

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

Session #002

January 27, 2025

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
James D. Roberts

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:46 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). Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

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 6:52 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mayor Fleischer stated that an executive session was held at the beginning of the night's meeting.

DISCOVER MOKENA

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jim Schlegel highlighted the nice landscaping at the Pipefitters Training Center Local Union 597. He expressed his excitement for future maintenance to LaPorte Road and suggested the item be added to a future work session meeting agenda for community input. He further discussed his suggestions for the design of LaPorte Road as a gateway to Downtown Mokena.

Mayor Fleischer explained to Mr. Schlegel that the Village's new Comprehensive Plan will include community input and meetings, and to understand that the Village knows what they are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented four (4) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a) Motion to approve an amendment to the Dacra Tech Master Software Licensing Agreement, on the terms and conditions therein contained relating to the payment of service fees and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same.
- b) Motion to approve the intergovernmental agreements with Will County for traffic signal maintenance for the intersections specified therein, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same.
- c) Motion to award a contract to Amber Mechanical Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$22,866 for replacement and installation of one rooftop unit, and to find that an emergency exists based on the failure of that heating unit pursuant to allow waiving the bidding procedure pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-9-1, and to authorize the Public Works Director to execute the same.
- d) Motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 (a), (b), (c) and (d) as depicted in the January 23, 2025 Request for Board Action prepared by the Village Administrator. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

APPOINTMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Appointment of George Smith to Part-Time Building Inspector Position

Community Development Director Brent Cann stated in October 2024, the Village advertised the position of Part-Time Building Inspector on multiple platforms. There were sixty-two (62) resumes received in interest for the position.

Community Development Director Cann stated that after review of the resumes by Assistant Community Development Director Krzysztof Kociolek, thirteen (13) candidates participated in first-round interviews with Mr. Kociolek and Part-Time Building Inspector Mark Murphy. Three candidates were asked to participate in second-round interviews. After the conclusion of the interviews, it was determined that Mr. George Smith possesses the necessary skills and qualities that would benefit the Village for the Part-Time Building Inspector position.

Community Development Director Cann reviewed Mr. Smith's educational and professional background and further recommended his appointment to the position of Part-Time Building Inspector.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of George Smith to the position of part-time Building Inspector in the Community Development Department at the starting salary step, effective January 28, 2025. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Mr. Smith thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Appointment of Interim Finance Director Rachel Mayer

Mayor Fleischer stated that due to the resignation of Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig, effective January 30, 2025, Village staff began the process of developing finance department solutions to cover the period of time a search would be conducted to hire a new Finance Director. Ms. Rachel L. Mayer was referred to the Village and was contacted to discuss filling that position on an interim basis.

Mayor Fleischer reviewed Ms. Mayer's professional, educational background and key responsibilities of the Interim Finance Director. As Interim Finance Director, Ms. Mayer will be responsible for overseeing the financial operations of the Village, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations, and implementing best practices in financial management.

Mayor Fleischer further recommended the appointment of Rachel Mayer to the position of Interim Finance Director.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the employment agreement between the Village of Mokena and Rachel L. Mayer effective February 3, 2025, and to authorize the Village Clerk and Village President execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Ms. Mayer thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Mayor Fleischer and the Village Board welcomed Ms. Mayer to the Village of Mokena.

PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS

N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Consultant Contract between the Village of Mokena and Whittler & Hesters, CPA Group P.C.

Village Administrator John Tomaszoski stated that consistent with prior communications to the Village Board, former Finance Director Nathan Pasbrig has agreed to continue working with the Village of Mokena as a consultant. Mr. Pasbrig's knowledge and familiarity with Village systems will assist with the transition for the Interim Finance Director and supporting projects, such as the development of the Village budget. It is anticipated that this consulting arrangement will commence on February 1, 2025. It will be structured as an hourly services consultancy, meaning the Village will be billed based on the actual time spent and material costs incurred in the execution of those duties.

Village Administrator Tomaszoski stated this consulting agreement is with the accounting firm Mr. Pasbrig is employed by, Whittler & Hesters, CPA Group, P.C. The hourly rate for services is \$250 per hour.

Village Administrator Tomaszoski recommended approving the engagement letter with Whittler & Hesters, CPA Group, P.C. to retain the services of Mr. Pasbrig.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter with Whittler & Hesters, CPA Group P.C., on the terms and conditions therein stated and to authorize the Village President to execute the same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Bid Recommendation: Alta Vista Water Main Extension

Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated a bid opening was held on January 16, 2025 for the Alta Vista Water Main Extension Project. The work consists of the installation of a new 12-inch diameter water main, along with new valves and fire hydrants, from Owens Road to the rear of the Clarendale of Mokena senior housing facility off Wolf Road. This project is enabled by a \$500,000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

(ARPA) administered by both the federal government and Will County. Village staff applied for the grant in March 2023 and were awarded such in July 2023. Furthermore, two private property owners provided easements necessary to complete the project. Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., is the Village’s engineer on this project and assisted in reviewing the bids and analyzing the results.

Public Works Director Dan Peloquin informed the Village Board that nine (9) bids were received for the project. The lowest bid received was from Iroquois Paving of Watseka, Illinois, in the amount of \$595,467.32. A proposed budgeted amount of \$1,000,000 (without the grant) was available for this project and the engineer’s estimate was \$937,120. The early winter timing may have significantly increased the competition in bidding. Thus, based on the lowest bid amount, the Village’s construction improvements contribution (with the \$500,000 grant) would be just under \$100,000.

After reviewing the bids, it was determined bidders were responsive and responsible in accordance with the intent of the bid documents. Iroquois Paving performed the 191st Street repaving project within the Village last year and has completed a few significant water main projects in or near the Monee area in 2024. Public Works Director Dan Peloquin further recommended awarding the bid for the Alta Vista Way Water Main Extension for Fiscal Year 2025 to Iroquois Paving Corporation of Watseka, Illinois.

Trustee Engler made a motion to award a contract for the Alta Vista Way Water Main Extension for Fiscal Year 2025 to the lowest bidder, Iroquois Paving Corporation, Watseka, Illinois, in the amount of \$595,467.32, and to award additional work under the contract in an amount not to exceed \$59,546 and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

Mayor Fleischer asked if the grant covered the Village’s budgeted amount.

Public Works Director Peloquin answered yes.

Mayor Fleischer asked how the Village is reimbursed for the project.

Public Works Director Peloquin answered that the Village will initially pay in full for the project, then submit necessary documentation for reimbursement to the Village for the grant amount throughout the duration of the project.

Mayor Fleischer asked if this project will loop the system.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated yes, this project will provide connection from Owens Road to Wold Road and provide a secondary feed for the Clarendale senior living facility’s system as well as the residences on Owens Road.

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

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

Chief of Police Brian Benton announced the Police Department’s upcoming Fraud Awareness Presentation on Thursday, February 13, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Mokena Police Department Training Room. The presentation is an important informational session to help protect the community’s residents from common frauds.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski recognized former Public Works Director Jim Kulesa on his recent retirement from the Village on January 17, 2025.

TRUSTEES’ COMMENTS

Trustee Roberts passed on the opportunity to make comments.
Trustee Fedora welcomed new hires Rachel Mayer and Geroqe Smith to the Village.

Trustee Metanias extended his condolences to former Trustee Joe Siwinski and family regarding the recent loss of his son. He congratulated Trustee Fedora on hosting and organizing a successful Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner. Trustee Metanias

said hi to his friend Jim O'Brien, recognizing him as a great patriot and American, and thanked him.

Trustee extended his condolences to former Trustee Joe Siwinski, his wife, Annette, and family regarding the recent loss of his son. She highlighted local business BVL Boxing Solutions, located at 9620 Willow Lane and their mission to assist those in need, focusing mainly on addiction, but also healing, friendship, and a good workout.

Trustee Dauphinais extended his condolences to former Trustee Joe Siwinski and family regarding the recent loss of his son. He welcomed new hires Rachel Mayer and Geroge Smith to the Village.

Trustee Germany extended his condolences to former Trustee Joe Siwinski, his wife, Annette, and family regarding the recent loss of his son. He welcomed new hires Rachel Mayer and Geroge Smith to the Village.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer extended condolences to former Trustee Joe Siwinski and family regarding the recent loss of his son on behalf of himself and his wife, Laurie. He asked Chief Benton if the information Trustee Engler provided regarding BVL Boxing Solutions and their mission can be promoted through social media.

Chief Benton answered yes and requested additional information regarding the business' mission to assist in promotion of their services to those in need.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Trustee Engler for highlighting BVL Boxing Solutions and their mission.

Mayor Fleischer congratulated Trustee Fedora on hosting and organizing a successful Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session at 7:25 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.

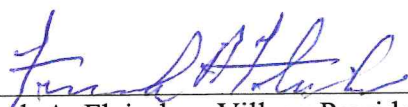
AYES: (6) Dauphinais, Engler, Fedora, Germany, Metanias, Roberts

NAYS: (0)

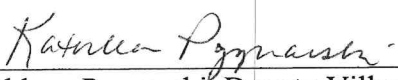
Absent: (0)

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:


Kathleen Pyznarski, Deputy Village Clerk