

BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
11004 Carpenter Street, Mokena, Illinois 60448
Monday, October 28, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the Board of Trustees work session to order at 7:35 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
Melissa Fedora
Terry G. Germany
George J. Metanias

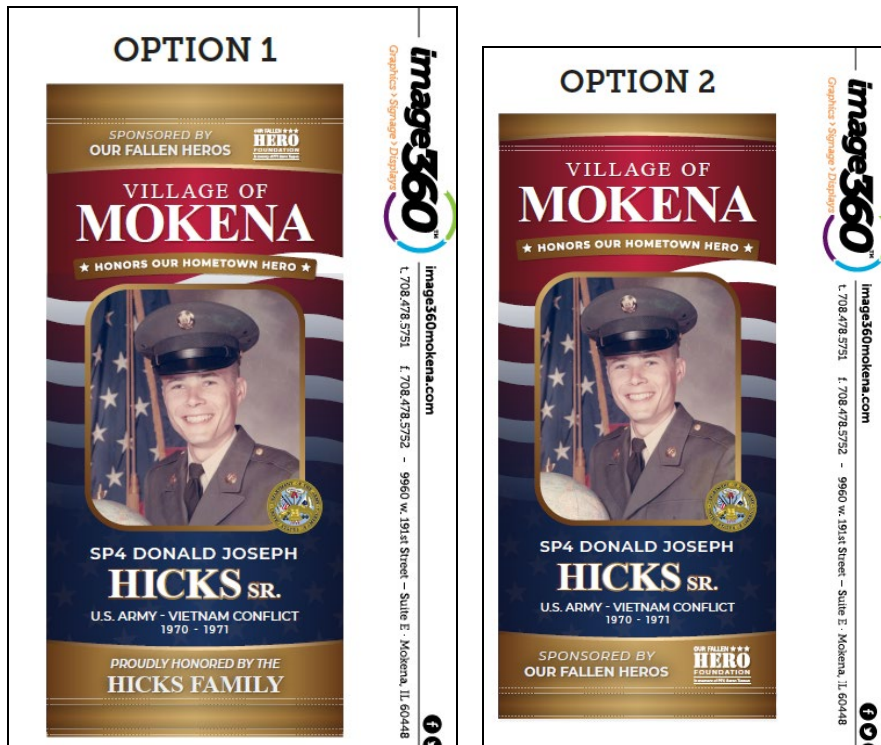
Also present were the following: Village Clerk Melissa Martini; Village Administrator John Tomaszski; Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig; Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck; Chief of Police Brian Benton; Public Works Director Dan Peloquin; and Community Development Director Brent Cann

Crystal Creek Townhomes: Request for Amendment to Planned Unit Development/Rezone

This item was tabled for future discussion.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Trustee Fedora and Trustee Dauphinais presented this item.



Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Carl Buck advised the Board that the Our Fallen Heros Foundation in Memory of PFC Aaron Toppen has agreed to sponsor the cost of the banner program for the next two-year cycle. The Foundation requested that their logo be placed on the banner to recognize the sponsorship. Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck advised that the cost of the banners for the next cycle was approximately \$140 per banner with 37 banner placements available. Village Attorney/Human Resources Director Buck indicated that Image360 had provided possible examples of what the banners would look like, but that no final design had been selected or approved. Trustee Dauphinais then led the Board through a discussion of the points and questions that needed resolution prior to the commencement of the next cycle.

Discussion:

With respect to whether the banners from the last cycle could be re-used, all agreed no because of the sponsorship and condition of the old banners. With respect to the cost, all agreed that the sponsorship by the Our Fallen Heros Foundation in Memory of PFC Aaron Toppen was a good fit and that the sponsorship should be accepted. With respect to allowing residents to select where banners would be placed, all agreed it would be first come first served as to location and placement would not be guaranteed. With respect to distributing the used banners from the first cycle, Trustee Dauphinais proposed holding an event at the VFW to do that and indicated that he had spoken to Commander Hogan who supported the idea. Trustee Dauphinais indicated that he would provide more information as that developed and that any banners not picked up at the event could be placed at Village Hall and retrieved from there. The Board also discussed whether to hold an event prior to the start of the next cycle and the consensus of the Board was to hold an event similar to the first cycle event. With respect to the application process for the next cycle, the consensus of the Board was to allow past participants, who supported the program by paying the cost of the banner in the first cycle, first option to have another banner for the second cycle. The Board discussed keeping that open for a period and then opening the application process up to others. The specific date for allowing past participants to apply first was not confirmed. Trustees inquired about possible locations. A discussion about whether to expand or maintain current numbers occurred. The group agreed to move forward with the same number and location now but asked if some information on possible additional future sites could be shared with the group. Staff agreed to gather additional information.

Will County Deputy W. Fisher Recognition

Trustee Dauphinais presented this item.

Trustee Dauphinais recognized that he invited Matt Gallick and Israel Smith to participate in the work session topic as they had identified the issue at a prior Public Comment. Trustee Dauphinais began to review the facts and circumstances of Deputy Walter Fisher's service and was advised by Mayor Fleischer that all of the historical materials provided by Mr. Gallick and Mr. Smith had been included in the packet for the Board's review so it was not necessary to go over that information. The Board agreed and the discussion commenced as to whether recognition was warranted and if so, what type.

Discussion:

Trustee Dauphinais began by asking Police Chief Benton to explain how Deputy Fisher was currently recognized. Chief Benton advised that Deputy Fisher was in fact a Will County Deputy as Mokena did not have a police force in 1926. As such, Deputy Fisher was recognized by the County on its memorial wall and each year those officers were recognized. Accordingly, Chief Benton indicated it would not be appropriate from a law enforcement perspective to include Deputy Fisher on a Mokena Police memorial or plaque. However, Chief Benton recognized the historical significance of memorializing Deputy Fisher's sacrifice to the Village. Thereupon, the Board engaged in various types of recognition which included creating an honorary street name for Deputy Fisher on 104th Street or placing a monument near the location of Deputy Fisher's general store on Front Street. The consensus of the Board was to emplace a large boulder on Front Street, possibly near his general store or possibly at the open space at the Front Street and Wolf Road intersection, that would allow for the creation of a plaque that would tell the story of Deputy Fisher's sacrifice and highlight him as a Mokena resident. The Board felt that this was a more fitting recognition so that future generations would know the story and not see an honorary street name but have no context for who that person was. Additionally, the Board agreed that a proclamation should be prepared to honor Deputy Fisher which would be read at the first Regular Board meeting in December 2024.

There being no further business to bring before the Mayor and Board of Trustees, Mayor Fleischer adjourned the work session at 8:12 p.m.