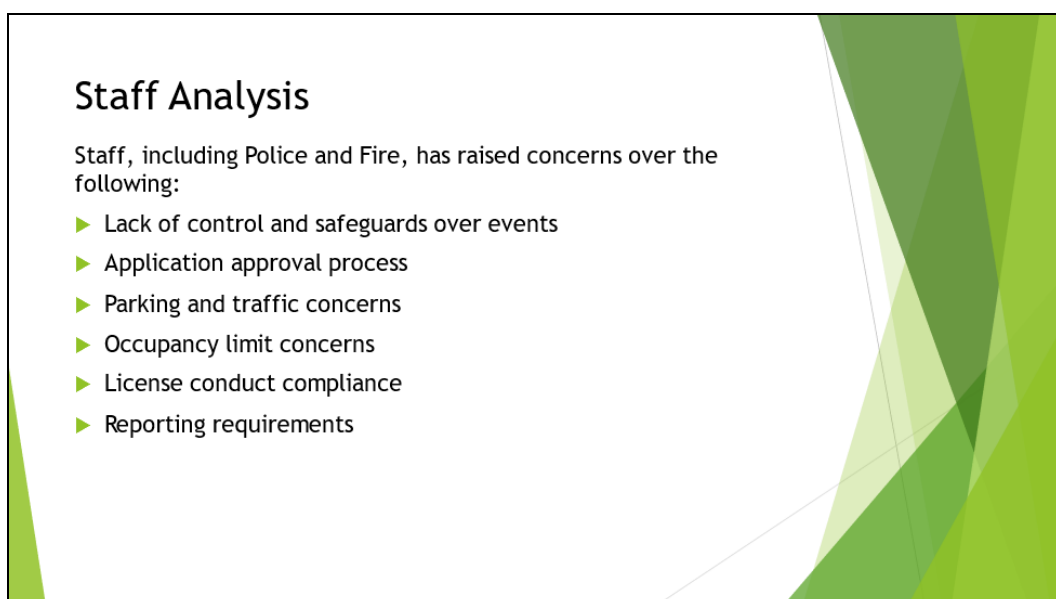
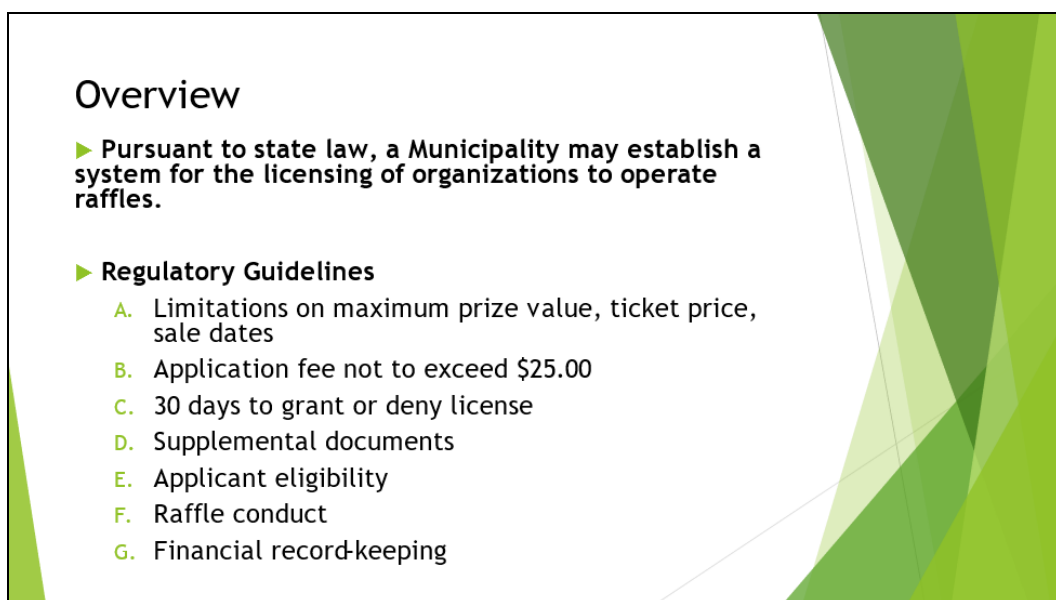
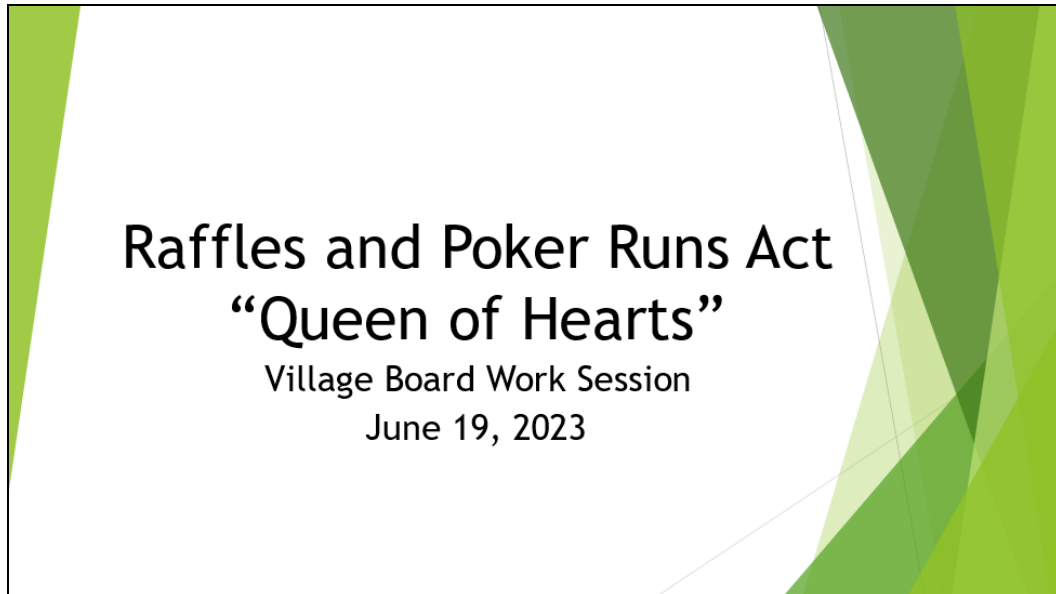
Discussion:

Following the presentation, Trustee Germany asked who the current members of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) are and if this Ordinance would have any impact. Assistant Village Administrator Anderson listed the current members of the EDC and stated that each member would retain their position. Trustee Smith asked why an Ordinance should be passed at this time. Village Administrator Tomasoski stated the first Ordinance was not codified and amending the enabling Ordinance creating the EDC will provide for its guidelines and requirements.

The Board unanimously agreed that codifying the provisions of the EDC is appropriate at this time. Assistant Village Administrator Anderson stated that the Ordinance would be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Raffle and Poker Runs Act & Queen of Hearts Raffle

Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson presented the following item:



Board Direction

- ▶ Does the Village Board support the creation of an ordinance allowing raffles in the Village?

Discussion:

Following the presentation, Trustee Germany stated he has participated in a Queen of Hearts Raffle that was over \$1,300,000 and that traffic and parking was a serious concern. Trustee Germany also stated that he understands why the Village of New Lenox passed an Ordinance to allow for the American Legion to raise funds. Trustee Smith asked for clarification on the logistics of a Queen of Hearts Raffle. Village Administrator Tomasoski and the Board clarified that Queen of Hearts Raffles roll over weekly until the Queen of Hearts card is chosen and could run for up to 52 weeks. The prize pool grows significantly larger as the raffle progresses. Village Administrator Tomasoski stated that if the Board chooses to allow for raffle and poker runs, the Village will be required to enforce its own code.

The majority of the Board was in agreeance with staff's concerns and decided against moving forward with allowing raffles and poker runs.

Police Department Axon Body Worn Video Cameras

Chief of Police Brian Benton presented this item.

Chief Benton advised the Board that the Illinois State Legislature has mandated that all police departments have a body-worn camera program in place by January 1st, 2025.

Chief Benton advised that there are many different vendors that offer a body camera solution, each with their own software for managing the recorded data. He explained that the more efficient option provides for a unified system that creates a consistent and integrated platform with our existing system.

Chief Benton reminded the Board that last month they approved the purchase and installation of a digital audio and video recording system for the new police station from Axon Enterprise, Inc. He noted that Axon Enterprise is the dominant provider for the management and processing of police digital evidence and is the parent company of Taser and is the sole source provider for Axon Evidence Data Management Solutions and Taser products and services. This system manages all aspects of digital evidence through their proprietary Evidence.com platform. Evidence.com is a federated system that stores digital video and audio captured on body-worn cameras, interview rooms, in-car camera systems and Tasers and can be accessed directly by the Will County States Attorney's Office through a granted access option on a case-by-case basis.

Chief Benton advised that Axon's proposal consists of a five-year payment plan for the hardware, data storage, software/licensing and maintenance. He noted that the cost per year would be \$51,650.84 for the first year and \$51, 650.82 for the remaining four years for a total cost of \$258,254.12.

Chief Benton advised that a bidding process could be utilized to choose a vendor. However, based on the level of support, unity of services, and reputation of Axon Enterprises/Taser for performance and service, Staff believes this is the best system and service the Village can obtain. He stated that it was Staff's recommendation to waive the bidding requirements for this project. He advised that staff conferred with Attorney Buck who concurred with staff's assessment.

Chief Benton stated that it was Staff's recommendation that the board authorize a contract with Axon Enterprise for the software, equipment, licensing, maintenance, and storage for 35 Body-Worn Video Cameras.

Discussion:

The Board concurred with Chief Benton's recommendation to waive the bidding requirements and to place the contract on a future Village Board agenda for approval.

Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader Contract Extension

Chief of Police Brian Benton presented this item.

Chief Benton advised that in 2020, the Village entered into a five-year contract with Flock Safety to provide license plate reader cameras throughout the village at strategic locations at a cost of \$2000 per camera. That cost is an annual cost per camera that covers the operating software, the hardware, and the maintenance of both. In essence, the Village "rents" the service from Flock Safety. Since that time, the Village has expanded the number of cameras, each with a five-year contract, thus creating staggered start and end dates for the different camera contracts.

Chief Benton stated that Flock Safety conveyed that it will be raising the annual cost per camera from \$2,500 to \$3,000 effective July 1, 2023. He noted that while this price increase would not immediately affect the Village's current annual rates, the total cost to the Village when each initial five-year term is up was unknown. Chief Benton advised that because of that, Flock Safety has offered current users, including the Village, the option of consolidating all active cameras under one contract and locking that price in for five years at \$2,500 per camera annually. Additionally, he noted, Flock Safety was providing a one-time credit of \$4,000 for the first year of the new five-year period to offset the contract consolidation cost.

Chief Benton advised that the proposal from Flock with a \$4,000.00 one-time credit resulted in a new five-year contract with \$42,000.00 due for year one and \$46,000.00 recurring for the following four years for a total cost of \$226,000.00. He advised that Staff believes that it is in the Village's best interest to accept the renegotiated contract with Flock Safety.

Discussion:

Trustee Germany inquired about the reliability in the Flock Cameras. Chief Benton notified the Board that when first installed, there was a power concern as the cameras were only solar powered. However, this concern was corrected and overall, the Flock Cameras have been effective.

Mayor Fleischer commented on how successful the Flock Camera program has been in helping our police address safety concerns in the Village and provided some history on how the communities in the Lincolnway area worked together to implement them.

The Board concurred with Chief Benton's recommendation to consolidate the cameras under one contract and directed Chief Benton to place the new contract on a future Village Board agenda for approval.

Staff Reports

Village Administrator John Tomasoski updated the Board on the new increase in Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) from 6.16% to 6.47%, which is anticipated to increase the Village's funding by approximately \$200,000.

Village Administrator Tomasoski highlighted some interest in purchasing a Village flag. Mayor Fleischer suggested the Chamber of Commerce should sell them. After some discussion, the majority of the Board felt the Chamber could sell a flag similar to the Village flag.

Village Administrator Tomasoski also informed the Board that he attended the June 13, 2023, Will County Land Use and Land Use Committee meeting for the applicant's request located at 9920 W 187th Street. This case was granted another continuance until August 8, 2023.

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin updated the Board regarding ongoing discussions with the Foxborough Homeowner's Association (HOA) relative to maintenance of the ponds and open space areas in that subdivision. The HOA is scheduled to discuss options and deciding their future intent with members and any newly elected board members this coming week. Mayor Fleischer asked if there was larger scale benefit to aeration bubblers. Mr. Peloquin stated that staff believes the majority of the benefit of bubblers is aesthetic. Mayor Fleischer questioned if the Village should look into the use throughout the Village. Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin then gave an update on watering restrictions.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin stated that due to the drought and in working with New Lenox, our joint feed system partner, Mokena would be moving to Tier 1 orange zone watering restrictions.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin updated the Board on the increase in the number of sidewalk locations projected for this coming construction season's sidewalk and curb replacement project. The update indicated that an increase in the Fiscal Year 24 budget from \$160,000 to \$250,000 which accounted for the additional anticipated work was done.

Trustee Dauphinais asked for an update on the Boulder Ridge development. Village Administrator Tomaszoski indicated that project would be coming back to the Board in a work session to provide an update and discussion of a final plat.

Mayor Fleischer informed the Board that he had resumes on the dais for their review of new appointments for Fiscal Year 2024 that will be on next week's agenda along with reappointments from those whose current terms have expired or were previously appointed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 7:13 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 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.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

RECONVENE WORK SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the work session at 7:50 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

There being no further business to bring before the Mayor and Board of Trustees, Mayor Fleischer adjourned the work session at 7:50 p.m.