

**VILLAGE OF MIDLOTHIAN  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 3, 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 3, 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 and Kreis, Attorney Valadez and Chief Delaney. Deputy Clerk Kolacki was absent. Trustee Killelea arrived at 7:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE**

**PRESENTATION**

Karen Vaughan, Director of Permits, Rentals and Concessions for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County – She provided an overview of what the Forest Preserves are doing and activities they are having. The mission of the Forest Preserves is to protect and restore the natural environment here in Cook County and engage residents in nature and help provide environmental education. There are about 69,000 acres of forest preserves or 11% of the County land and half the size of the City of Chicago. There are three hundred miles of trails in Cook County, ten lakes, lagoons and rivers, six nature centers, five campgrounds, three pools and ten golf courses. Their website is fpdcc.com. The Forest Preserves have just celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. She explained the Next Century Conservation Plan which sets the vision for what the Forest Preserves will look like in the next 100 years. She provided places and upcoming events to visit for fishing, hiking, biking and enjoying nature's surroundings. At Midlothian Meadows there is a hiking event on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., the Oak Forest Carriage Preserve hike is on July 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Mahinal Woods hike is on August 17<sup>th</sup> and Midlothian Meadows hike is on October 5<sup>th</sup>. For fishing advocates, there is also Pogie Lake at Oak Forest Heritage Preserve, which is open for public fishing, Midlothian Reservoir in Oak Forest has bass fishing, and South Holland Green Lake will be stocked with rainbow trout next week for their event. There is also a new trail connection being constructed and will link the Midlothian Meadow entrance at 155<sup>th</sup> Street to the Oak Forest Heritage Preserve. This project will be completed in August of 2020. She will send the link of this presentation for our website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Valerie Weiskirch** – She asked Mayor L'Heureux when he will be calling her to discuss some issues and he replied that he would call her tomorrow.

**Jamie Guzman** – The property to the north of her home has been abandoned for some time and she is having problems with the neighbor to the east of that property. The neighbor allows her dogs to roam and defecate on the property but does not take care of the property and the north end of her fence is being damaged by the dogs also. She is unable to have her dogs in her own backyard when the neighbor's dogs are out since they are scratching at the gate. Her property is two feet above her property, so the dogs are able to climb up to look over her fence. Attorney Valadez explained that if the dogs are not on her property then she can notify the Police Department since this is an animal at large offense. This will be further reviewed by the Building Department.

## **SCHOOL PROJECT FROM RICHARDS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Mayor L'Heureux was pleased to announce that in attendance at tonight's Committee Meeting were three students from Richards High School who are here for a school project for their Government Class. One of the students asked what Department each Trustee was responsible for. Mayor L'Heureux explained that Trustee Gillis is over the Fire Department, Trustee Ivan is over Finance and Administration, Trustee Kreis is Economic Development, Community Outreach and Grants (but no specific Department), Trustee Crowley is over the Police Department, Trustee Killelea is over the Public Works Department and Trustee Caveney is over the Building Department.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Trustee Kreis** reported on the following:

- The Stormwater Capital Management Plan Presentation has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Kate Evasic and Strand & Associates will be in attendance. Kate Evasic had advised that they are editing the Plan and should be available on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The survey of the Permeable Parking Lot north of the Rain Ready Community Garden was received. She forwarded to everyone a Concept Plan, but this has not been finalized by the Engineer and the IEPA will need to approve the reengineered Plans. The Change Order has been forwarded to everyone. More work will need to be done and approved by Springfield. Based on the survey and the Board's intent, the parking lot is shifting to the east. She is hoping that the project can go out to bid since we are running out of time and the IGIG expires on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Caveney asked if the change order would be paid for out of the IGIG funds. Trustee Kreis advised that the IGIG reimburses us up to 70% and she believed that we can get the survey reimbursed also. The Change Order is only \$2,800. Trustee Caveney asked that everyone receive copies of all documents. Trustee Ivan then asked what was reengineered. Trustee Kreis advised that they shifted the parking lot south and east. The permeable pavers will be on our property, as well as the parking spaces, except the stalls on the right side, and the striping (310 sq. ft) will be on the VFW property. Mayor L'Heureux will be attending the next VFW meeting to discuss this project with them. The Change Order and Concept Plan will be placed on the next Board Meeting Agenda.
- The Great Midlothian Cleanup is on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and businesses will be visited this week to request their participation.

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Trustee Ivan** reported on the following:

- We now have a new TV in the Council Chambers which was purchased from BestBuy and was under \$500. It was asked if a second TV could be put up so that the Agenda could be on one TV and presentations on the other. He will be checking into this.
- Public Works has begun the placement of the screen. The projector and screen can be used for special sessions or training meetings and is the reason the screen will be mounted in the back of the Council Chambers.
- This week was the election and the three Trustees that ran have won. The Trustees will be sworn in at the Board Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- At the last Finance Committee Meeting, the late water fee from 20% to 10% was discussed. The reconnect fees of \$50, \$75 and \$100 (depending on which occurrence) was discussed. They are

suggesting the fee be \$75 only. He asked the Board if there were any questions of the changes, but the Board agreed with all changes requested. The Ordinance will be prepared and will go forward at the next Board Meeting.

- He noted that the payment of the water bills through PSN takes 48 hours to receive an on-line post for the customer's payment. There are many times at the end of the month that payments are not received for water bills until two days later and are then assessed a late fee. They are suggesting a 48-hour grace period for pending payments received and the late fees will not be assessed. The Board agreed with the changes and the procedure will be changed.
- He asked Trustee Kreis if she was successful for negotiations for our vendor for vehicle and pet stickers. Trustee Kreis advised that she was not happy with the conversation she had and has been working with Treasurer Britton. Treasurer Britton had noted that LOCIS has a module for a bar code for vehicle and pet stickers. Trustee Ivan is suggesting the purchase of a bar code reader since Third Millennium will include a bar code on the billing statements to allow better tracking of the vehicle sticker renewals. Third Millennium would handle the mailing of the stickers, invoicing and electronic billing. This will assist the front office when the customer comes in since we will not have to input each person's address individually.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Gillis reported on the following:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> is Museum Day in Springfield and they will be hosting a Rally Around the Rotunda. Everyone will receive a free T-shirt and button for their participation, as well as a photo taken with Abe. It is an informative session from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to discuss museums in Illinois.
- Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Pochinskas submitted his letter of resignation which was effective March 31<sup>st</sup>. He will be working with the City of Chicago.
- Chief Hotwagner received a proposal for painting at Station 2 in the sitting room, kitchen and office. The proposal was for \$1,000 to complete the painting and includes materials and labor. It will require a \$400 down payment and the balance due when completed. This will go forward for approval at the next Board Meeting.
- He received a training request from Deputy Chief McClelland for training for three firefighters for a certification class. The cost is \$1,600 for each firefighter but is covered by a grant we received. He noted that one of the firefighter/paramedics is on shift for two days. We are at a minimum manning for two days and cannot take due time or vacation time. Deputy Chief McClelland is requesting that the Village pay the overtime for this firefighter/paramedic to attend the class, but Trustee Gillis did not agree with the overtime since this is not standard protocol. The Board was in agreement. The firefighter/paramedics will be trained to basically train firefighters how to survive in an emergency situation if in a life-threatening situation. This is a national certification class and is covered by a grant. The approval of the training request will go forward at the next Board Meeting.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Caveney reported on the following:

- The first Community Rating System Townhall Meeting will be on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Raday Lodge. All property owners and business owners in Midlothian are welcome to attend.

- Special Use for Bella Roma - The Board was hoping to ask the owners to improve the looks of the property to include painting and striping of the parking lot, but Superintendent Weinert advised that we do not have the option of making that request. It is not in our Ordinance that we can demand that they paint the building. Attorney Valadez commented that the Zoning Board has approved the Special Use with conditions. The Zoning Board has informed the business owner of their ongoing requirements and if they violate any of the conditions after the issuance of the Special Use, the Special Use will be removed. The Village Board will either need to grant the Special Use or provide conditions that will prevent the acceptance of the Special Use. Mayor L'Heureux noted that the additional conditions that the Board wants should also be included in the recommendations. Trustee Gillis asked about the semi tow truck and whether or not the truck has been removed. Trustee Caveney will check. She noted that the owner has cleaned up the property and addressed the majority of the requested improvements. Attorney Valadez went through the list of conditions needed and Trustee Caveney asked that the Board to consider the Special Use recommendations.
- There were a few glitches with Extra Space Storage regarding the invoice, but they have all been addressed and a corrected invoice was issued.

Motion to approve the Extra Space Storage invoice in the amount of \$1,350.00, which is valid from March to March and includes one additional month for free was made by Trustee Caveney and seconded by Trustee Crowley.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

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

- She forwarded several documents to the Board regarding American Tower. One was from the Steel in the Air assessment we received last year on March 8, 2018. She believed that the lease was worth \$2,200 per month. American Tower is now saying that it is operating in the negative and they are unable to obtain new users on the tower. Anyone interested is wanting 30-35 years or a base term of 5-10 years and then will be asking for four to six 5-year renewal options. She explained the modification requests in order to maintain the tenancy. She reviewed the Term Sheets, offers made and noted that they offered a signing bonus of \$2,000 and wanted to decrease the rent as of July 1<sup>st</sup> to \$1,400. This will keep the annual escalation of 3 ½% and is willing to provide a revenue share of 10% for each future sub-tenant. The lease expiration date is December 2031 and the current rent is \$1,965. In November 2017 American Tower offered the Village a signing bonus of \$25,000 if the Village signed the document by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Everything would have stayed the same except they wanted seven 5-year extensions. The extension term they are offering is a one-time signing bonus of \$2,000, reduce the rent by 30% from \$1,965 down to \$1,400 starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. They also want to add six renewal terms of 5-years and the expiration will be 2071. There was a long discussion by the Board.
- Insight is the representative and was the site selection realtor that works with Verizon to secure their sights. They also work with T-Mobile. T-Mobile provided a drawing showing the water tower and at the top is a rendering of what the Verizon antenna would look like. T-Mobile wants to put in six antennas and Verizon already has nine. T-Mobile is offering to the Village \$2,250 a month and 15% increase every term and 5 five-year renewals. Verizon's rent is \$3,000 per month with a 3% increase. She believed Verizon had the better deal and wanted to remain with Verizon. There was a long discussion by the Board.

- Rain Ready Community Garden Maintenance was discussed. She received a renewal proposal from Julian Plumb and will forward to the Board for their review. She has also requested to receive a quote from Smitty's but has not received it yet. This will go forward at the next Board Meeting.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Trustee Killelea** reported on the following:

- The Cleaning crew for the Village Hall has given notice that they would be leaving. Trustee Ivan suggested a cleaning crew he met at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon and will discuss services with them next week. Chief Delaney also suggested another cleaning service and will discuss this with them also.
- He is in favor of a Vaping Ordinance and the age to sell tobacco and nicotine based vaping products, which is now 21. The governor has not signed the bill yet since it was passed in March but has 30 days for passage. Midlothian's current tobacco sales is 18 years old. Attorney Valadez noted that Park Ridge provides anti-vaping programs at the local high school. Park Ridge writes \$500 tickets for kids caught with vaping items on school grounds but also provides alternative remedies. He explained that if the student attends a two-hour program on the dangers of vaping, the fine is reduced to \$100. There was a long discussion by the Board. The Vaping Ordinance and possible future classes will be discussed further after passage of the bill.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Trustee Crowley** reported on the following:

- She provided an estimate from Public Safety Direct for the installation of the special lighting for the animal care and control officer's vehicle, which is per state statute to transport animals. The cost will be \$934.00. This will go forward at the next Board Meeting.
- Disposal of two vehicles – Lieutenant Amrein has made a recommendation to dispose Squad #405 which is a 2005 Ford Explorer. The vehicle has a lot of repair issues and outlived its usefulness for the Police Department but may be of interest to the Building Department. The second vehicle is a 2012 Honda Sonata and is a seized vehicle. The proceeds from the seized vehicle will go into the seized vehicle fund and the Explorer funds will go into the general fund. This will go forward at the next Board Meeting.
- There was discussion to engage into a contract with the University of Illinois Crime Laboratory to complete testing for marijuana presence for DUI traffic stops. The current crime lab tests for DUIs, but marijuana will no longer be available. Chief Delaney explained that when we arrest people for DUI and suspect cannabis or other drugs, the test kits are sent to the Illinois State Crime Lab but they only test for the presence of the drugs. Cannabis stays in our system for 30-days and they will need to break it down more to see if it was recently smoked. They will be able to provide the actual nanogram that are in their system to show that it was recently smoked. The state police crime lab does not test for the presence of cannabis and all convictions are tossed out since we are not able to prove the amount of cannabis in their system. The University of Illinois has their own forensic unit and will be able to test cannabis related DUI cases and will be able to provide the amount of nanogram in the person's system. The state's testing is free, but we have found we need the additional assistance and will need to pay for this service. Chief Delaney also explained that there is one way to circumvent our losses. We normally charge \$750 for a tow fee for an arrest of a DUI, so if it is related to cannabis, we may be able to charge an additional \$500 to offset the costs of the testing. This will go forward at the next Board Meeting.

- She will be asking at the next Board Meeting for the approval to post for a part-time Clerk position in the Police Department.

### **LEGAL BUSINESS**

Attorney Valadez reported on the following:

- He will be drafting a termination letter to IVCI requesting that the Village's retainer paid to IVCI be returned to the Village.

### **PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS**

Mayor L'Heureux reported on the following:

- He noted that the Board was in agreement of a Resolution to support a Class 8 for the property that is being leased by La Michoacana Azteca. The draft Resolution is being reviewed by Attorney Valadez and he will make sure that everyone receives a copy for future approval.
- He provided the Village Board with an invoice from the South Suburban Mayors and Managers' annual dues in the amount of \$11,461.00, which is based on our population. In answer to Trustee Caveney's email, the \$200 dinner assessment is for meeting dinners. This will go forward at the next Board Meeting.
- He was able to get in touch with Metra regarding the bus stop. He was referred to Bruce from ICMG, who is the vendor that installs the shelters, and advised that the request is in process. Jessica from RTA will be recommending to ICMG that the shelter be removed completely since ridership at that bus stop is low. They will leave the bus stop as is with the pad and bench, but no shelter.

### **CLERK'S BUSINESS**

Clerk Moskal reported on the following:

- He received a letter from the Salvation Army requesting permission to contact private business owners, such as Walgreens and Berkots to participate in their Red Kettle Campaign from November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no street corner solicitation. The Board was in agreement.

### **CLOSE OF BUSINESS**

There being no further business, Mayor L'Heureux asked for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Kreis and seconded by Trustee Caveney. Voice Vote: Ayes: Trustees Kreis, Caveney, Crowley, Gillis, Ivan, Kreis and Killelea. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board Meeting adjourned 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Allen Moskal, Village Clerk