

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

Session #022

November 11, 2024

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.

Mayor Fleischer discussed the importance of Veterans Day and recognizing those who have served our country.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

Rob Dauphinais
Debbie Engler
Terry G. Germany
George J. Metanias

Absent: Melissa Fedora

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

DISCOVER MOKENA

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. Move to approve ordinance number 2024-O-036 repealing Section 5-1-5 of 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 October 21, 2024 Work Session.
- c. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2024 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 6 (a), (b) and (c) as depicted in the November 7, 2024 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (4) Dauphinais, Engler, Germany, Metanias

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (1) Fedora

Motion carried

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig presented the accounts payable list for November totaling \$4,322,468.80. He highlighted the following invoice to be paid:

- \$ 664,006.25 to Bank of New York for the last debt payment associated with 2002 Transportation Bonds
- \$ 1,701,433.35 to PT Ferro Construction for Fiscal Year 2025 street improvements

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the monthly accounts payable in the amount of \$1,565,259.16. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointment of James D. Roberts to Village Trustee

Mayor Fleischer stated that following the October 14, 2024 work session and Mr. James Roberts' attendance at the October 21, 2024 work session, he is seeking the approval of Mr. Roberts' appointment to fill the current vacancy for Village Trustee. A vacancy was created on the Village Board following the resignation of Trustee Terence Smith, effective September 24, 2024.

Mayor Fleischer reviewed Mr. Roberts' personal and professional background and formally recommended him to fill the vacancy of Village Trustee.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. James D. Roberts to the position of Village Trustee effective immediately and to expire upon the canvas of election for the Consolidated Election of April 1, 2025. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

Mr. Roberts thanked the Village Board for the opportunity and thanked his family for their support.

Village Clerk Melissa Martini swore in Trustee Roberts.

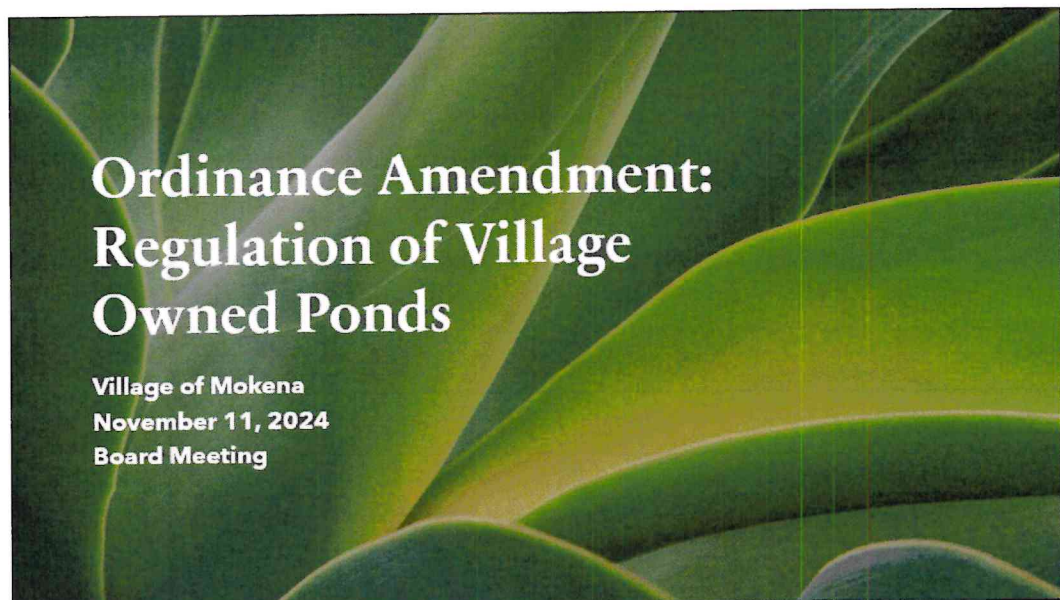
PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS
N/A

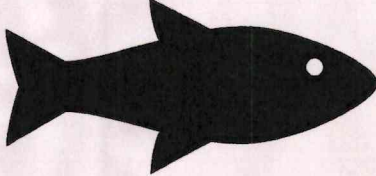
PUBLIC HEARINGS
N/A

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Amendment: Regulation of Village Owned Ponds

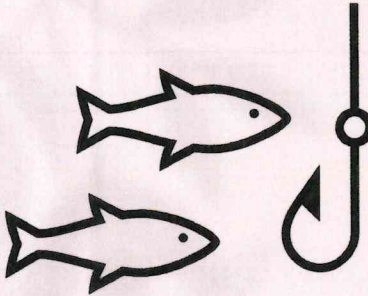
Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck presented the following item:





HISTORY

- **September 9, 2024:** Work Session with Resident input
- **October 21, 2024:** Work Session for Board Review
- **November 11, 2024:** Presented for Board approval



Ordinance: Key Points

- 7-5-1: Designated Access Points
- 7-5-2: State Fishing License Required
- 7-5-3: Rules of Conduct
- 7-5-4: Environmental Management
- 7-5-5: Violation and Penalty



Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck stated that during its September 9, 2024 and October 21, 2024 work sessions, the Village Board reviewed the proposal and draft ordinance for allowing fishing to be permitted within Village Owned ponds. Based on direction from the Board and in conjunction with input from residents, Staff prepared a proposed ordinance incorporating those regulations.

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck stated the proposed code amendment would be placed within the Public Ways and Property title of the Village Code. There is a penalty provision included which is consistent with the administrative adjudication hearing fine permitted by Illinois law. Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck reviewed the following key points included in the draft ordinance:

7-5-1: Public Access Points

- a) The Village shall designate specific public access points to Village-owned ponds, which shall be marked by signage.
- b) Access to Village ponds not designated with public access points shall be restricted to residents of adjacent properties or as otherwise permitted by adjacent residents or Homeowner's Associations.
- c) Any access or trespassing on private property adjacent to ponds without permission is prohibited.

7-5-2: State Fishing License Required

- a) All individuals fishing in Village ponds are required to obtain a valid fishing license from the State of Illinois, as mandated by state law.
- b) For individuals under the age of sixteen (16), at least one parent or guardian must hold a valid state-issued fishing license to ensure compliance with state and local fishing regulations.

7-5-3: Rules of Conduct for Pond Usage

- a) **Catch and Release:** A catch-and-release policy shall be enforced in all Village ponds to preserve fish populations.
- b) **Hours of Operation:** Fishing is permitted only during daylight hours, specifically from sunrise to sunset, to minimize disturbances to neighboring properties.
- c) **Equipment Restrictions:** The use of only environmentally safe baits and fishing methods shall be allowed. The Village reserves the right to prohibit certain types of fishing gear or bait types to protect pond ecosystems.
- d) **Safety Requirements:** Swimming, ice fishing, and the use of boats in Village ponds are strictly prohibited.
- e) **Alcohol Prohibition:** The consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited while fishing on Village-owned or public property.

7-5-4: Environmental Management

- a) The Village, in cooperation with local environmental agencies, may regularly monitor fish populations and water quality in all Village ponds to ensure sustainable fishing practices and overall pond health.
- b) Corrective measures shall be taken if monitoring indicates imbalances or pollution in pond ecosystems.

7-5-5: Violation and Penalty

- a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine not exceeding seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).

Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck stated based on the residents' input and Village Board review, staff are recommending approval of the proposed ordinance.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-O-037, amending the Village of Mokena Code of Ordinances, Title 7, Chapter 5, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (5) Dauphinais, Engler, Germany, Metanias, Roberts
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (1) Fedora
Motion carried

2025-26 Lawn Maintenance Contract Extension Recommendation

Director of Public Works Dan Peloquin stated that in 2022, the Village awarded Beary Landscaping, Inc. the mowing contract for the 2023 and 2024 mowing seasons. That bid and contract allowed the Village to extend Beary's services for up to two additional years upon mutual agreement. This program consists of mowing and maintenance (grass cutting and trimming) of Village-owned properties including the Village Hall, ESDA facility, Village water towers, well sites, pumping stations, wastewater treatment plant, and commuter parking facilities, along with forty-one easements and fifty-five retention ponds and detention basins. The total area in the contract is 178 acres.

Director of Public Works Peloquin stated in the last quarter of the 2024 mowing season, the Village took over landscape maintenance for the newly constructed Police facility and added that site to maintenance sites Beary provided services for. Seasonalizing out that addition work for the full eight month mowing season gives a total cost in 2024 of \$94,475.00. Village staff have discussed with Beary the extension option, with Beary's proposing a mutual agreement to extend the contract with the following proposed cost increases: approximately 3% for 2025 and 2% for 2026 from the total seasonalized cost which includes the Police facility.

Director of Public Works Peloquin stated that based on the Village's ability to extend the contract for the next two years, the desire to utilize continuity of the contractor familiar with the sites, and to continue services at known costs increases, Village staff recommends exercising the Village's right to extend the contract for the 2025-2026 mowing seasons.

Trustee Engler made a motion to award a contract extension for the 2025-2026 Mowing and Maintenance contract to Beary Landscaping, Inc. of Lockport, Illinois in the amount of \$96,975 for 2025, in the amount of \$98,875.00 for 2026, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

AYES: (5) Dauphinais, Engler, Germany, Metanias, Roberts
NAYS: (0)
Absent: (1) Fedora
Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS
N/A

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Village Administrator Tomasoski thanked Commander Hogan and highlighted the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veteran's Day Ceremony. He invited the public to attend the Chamber of Commerce's Parade of Lights and Village Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, November 23. He recognized Dan Peloquin, Rob Skolds, Jamie Smith, Pat Sweeney, Luke Dueser, Tim Rybarczyk and the Public Works Department for their hard work to light up Downtown Mokena for the holiday season.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Germany thanked his brother, Jim, and all veterans for their service. He welcomed Trustee Roberts to the Village Board.

Trustee welcomed Trustee Roberts to the Village Board. He highlighted the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veteran's Day Ceremony and thanked all veterans for their service.

Trustee welcomed Trustee Roberts to the Village Board. She highlighted the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veteran's Day Ceremony and food they provided and encouraged everyone to try their menu. Trustee Engler thanked all residents who participated in early voting at the Village Hall. She thanked Clerk Martini and the front office staff at Village Hall for their hard work throughout the early voting period. Trustee Engler also highlighted her attendance at the Will County Center for Economic Development's recent after-hours event at Ozinga. She announced her granddaughter, Emma, was inducted into the National Honor Society and offered her congratulations. She thanked Public Works Director Dan Peloquin and the Public Works Department for their hard work preparing Downtown Mokena for the holiday season.

Trustee Metanias thanked all veterans for their service and highlighted the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veteran's Day Ceremony. He welcomed Trustee Roberts to the Village Board. He congratulated his grandsons Logan and Brayden for making it to the Superbowl with their respective football teams.

Trustee Roberts thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Village Board. He discussed his background as a veteran and how it was special to be sworn into office on Veterans Day. He thanked his family for their support.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini welcomed Trustee Roberts to the Village Board. She highlighted the William Martin VFW Post 725's Veteran's Day Ceremony and thanked all veterans for their service.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer discussed his relationship with Trustee Roberts over the years and welcomed him to the Village Board. He thanked all veterans for their service to the country and world.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:25 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.


AYES: (5) Dauphinais, Engler, Germany, Metanias, Roberts

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (1) Fedora

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:


Melissa Martini, Village Clerk