

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

Session #005

March 11, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fleischer called the regular session of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:45 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:

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

Also present were the following: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomasoski; Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig; Assistant Village Administrator/Acting Community Development Director Greg Anderson; Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck; Chief of Police Brian Benton; and Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:46 p.m. to discuss 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 REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:53 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**DISCOVER MOKENA**

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Jim Schlegel encouraged residents to vote early at the Village Hall and discussed the easy check-in process for voters. He commented on a possible shortage of election judges for Election Day on March 19.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented two (2) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-O-008, authorizing an amendment to Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 2, to the Village of Mokena Code of Ordinances and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same.

- b. Motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2024 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 (a) and (b) as depicted in the March 7, 2024 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig presented the accounts payable list for March totaling \$1,546,121.96. He highlighted the following invoices to be paid:

- \$135,023.79 to Cargill for Road Salt
- \$123,393.00 to Rush Truck Centers of IL for CV515 International Truck

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the monthly accounts payable in the amount of \$1,546,121.96. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**  
N/A

**PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS**  
N/A

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
N/A

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Post Issuance Tax Compliance Report (no action required)**

Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig stated that in 2012, the Village Board adopted a resolution to establish a bond record-keeping policy which was a requirement for the refunding of the Series 2004 General Obligation Bonds, which is the Village’s transportation bonds. The policy provides direction for maintaining sufficient records that demonstrate the Village is in compliance with applicable federal tax rules and regulations.

Finance Director Pasbrig advised that it is the responsibility of the Compliance Officer (Finance Director) to prepare an annual report based upon a review of the Village’s contracts and records to determine whether the Village has complied with the applicable federal tax requirements. Upon completion of the report, it is to be submitted to the Village Board and entered into the official records of the Village.

Finance Director Pasbrig announced that the Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report states the Village is in compliance with the applicable tax law requirements.

Mayor Fleischer asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. There were none.

**19634 Pheasant Lane: Request to Appeal Zoning Board Decision**

Assistant Village Administrator/Acting Community Development Director Greg Anderson stated that Jennifer Martin, property owner of 19634 Pheasant Lane, has submitted a letter asking the Village Board to pass a motion requiring the Zoning Board of Appeals to reconsider their driveway variation request, which was denied at a public hearing held on October 19, 2023. The property owners sought variance approval to keep a driveway extension that was illegally constructed with pebble gravel and paver bricks approximately 9 ½ feet beyond the exterior wall of the garage. The Zoning Board of

Appeals ultimately voted to deny the petitioners' variation request after failing to present a true and unique hardship.

Assistant Village Administrator/Acting Community Development Director Anderson stated that at the February 28, 2024 Work Session, the Village Board reviewed the Request to Appeal the Zoning Board's Decision on behalf of the petitioner. The Board discussed the appeal and ultimately informed the petitioner that they would not recommend granting the appeal. A formal denial is now required by the Board for the petitioners' request to appeal the Zoning Board's denial of the variance.

Trustee Engler made a motion to deny the homeowner's appeal of the Zoning Board of Appeals decision for a variance request at 19634 Pheasant Lane, Mokena, Illinois. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Improvement and Replacement Design Engineering**

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated as the construction improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) are completed, the next step to achieve optimal output and efficiency is to replace certain components that were not part of the physical construction renovation. One principal component is the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System referred to as SCADA. The SCADA system was not part of the physical construction and renovation of the WWTP because it was not a necessary component to comply with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) permit issued for the improvements.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin stated the SCADA system was implemented in 1999, and last upgraded in 2003 as part of the Village's move to Lake Michigan water. Included in the SCADA system are twelve wastewater lift stations and eleven water facilities. The water facilities include the water towers, water reservoirs, pumping stations, and meter vaults. Over the years, SCADA components at the lift stations and/or water facilities have been improved, but the WWTP master control panel has not been upgraded or improved. The overall project would consist of the following upgrades:

1. Replacement of the programable logic controllers in Structures 16, 20, and 30, and the demolition and replacement of the main control panel in Structure 20.
2. Duplication the control functions and new programing into the new controllers then integration into master control network.
3. Addition of new controllers into master control system using to the existing (Phase 1) fiber-optic communication loop.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin informed the Board that Village staff requested and received a design engineering proposal from Strand Associates, who provided design and construction engineering services for the upgrade of the WWTP. Strand has the knowledge of the system and integration to complete the work for the lowest cost and time compared to an outside consultant. Their proposal covers the following with a total cost of \$86,000:

1. Design new SCADA controls electronic components upgrades and associated programing with system facility integration modifications.
2. Prepare Bidding Documents including standard general conditions, technical specifications, and engineering drawings.
3. Bidding services including use of QuestCDN to manage bidding, prebid meeting, bid opening, review of bids, and recommendation to the Village for award of the construction contract.
4. Preparation of the Contract Documents for final execution.

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated that given Strand's familiarity with the Village's WWTP, their acceptable design and bidding services work for the Phase 1

project, and their knowledge of the processes, it is being recommended to award the design engineering and bidding services to Strand Associates.

Trustee Engler made a motion to authorize a Professional Engineering Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$86,000 between the Village of Mokena and Strand Associates for engineering and bidding related services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA System Upgrades Project and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Blowers Replacement Design Engineering**

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated that another step to achieve optimal output and efficiency at the WWTP is to replace the Digester Blowers. The Digester Blowers are a component that is used in the removal of biological phosphorus. When the Village received its IEPA permit for the WWTP improvements in 2019, the IEPA added a condition that increased the amount of biological phosphorus that needed to be removed as part of the Village's compliance. It was determined in 2019 that the Digester Blowers had not reached the end of their usable life and could be utilized during the construction process. The Digester Blowers have reached the end of their usable life and replacing them will allow the WWTP to operate more efficiently and achieve optimal biological phosphorus removal.

The digester blowers at the WWTP supply air for one of the biological removal processes and are original to the 1999 expansion. The overall project would consist of the following upgrades:

1. Replacement of three (3) blowers in Structure 20 Blower Room including new variable frequency drives, power, controls, and networking equipment.
2. Heating and ventilation for the Blower Room for the new equipment and associated duct and masonry modifications.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin informed the Board that Village staff requested and received a design engineering proposal from Strand Associates, who provided design and construction engineering services for the upgrade of the WWTP. Strand has knowledge of the system and the ability to complete the work for the lowest cost and time compared to an outside consultant. Strand's proposal covers the following on a total cost basis for \$148,000 and the previous agreed credit from the Phase 1 project will be applied to this design work for this project:

1. Design new blowers and associated facility modifications.
2. Prepare Bidding Documents including standard general conditions, technical specifications, and engineering drawings. These documents shall include requirements related to the DCEO grant that is planned for use to supplement the cost of the overall project.
3. Bidding services including use of QuestCDN to manage bidding, pre-bid meeting, bid opening, review of bids, and recommendation to the Village for award of the construction contract.
4. Preparation of the Contract Documents for final execution.

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated that given Strand's familiarity with the Village's WWTP, their acceptable design and bidding services work for the current project, and their knowledge of the processes, it is being recommended to award the design engineering and bidding services to Strand Associates.

Trustee Engler made a motion to authorize a Professional Engineering Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$148,000 between the Village of Mokena and Strand Associates for engineering and bidding related services for the Digester Blower Replacement Project and to authorize the Village President, and Village Clerk to execute the same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

Trustee Metanias asked why this was not included in the recent upgrades to the WWTP.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin stated the the Digester Blowers were not considered to be at an “end-of-life” stage when the WWTP upgrades were being completed and could still be utilized during the construction process. Now that the construction is completed, the Digester Blowers have now reached the end of their usable life and replacing them will allow the WWTP to operate more efficiently and achieve optimal biological phosphorus removal.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**Bid Recommendation: 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements**

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin advised the Village Board that a bid opening was held on February 27, 2024 for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements. The work consists of concrete curb/sidewalk replacements, milling, underdrains, longitudinal joint sealing, resurfacing, and ancillary repairs at various locations within the Village of Mokena. For this spring project, the Village will be performing work on approximately 2.15 miles of roads that include Prestancia Drive and all of Old Castle Woods subdivision.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin stated that five (5) bids were received for the project, with the lowest bid received from Austin Tyler Construction of Elwood, Illinois, in the amount of \$1,384,582.55. A proposed budgeted amount of \$1,805,000 was available for this project and the engineer’s estimate was \$1,790,000. The budgeted amount includes \$1,455,000 of expected available Rebuild Illinois funds along with \$150,000 of Fiscal Year 2024 Motor Fuel Tax funds and, if necessary, \$200,000 of proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Motor Fuel Tax funds.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin stated that after review of the bids, it was determined bidders were responsive and responsible in accordance with the intent of the bid documents. Austin Tyler Construction has satisfactorily performed these street improvements for the Village in recent years. Further, Austin Tyler Construction’s low bid has allowed both the construction bid award and the construction engineering award to use only available Rebuild Illinois funds. Village staff is recommending approval of an additional \$150,000 of Motor Fuel Tax funds, as budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024, for any contingencies including perhaps additional curb and sidewalk replacements along the project streets, if needed. The \$200,000 of proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Motor Fuel Tax funds should no longer be necessary for this project.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin further recommended awarding the bid for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements to the lowest bidder, Austin Tyler Construction, Elwood, Illinois in the amount of \$1,384,582.55 from available Rebuild Illinois funds along with an additional \$150,000.00 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for any contingencies if needed.

Trustee Engler made a motion to award a contract for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street to the lowest bidder, Austin Tyler Construction, Elwood, Illinois, in the amount of \$1,384,582.55, and to award additional work under said contract to Austin Tyler Construction, up to \$150,000, based upon the competitive prices contained in the bid for said services , and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements Construction Related Services Agreement**

Assistant Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated that in relation to the bid award for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements contract is the agreement for construction related services (CRS) for the project. As part of annual street improvement (road resurfacing) projects, the Village typically has an engineering consultant provide CRS to



adequately manage and monitor the project and the progress of the contractor. For this spring project, the consultant will provide more of the CRS, including conforming to Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements for use of Rebuild Illinois and Motor Fuel Tax funds. The Village will still remain significantly involved in the project layout and responding to residents. This year's agreement will be on an hourly basis with an amount not to exceed \$69,960.00, which is approximately four and a half percent (4.5%) of the recommended award amount to the lowest bid contractor. The services will be provided locally out of the Baxter & Woodman Mokena office located near 192<sup>nd</sup> Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin advised the Village Board that Austin Tyler Construction's low bid has allowed funding for this construction engineering to come only out of available Rebuild Illinois funds as opposed to coming from the original Fiscal Year 2024 budgeting of Village infrastructure funds. It may also be noted that the design engineering, including the bidding process, was also performed by Baxter & Woodman.

Assistant Public Works Director Peloquin further recommended that a contract be awarded to Baxter Woodman, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$69,960.00 to provide engineering construction related services for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements.

Trustee Engler made a motion to authorize a Professional Engineering Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$69,960.00 between the Village of Mokena and Baxter Woodman Inc., an Illinois Corporation, for construction related services for the 2024 Rebuild Illinois Street Improvements and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Smith  
NAYS: (0)  
Absent: (0)  
Motion carried

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Assistant Village Administrator Greg Anderson announced that the Village's annual Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 6 and invited residents, community organizations and businesses to participate.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented information regarding the 191<sup>st</sup> Street resurfacing project. He congratulated Commander Chris Carlson on his retirement and thanked him for over 30 years of service with the Police Department.

**TRUSTEES' COMMENTS**

Trustee Smith asked if Metra will use train horns as a result of the 191<sup>st</sup> Street resurfacing project.

Village Administrator Tomasoski stated that the area is still considered to be a quiet zone, but it will be up to the train conductors to decide if/when to utilize the train horns for safety reasons throughout the duration of the project.

Trustee Fedora encouraged residents to early vote at the Village Hall.

Trustee Metanias congratulated resident Seth Mendoza for winning a third State Championship Title for the Mt. Carmel High School wrestling team.

Trustee Engler encouraged everyone to attend Clean Up Day on April 6.

Trustee Dauphinais thanked Village staff for their hard work with tax-efficient capital improvements projects.

Trustee Germany passed on the opportunity to make comments.

**CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

Mayor Fleischer discussed reading about the National Guard being present in subways, further stating that they have no authority to act in the place of a trained police officer. He highlighted the importance of the Police Department and stated it is the first responsibility of elected officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents. He thanked Chief Benton and the Police Department for their service to the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:30 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.


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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

  
Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:

  
Melissa Martini, Village Clerk