

**VILLAGE OF MIDLOTHIAN
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2019**

Mayor L'Heureux and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Midlothian, Cook County, Illinois, met in the Council Chambers at the Village of Midlothian on April 17, 2019. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor L'Heureux, Clerk Moskal, Trustees Caveney, Crowley, Gillis, Ivan, Kreis and Killelea, Attorney Valadez, Chief Delaney and Deputy Clerk Kolacki.

PLEDGE

PRESENTATION

Stan Urban from ProChamps explained the benefits of working with ProChamps. ProChamps creates positive revenue streams for foreclosed and vacant properties, rental registrations and pet registrations. They have developed a proven step-by-step property registration program to assist municipalities become more effective and efficient regarding property compliance issues. ProChamps staff researches and tracks properties, contacts, banks and will get them to register. ProChamps provides direct contact information, mortgagee and property manager contact information and all information is available to code enforcement personnel, utility billing, police and fire departments. Code officials are able to communicate directly with banks. ProChamps services more than 400 communities nationally and in Illinois they service 25 communities. Midlothian currently has 170 active foreclosures and 130 potential foreclosures (in short sale now or sold from one bank to another bank). They have estimated that there are 1,300 rental units in the Village. The Village can charge \$300 for foreclosure and vacant property registrations and ProChamps retains only \$100. Rental property registration can be \$125 and ProChamps retains \$25. They also assist with pet registrations in which they retain \$4. Their databases are updated by the hour from staff all around the country. Employees from around the country can go to the county courthouse and review the database hourly. Each time an attorney turns in foreclosure papers, the staff is able to do the research and enter into the database. ProChamps asks for a two-year agreement and can be reduced to a one-year agreement, however, out of 400 communities that are participating with ProChamps, since 2009 not one community opted out. They also service pet tag registrations. ProChamps is able to obtain animal information but if an animal was lost, you are able to go on-line and type in where you lost your animal, type of animal and picture and this will go out to every veterinarian and police departments within a 50-mile radius. Clerk Moskal also noted that we can use the information to send water bills to vacant or foreclosed owners also. An Ordinance will need to be adopted can be tailored to our Village needs. Attorney Valadez asked if the Ordinances were part of the contract for services and Stan confirmed that they were required.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Gillis, Sr. – He asked about the status of the once a month water billing instead of every three months. Mayor L'Heureux advised that we are still talking about it but do not have a consensus by the Board at this time. It is still being reviewed. Trustee Caveney reminded everyone that we are having a Water Bill Workshop on June 20th and will be explaining the water bill and payment options.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Trustee Kreis reported on the following:

- The Natalie Creek Trail Steering Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, April 18th in the Council Chambers at 11:00 a.m. The Phase I Engineering is being funded from the Invest in Cook Grant received. The kickoff meeting with IDOT was held last week.
- The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Steering Committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 18th at 12:00 p.m. and the focus of the meeting will be on the Great Midlothian Cleanup on Saturday, April 27th.
- She received an email from the Sustainability Coordinator of the Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre in Tinley Park inquiring about the Great Midlothian Cleanup and our participation.
- The Stormwater Management Capital Plan Presentation by Strand & Associates has been finalized and will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. A hard copy of the presentation will be emailed to all Board members
- The Calumet Soils Project is coming to a conclusion. They will be doing a presentation of their findings on April 26th at 11:00 a.m. with recommendations by Mary Pat McGuire and her students from the University of Illinois. They will also be looking for funds for implementation.
- At the next Board Meeting, there will be a presentation by the Veteran's Committee to recognize a volunteer.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Ivan reported on the following:

- The projector and screen have been installed. There are two remotes to turn them on and off and move the screen up and down. The big screen is mainly for any kind of classes and presentations but not necessarily for Board Meetings. The other screen has been updated and there are no more electrical cords but is wireless. Another port was added if an additional computer was necessary. There was discussion of a possible additional screen and use of the projector.
- At the Finance Meeting, there was discussion of the late fee charge from 20% to 10% and the reconnection fee, which is \$50 for the first shutoff, \$75 for the second shutoff and \$100 for the third. The Finance Committee suggested \$75 reconnection fee no matter how many times the water is shut off. The Ordinance will also be updated and will go forward at the next Board Meeting.
- LOCIS will be providing a bar code on the vehicle sticker billing and will cost an additional \$500 to update our software to recognize the bar code. We will then be able to scan the bar code and preload the information into the billing software and this will speed up the process of the vehicle stickers. Everyone was in agreement and this will go forward at the next Board Meeting.
- Office Space reorganization was then discussed. He provided diagrams of all changes he was proposing. He explained that there will be no walls or obstructions by the desks, we will be relocating the cabinets to the walls, which will be clearly visible by the management. The lobby will now have a third window so that the Building Department will have access to the lobby to collect fees and provide permits. Each cubical will be redesigned, as well as offices, for the Building Superintendent, Treasurer and Clerk's area. There will be use of current furniture, but additional furniture may need to be purchased. Once the changes are made, we will be up to code for electrical and networking. Trustee Gillis asked if he had an idea of the costs and Trustee Ivan advised that he is still working on the costs and alternatives. Trustee Crowley wanted to make sure the redesign will take place after we

address the structure and roof. Trustee Killelea further noted that we needed to figure out first what we are doing with the structure of the buildings before any kind of rehab can be considered. Trustee Ivan advised that next week we are meeting with another roofing contractor. There was then a long discussion by the Board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Gillis reported on the following:

- The Fire Department is down to five part-time firefighters. Currently, we have been trying to operate with eleven part-time firefighters, which used to be 17. The part-time firefighters are on for two 12-hour shifts at Station 2. Full-time firefighters have had to fill in and rotate to Station 2. This has created, in the last 20 days, a substantial amount of overtime by our full-time staff.
- The Fire Department has billed approximately \$24,500 for medical billing. The collections billing company receives 4% and their amount paid to them was about \$1,800. He is mentioning this to everyone so that we have an idea of what we are looking at on a monthly basis on what we are receiving for our ALS/BLS services since we started transporting. He noted that \$10,000 a month goes into our General Fund and offsets the costs for our full and part-time firefighter/paramedics. We have a budget close to \$400,000 for our part-time staff and this helps keep Station 2 open. Without the part-time firefighters, we do not have enough full-time staff to keep both stations open.
- We received a request for a fireworks permit for the Country Club.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Trustee Caveney reported on the following:

- She had a few minor changes to Ordinance #2023 Granting the Special Use to include: Under Section 2, #1 the word sign should be signs, #12 Lessee should be Lessees and Exhibit A and B attachments were needed which are Plats of Survey for both addresses.

Motion to Approve Ordinance #2023 - Granting Approval of a Special Use Permit to Allow for the Separate Use of Adjoining Properties Located at 3202-3228 W. 147th Street to Allow Auto Sales and Minor Auto Repair with the requested changes was made by Trustee Caveney and seconded by Trustee Crowley.

Discussion: Trustee Gillis asked if the Conditions of the Special Use #4 regarding the back-flow device had been installed. Trustee Caveney noted that they are unable to move forward to apply for any permits until the Special Use is granted. Once granted, they will then be able to apply for the permit to complete the work. With regard to Item #14 regarding the storage of the tow truck, the conditions state from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., but the tow truck is not even allowed on site and the tow truck was there last night. Attorney Valadez noted that the items came from the original Ordinance and did not include the tow truck, so this will be made part of the Special Use. Once the Board passes the Ordinance, it will become a condition. The Building Department would then have the tow truck removed or would be ticketed. This will be discussed with the Building Superintendent. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Caveney, Crowley, Ivan, Killelea and Kreis. Nays: Trustee Gillis. Motion carried.

- Discussion of B-2 Zoning District which is Prohibited Use of Auto Sales, Leasing, Minor Auto Repair. Midlothian Cars on 147th and Pulaski and Cars 147, which is two blocks east of this property is a B-2 Zone. Both properties have historically been auto sales for more than 30 years. When the

Village changed the zoning, they created the B-1 Business District. The Village granted a variance to open the business. The current owner wants to sell the business. The car lot on the corner has been a car lot for more than 30 years. The prior Board set the precedence to grant a variance on the other property that had been historically a car sales lot and if we do not offer the same opportunity to apply for a variance, then we will have to ask the owner to close the business and will have an empty lot. Mayor L'Heureux viewed this business as being very substantial. He asked if the Board wanted to grant the Special Use and the Board agreed.

- The Board has been discussing a non-union Employee/Retiree Insurance Plan. Revisions were requested by Trustee Kreis and Trustee Killelea and she created the formal Policy. This was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting and there are a number of revisions that will be needed in the Retiree Insurance portion. She will work on those revisions for review by the Board for discussion and approval at the next Board Meeting.
- CRS Update – She contacted our CRS Consultant to advise her that the Village adopted the new building codes for the updated IBC and IRC. The Village received its first building code effectiveness rating, which was a 4, and was advised that the Village earned CRS points and are only 155 points away from improving our rating from 7 to a 6. If we can do that, we would receive additional discounts on behalf of our property owners in the flood areas and qualified properties would receive up to 20% discount. Trustee Caveney will be reviewing the CRS manual to figure out what other steps we can take to accumulate the points. Our consultant said that once we accumulated the points, she will provide a reassessment to get our rating changed.
- She provided an email regarding the T-Mobile transaction regarding the counter offer made and was accepted by T-Mobile. T-Mobile is requesting to walk the area with Superintendent Sparrey and Superintendent Weinert on April 25th.
- The letter to the businesses was forwarded to Mayor L'Heureux and Attorney Valadez today for their review.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Trustee Killelea reported on the following:

- The Newsletter is near completion. He asked the Board if the invoice should be approved at a Board Meeting or if they thought it could be a recurring bill and would not require approval. The bill will not exceed \$2,600 and the mailings will be for residents and businesses. This is a budgeted item under Administration. Mayor L'Heureux believed the billing should be included on the list of bills and no approval was necessary. The Board agreed.
- Superintendent Weinert has found a vendor to evaluate our buildings and will schedule an inspection since we want to see how dangerous the situation is for the Public Works building and the rest of our structures as soon as possible.
- The State of Illinois passed a Bill that was signed by the Governor that vaping or smoking product businesses cannot sell to anyone under 21 years of age. In Park Ridge, students are fined \$500. If they opt to take an education class on the dangers of vaping, then the fine would be lowered to \$100. Of the 500 students that show up in Court, zero has opted to contest the ticket or pay the full fine. Trustee Killelea asked the Board if they would be willing to pursue the same process as Park Ridge. Trustee Crowley advised that we were going to discuss this with the schools at their next meeting but the meeting was postponed and did not happen. Chief Delaney, herself and Mayor L'Heureux will be speaking with the schools to find out their ideas on the education class and will get back to him.

- Trustee Ivan had advised that we have a roofing company scheduled to complete an infrared evaluation of the roof and its leaks. They will then be able to determine what is needed for repairs or replacement.
- Superintendent Sparrey had advised that he has found a company to do mold air quality testing in our buildings. The quote we received was for the Village Hall and was in the amount of \$1,350 and will cover the personnel and ten air quality tests. Trustee Killelea is suggesting that Public Works should also be included. He asked that the quote be placed on the Agenda for approval to include Public Works not to exceed \$2,700. The Board agreed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Crowley reported on the following:

- Regarding our fiber, she checked with our IT Department and Proven and they are still waiting for a final decision from AT&T on the best route to bring the fiber into the Village. They are discussing whether or not to go underground or connect to the wall of the Fire Department. She will advise as soon as possible.
- The snowman contest winners will be mentioned at the next Board Meeting.
- The Community Policing Committee Golf Outing is next month. Anyone interested in being a hole sponsor or would like to golf, please let either herself or the CPC Committee know.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Attorney Valadez reported on the following:

- He reviewed the water gross and net provisions of the Ordinance and it provides for a separation for the late fee but does not reference it as a late fee. He will make the change from 20% to 10%.
- There was another session with the Sergeant's Union and he is optimistic that they are very close to an agreement and will hopefully present to the Board at the next Board Meeting.
- We received a Demand Letter alleging a false arrest, but he is confident that the Village will not be held liable. He has reported this to our insurance carrier. Although we have not been served, this has the potential to have media present and wanted to make sure that we received the information of the demand letter and the possibility of a lawsuit.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

Mayor L'Heureux reported on the following:

- He was proud to read the Proclamation for Team Floodlothian Day which is on April 18, 2019. He wanted to mention that he is so impressed with the work that the Floodlothian group has done and are completely amazing. On behalf of himself, the entire Board and Village, he thanked everyone involved for their fantastic work. Trustee Kreis noted that Jackie Hill was very instrumental. She was the one who started writing this Proclamation. She wanted Jackie to be remembered and recognized for her incredible and outstanding efforts and would not be here without Jackie, Helen, Chris and Rita. Thank you.
- St. Christopher's Parish has requested renewal of the Bingo Liquor License for April through June.
- Clerk Moskal will be applying for permits from the State and County to receive approval for the parade.

CLERK'S BUSINESS

Clerk Moskal reported on the following:

- Review of the Committee meeting Minutes for February 20, 2019.
- He received a letter from the Principal at Springfield School requesting permission to block off 146th Street from east of the alley behind Kentucky Fried Chicken to Springfield Avenue on May 30, 2019 for the School Field Day Fun Fair. The Board Agreed. He will forward a letter of approval to Springfield School.
- The State of the Village Address will be on May 30th at Raday Lodge at 7:00 p.m.

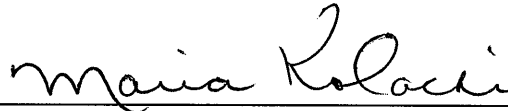
ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Motion to adjourn to Closed Session 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) was made by Trustee Crowley and seconded by Trustee Kreis.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Crowley, Kreis, Caveney, Gillis, Ivan, and Killelea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor L'Heureux advised that there will be no further action following Closed Session. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maria Kolacki, Deputy Clerk



Allen Moskal, Village Clerk