

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

Session #007

March 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fleischer called the regular session of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:46 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) 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

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:55 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.

Ken Czechanski of Curtain Call Theatre presented information to the public regarding Improv Night on April 5, 2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He also announced the theatre's upcoming performances of All In The Timing from April 10 through April 13, 2025. He encouraged the public to attend a show and stated tickets for all performances 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.

Mayor Fleischer stated he and his wife enjoyed Curtain Call Theatre's last Improv Night and looks forward to attending the next performance. He thanked Mr. Czechanski for attending the night's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

As a follow up to his Honor Flight recognition and in honor of Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29, Mr. Jim Schlegel discussed the most impactful parts of his Honor Flight trip.

Mr. Ed Larke commented on a subdivision that was built with sidewalks during Mayor Fleischer's term as a Trustee in 1987-1989. He inquired as to why so many sidewalks are missing in his own and other subdivisions in the Village when they are required per Village ordinance.

Mayor Fleischer thanked Mr. Larke for bringing missing sidewalk locations to their attention and stated that the Village will look into and see what funds are available to provide sidewalks.

In response to Mr. Schlegel's comments regarding Vietnam Veterans Day, Mr. Larke further recognized local veteran Raymond McClory turning 101 years old on March 8, 2025.

Mayor Fleischer stated it would be a nice gesture for the Village Board to recognize Mr. McClory with a proclamation. He further requested Public Works Director Dan Peloquin follow up with him after looking into Mr. Larke's concerns regarding missing sidewalks.

CONSENT AGENDA

Village Administrator John Tomaszoski presented three (3) items on the Consent Agenda for Board approval. These items are strictly administrative in nature.

- a. Motion to authorize the execution of a Certificate of Authority for the State of Illinois Central Management Services Rock Salt Joint Purchasing Program authorizing the Village Administrator or Village Public Works Director to enter into agreements and take the steps necessary to acquire rock salt as may be needed in the Village of Mokena Village Clerk to execute same.
- b. Motion to approve a one-time stipend in the amount of \$3,500.00 for Accounting Assistant Christine Foster.
- c. Motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2025 Board Meeting and Work Session.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 (a), (b) and (c) as depicted in the March 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 Gregory Okon to Board of Fire and Police Commission

Mayor Fleischer requested Chief of Police Brian Benton present information regarding the recommended appointment of Gregory Okon to the Board of Fire and Police Commission.

Chief Benton stated the Village of Mokena has a Board of Fire & Police Commission organized under the Illinois Municipal Code, specifically 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-1, to oversee hiring and disciplinary matters for police and fire personnel. The Code grants the Village President the authority to appoint members to this Board, subject to confirmation by the Village Board. Accordingly, Mayor Fleischer is recommending the appointment of Gregory Okon to the Village of Mokena Board of Fire & Police Commission. Mr. Okon's extensive background in law enforcement, public safety, and community service makes him an ideal candidate to contribute to the effective oversight of the Village's fire and police personnel matters.

Chief Benton reviewed Mr .Okon’s professional background and extensive qualifications, stating Mr. Okon’s knowledge and leadership skills will be invaluable in fulfilling the Board of Fire & Police Commission’s responsibilities, including the recruitment, hiring, and discipline of police officers and firefighters in compliance with state and local laws.

Mayor Fleischer recommended that the Village Board approve the appointment of Gregory Okon to the Village of Mokena Board of Fire & Police Commission.

Trustee Engler made a motion to appoint Gregory Okon to the Board of Fire and Police Commission effective immediately. Trustee Metanias seconded.

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

Proclamation for Liam Kelly

Clerk Martini recited a proclamation for Mokena resident Liam Kelly, a junior at Mount Carmel High School, won the IHSA State Championship in the 157-pound weight class, continuing a family legacy of excellence in wrestling.

Liam Kelly thanked the Village Board for their recognition.

Proclamation for Seth Mendoza

Clerk Martini read a proclamation for Mokena resident Seth Mendoza, a senior at Mount Carmel High School, secured his fourth consecutive IHSA Class 3A State Championship, an achievement earned by only 16 wrestlers in Illinois history. He has committed to wrestling at the University of Missouri.

Seth Mendoza thanked the Village Board for their recognition.

Trustee Metanias congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza on their accomplishments. He wished them well in their future endeavors

Mayor Fleischer recognized Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza for their accomplishments and for being great role models to younger generations and a positive representation of the Village of Mokena.

PRE-SCHEDULED PROPOSALS / PRESENTATIONS AND VISITORS
N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS
N/A

OLD BUSINESS
N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Bid Recommendation: Wastewater Treatment Plant and Maintenance Yard Paving Improvements

Public Works Director Dan Peloquin stated a bid opening was held on March 4, 2025 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Maintenance Yard Paving Improvements project. This project uses a \$60,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECO). The Village received eight (8) qualified bids, with the lowest bid received was from Advantage Paving Solutions of Frankfort, Illinois, at \$80,232.45.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated after reviewing the bids, it was determined that the bidders were responsive and responsible in accordance with the intent of the bid documents. Further, Advantage Paving satisfactorily performed the Hickory Creek Metra Lot Repaving Phase 2 project last year.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated the project will be completed using Capital Improvement funds and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

(DECO) grant reimbursement will occur after completion. After the \$60,000 DECO grant is received, the Village will have paid \$20,232.45 for the project.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated the contractor anticipates beginning the work after the asphalt plants open up in early April and recommended the contract be awarded to Advantage Paving Solutions.

Trustee Engler made a motion to award a contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Maintenance Yard Paving Improvements project to the lowest bidder, Advantage Paving Solutions, of Frankfort, Illinois, in the amount of \$80,232.45 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

Public Works Department Vehicle Purchase Authorization

Public Works Director Peloquin stated that at the January 27, 2025 work session, the Board supported the purchase vehicles recommended by Staff as part of the FY26 budget. Among those were four Ford F-250 trucks and one F-350 truck. Consistent with the Board's direction, Village staff are seeking to place an order now due to vehicle availability. The process of receiving vehicles can be lengthy and Staff anticipates an extended period of time before the vehicle will be delivered.

Public Works Director Peloquin stated staff contacted Sutton Ford who holds the Suburban Purchase Cooperative (SPC) contract and Currie Ford (the local dealer). He stated that based on the price quotes provided, the extended delivery time, and cost savings, Village staff are requesting approval to waive the bidding process and place the order to purchase four Ford F-250 trucks and one F-350 truck with various snowplow, service box, and liftgate uplift configurations from Currie Ford. Staff confirmed with Currie Ford that placing the order for the vehicles does not commit the Village to purchasing them if the budget is not approved as projected.

Trustee Engler made a motion to approve the placement of an order of four Ford F-250 vehicles and one F-350 vehicle with snowplow, service box, liftgate uplift configurations from Currie Ford as depicted on Invoice No. in an amount of \$364,870.00 and to waive the bidding requirement due to inventory shortages and uncertain delivery dates pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-9-2, subject to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. 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 recognized and congratulated Detective Darin McVicker and the Police Department for their outstanding investigative work in recovering money for a local resident involved in a cryptocurrency scam.

Community Development Director Brent Cann announced the Village's upcoming Comprehensive Plan Community Workshop on Tuesday, April 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Police Department. He encouraged the public to attend and share their ideas about the future of Mokena.

Village Administrator John Tomasoski reminded the public of the Village's annual Clean-Up Day event on April 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and encouraged the community to attend. He informed residents of the Village's free spring leaf and branch pickup and to schedule a pickup at www.mokena.org or by calling the Village Hall at (708) 479-3900.

TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

Trustee Metanias described wrestling as a team sport with individual responsibility. He gave his credit to Liam Kelly, Seth Mendoza, and all wrestlers.

Trustee Engler thanked Detective McVicker and stated she looks forward to more of his presentations. She congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza on their accomplishments. Trustee Engler reminded motorists to drive carefully and be cautious of children out playing. She encouraged everyone to vote.

Trustee Dauphinais echoed Trustee Engler’s comments.

Trustee Germany echoed previous comments and congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza.

Trustee Roberts congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza on their accomplishments. He recognized Mr. Jim Schlegel for his commitment to the Village and for staying involved with veteran affairs.

Trustee Fedora congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza on their accomplishments. She congratulated and thanked Detective McVicker for his efforts. Trustee Fedora encouraged the community to attend the Comprehensive Plan Workshop on April 22 and Clean-Up Day on April 12.

CLERK’S COMMENTS

Clerk Martini reminded residents that they can early vote for the April 1 Consolidated Election at the Village Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through Friday, March 28. She further stated Election Day is Tuesday, April 1 and provided instructions to find designated polling places.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Fleischer congratulated Liam Kelly and Seth Mendoza on their accomplishments. He discussed low voter turnouts and the importance of voting in local elections. He further encouraged everyone to vote.

ADJOURNMENT


Trustee Engler made a motion to adjourn the regular session and enter into the scheduled work session at 7:50 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