

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

Session #004

February 24, 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
Terry G. Germany
George J. Metanias
James D. Roberts

Absent: Melissa Fedora

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; and Community Development Director Brent Cann

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to enter executive session at 6:47 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 collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2). Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (1) Fedora

Motion carried

Trustee Fedora entered the Board Room at 6:53 p.m.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:56 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.

Mayor Fleischer recognized Mokena resident, Richard Gemmell, who recently passed away and asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

DISCOVER MOKENA

June Graffy of Curtain Call Theatre presented information to the public regarding the theatre's upcoming performance of Calendar Girls on March 7-9 and March 14-16. Tickets can be purchased and more information can be found through their website at www.ccctheatre.com or by contacting the box office at (708) 607-2281.

Clerk Martini presented the Community Calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ed Larke commented on missing sidewalks in various locations. He asked why some locations never had sidewalks installed, or there were gaps in sidewalks, as he thought sidewalks were required on both sides of the road in subdivisions after reading a 1978 Village ordinance.

Mayor Fleischer requested Public Works Director Dan Peloquin obtain Mr. Larke's contact information to follow up on his comments and inquiry.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomasoski presented five(5) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a) Motion to grant approval to the Boy Scout Troops 40 & 41 to conduct door-to-door sales of tickets for their annual Pancake Breakfast throughout the Village of Mokena from April 10, 2025 through May 10, 2025.
- b) Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-R-001, a resolution acknowledging the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau as the Village of Mokena's Agency of Record, and to authorize the Village President to execute same.
- c) Motion to approve the Engagement Letter for professional services of the certified public accounting firm of Ciarlette & Robbins, LLP, dated February 20, 2025, on the terms and conditions therein contained and to authorize the Village Administrator to execute the same.
- d) Motion to reduce Letter of Credit Number 6707977873120, issued by Busey Bank, for improvements for the Hickory Sage Townhomes, by a total amount of \$519,018.00 to a total remaining balance of \$51,901.80.

Motion to reduce Letter of Credit Number 6707986773565, issued by Busey Bank, for improvements for the Hickory Sage Townhomes, by a total amount of \$100,080.00 to a total remaining balance of \$48,508.00.

- e) Motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2025 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) as depicted in the February 20, 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 Steven Chianelli to Wastewater Plant and Water Operator I Position

Director of Public Works Dan Peloquin the Village has a vacancy for the position of Wastewater Plant & Water Operator I. This is the additional position that will focus on fulfilling the utility locates and seasonal periodic maintenance duties within the utility division. Two internal candidates applied for the position and interviews were completed with the candidates.

Based on the interview results, as well as a review of training, work experience, and references, it was determined that Steve Chianelli was qualified to fill the position. Mr. Chianelli was appointed by the Board and started in the position of Maintenance Worker I in the Streets and Grounds division on December 16, 2019 and has served the Village's Public Works Department well since that time.

Director of Public Works Peloquin reviewed Mr. Chianelli's educational and professional background. He further stated Mr. Chianelli is currently enrolled in the process of obtaining the requisite certification for this position. The certification process requires passing of the Class C water operator examination. This is required within two years of the appointment. Once Mr. Chianelli receives the initial Class C water operator certificate, he will be eligible for full IEPA certification with eight years of experience.

Director of Public Works Peloquin stated staff is confident Mr. Chianelli possesses the skills and capabilities necessary to perform all tasks required in connection with this position, and that he will be an immediate asset to the Public Works Department. He further recommended the Village Board approve the appointment of Steven Chianelli to the position of Wastewater Plant and Water Operator I in the Public Works Department at the starting step effective immediately.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Steven Chianelli to the position of Wastewater Plant and Water Operator I at the starting step for that position pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Mokena and the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, Public Employees Division, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026, effective March 17, 2025. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Abstain: (1) Fedora

Motion carried

Mr. Chianelli thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Appointment of Jamie Smith to Assistant Public Works Director Position

Public Works Director Peloquin stated the Village has a vacancy for the position of Assistant Public Works Director. This is the position he (Public Works Director Peloquin) vacated upon his promotion to the position of Public Works Director following Mr. Jim Kulesa's retirement. There were 354 initial applications for the position. Twelve applicants were qualified and selected for first round interviews. Five individuals were interviewed in the second round and three finalists were interviewed in the final stage. I reviewed the candidates with the Village Attorey/Human Resources Director Carl Buck and Village Administrator John Tomasoski and determined that Jamie Smith was the best candidate to fill this open position.

Public Works Director Peloquin reviewed Mr. Smith's professional background. He has been employed in the Streets/Buildings & Grounds Division of the Public Works Department as a Maintenance Worker since December 1998. Since starting as a seasonal worker, he has worked his way up through the department and gained experience in almost every facet of Mokena Public Works operations. Mr. Smith holds a Water and Sewer Operators License with the State of Illinois and has served as Mokena's Streets Supervisor since March 2021.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated that over the past twenty-six plus years, Mr. Smith has gained valuable experience in the Street/Buildings & Grounds Division. His knowledge of our community, Village operations, and Village infrastructure, will be valuable tools in his new role within the Public Works Department. Mr. Smith will maintain his Water operator's certificate and agrees to work toward additional degrees in schooling as part of his appointment. He further recommended the appointment of Jamie Smith to the position of Assistant Public Works Director.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the appointment of Jamie Smith to the position of Assistant Public Works Director in the Public Works Department, Grade 17, Step 15a, effective February 25, 2025. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Abstain: (1) Fedora

Motion carried

Mr. Smith thanked the Village Board for the opportunity.

Mayor Fleischer thanked everyone for coming out and commented on how nice it was to see the support of former and current employees, and to show that Mokena still has that "family feeling."

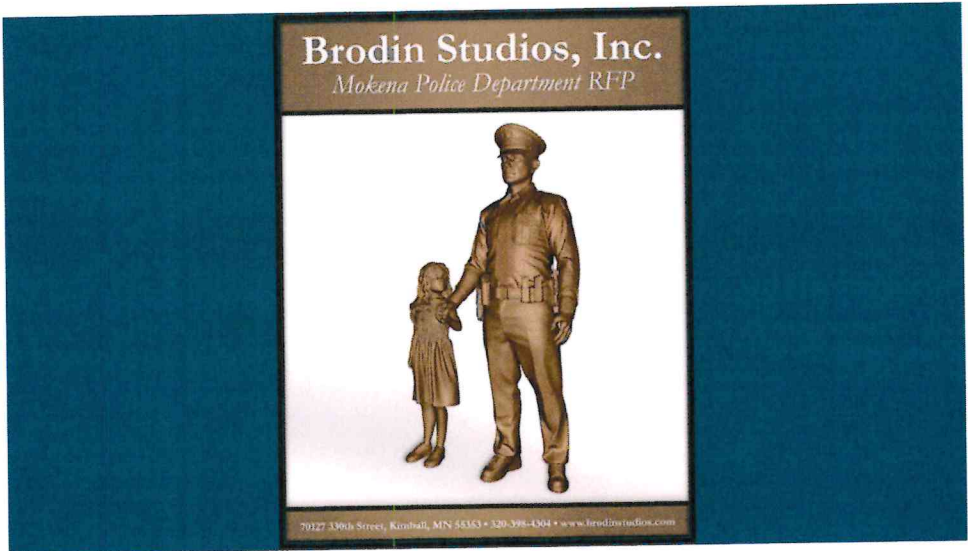
PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS
N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS
N/A

OLD BUSINESS

Mokena Police Department Bronze Statue

Chief of Police Brian Benton presented the following item:



Chief Benton stated that the Board authorized the expenditure of \$764,038 for a variety of items such as furniture, information technology, phone systems, range contingency and other Owner’s costs among other things at the October 5, 2023, Village Board Meeting. At the January 2024 Work Session, the Board was notified of the Police Department’s intent to go out to bid for a bronze statue that will be located on the pedestal in front of the new Police Station. The Board was advised that the statue will be 2/3 scale size, which is between 48”-52” and that the pedestal height was just under 3”. At that time, we advised that the build-time was projected to be more than six months due to the intricacies of the artwork involved. At that meeting, an image of the proposed statue was shared with the Board.

Chief Benton stated that in mid-2022, Deputy Chief Stumpf researched vendors who had created similar statues for area public safety facilities. Due to the fact that such artists are not commonplace, vendors were scarce. Those agencies who had similar statues recommended Brodin Studios to Deputy Chief Stumpf. At that time, Deputy Chief Stumpf contacted Brodin Studios to discuss our intent. During their discussion, Deputy Chief Stumpf received an approximate cost, as well as information on competitive vendors.

In September 2024, staff sent out a solicitation of bids to multiple reputable Bronze Statue vendors. Only one vendor, Brodin Studios, Inc. from Kimball, Minnesota, responded. The price quoted for manufacture and delivery totaled \$47,500. The Brodin Representative said they may be able to offer a slight price reduction based on a variety of factors such as when we order the statue, the time it takes them to make and deliver it, the assistance we can provide for installation and other factors.

Chief Benton stated funding is available in the remaining building funds under “Other Owners Cost”. Therefore, it is Staff’s recommendation that the Board enter into an agreement with Brodin Studios, inc. for a contract not to exceed \$47,500.00 for the production, delivery and installation of the proposed bronze state.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve a contract with Brodin Studios, Inc. on the terms and conditions therein contained and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute the same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

Mayor Fleischer asked when the statue will be completed.

Chief Benton stated approximately 6-9 months.

Mayor Fleischer clarified that the amount of \$764,038 as stated previously is for incidentals and other costs and is not the total cost of the bronze statue.

NEW BUSINESS

Pond Maintenance Contract Extension

Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated the 2022/2023 Pond Maintenance Program was awarded in May of 2022 to McCloud Aquatics in the total annual amount of \$24,994.20. This program consists of servicing twenty-three (23) ponds throughout the Village. Services include water quality monitoring to ensure a healthy aquatic environment along with chemical applications to address water quality and aquatic vegetation (algae control). This contract requires the successful bidder to treat the ponds bi-weekly and comply with all environmental and EPA regulations. The contract has a provision for up to two (2) years extensions in one (1) year increments upon mutual agreement by both parties. Staff has confirmed that McCloud has agreed to extend the contract for the 2025 season at a cost of \$26,094.20.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated McCloud has performed this service for the Village in the past and met the Village's expectations. McCloud performs this type of specialized work for other municipalities and resident responses have been positive overall. Staff has found that McCloud's performance of the contract duties are acceptable and as the contractor has agreed to extend the terms of the contract, recommends the execution of the mutual option to extend the contract for the 2025 season at cost of \$26,094.20.

Trustee Engler made a motion to award a contract extension for the 2025 Pond Maintenance Program to McCloud Aquatics of Elburn, Illinois, in the amount of \$26,094.20, and to authorize the Village President and Village Clerk to execute same. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion carried

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Chief of Police Brian Benton thanked the community for attending the Police Department's Fraud Awareness Presentation on February 13. He invited those who missed the presentation to view the video presentation on the department's YouTube channel.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Detective McVicker and the Police Department for hosting this successful event.

Community Development Director Brent Cann invited the public to share their ideas and comments regarding the future of Mokena for the Village's new Comprehensive Plan at the website www.PlanMokena.org. He announced a Comprehensive Plan Open House event is scheduled for April 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Police Department.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Metanias offered his condolences to the Gemmell family. He congratulated Mr. Jamie Smith on his promotion to Assistant Public Works Director and Mr. Steven Chianelli on his promotion to Wastewater Plant and Water Operator I.

Trustee Engler congratulated Mr. Jamie Smith and Mr. Steven Chianelli on their promotions. She highlighted the successful Fraud Awareness event at the Police Department. Trustee Engler offered her condolences to the Gemmell family.

Trustee Dauphinais congratulated Mr. Jamie Smith and Mr. Steven Chianelli on their promotions.

Trustee Germany congratulated Mr. Jamie Smith and Mr. Steven Chianelli on their promotions and offered his condolences to the Gemmell family. He further recognized Mr. Dan Casper, founder of the Manhattan Weather Channel, who recently passed away.

Trustee Roberts discussed his recent meeting as part of the Development Committee with the Mokena Park District to assist with their 5-year Comprehensive Plan, focusing on full-day summer camps, partnerships with rehabilitation services, bike trails near Yunker Farm, developing partnerships with various local entities, and affordability. He stated that the Mokena Park District will be promoting resident input with email surveys and mailers in the future.

Trustee Fedora recognized Mr. Dan Casper and offered her condolences. She also recognized Mr. Richie Gemmell offered her condolences to the Gemmell family, highlighting his involvement in the 4th of July Parade and awards ceremony. Trustee Fedora announced and congratulated Mokena resident, Seth Mendoza, for winning a fourth State Championship Title for the Mt. Carmel High School wrestling team.

CLERK'S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini passed on the opportunity to make comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer echoed the Village Board's previous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session at 7:39 p.m. Trustee Metanias seconded.


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

NAYS: (0)

Absent: (0)

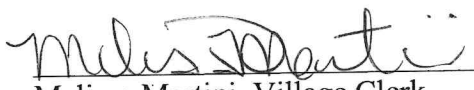
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Frank A. Fleischer, Village President

ATTEST:



Melissa Martini, Village Clerk