

January 16, 2024

State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:01 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

Village Attorney Michael T. Del Galdo requested a motion to allow Trustee Savopoulos to participate remotely.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to allow Trustee Savopoulos to participate remotely.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

The Mayor thanked everyone for braving the cold and joining us. Our guest speaker was then introduced. House Speaker of the House of Representatives Chris Welch was then introduced. The Mayor welcomed him to the Village of Stickney. He is an exceptionally good friend to Stickney. He thanked everyone for coming out. The Mayor thanked the speaker for taking a moment out of his day to spend some time with us. He has a busy schedule. He is a fan of the Mayor as we are a fan of him. When the Mayor spoke to the Speaker's representative and asked if he could join us for a meeting. The Speaker was excited and wanted to see us, but he is working in Springfield at this time. A plan was formulated to accomplish this through our new Zoom format and iPads. He is the first to experience this opportunity. The Mayor continued to explain that the Village of Stickney is doing very well, and we are fully staffed with police and fire personnel. Our Public Works Department just took care of 5.3 inches of snowfall. They take care of our streets and our municipal buildings. They make us look great out there. We received many compliments. As an example, our Fire Chief Boyajian received compliments from Forest View, McCook, Hinsdale and Berwyn. The Mayor then asked our IT assistant Goran to scan the camera to introduce our Board and our Attorney Mike Del Galdo to the Representative.

Speaker Welch expressed his thanks to the Mayor and honorable Board of Trustees and his good friend Mike Del Galdo for being invited. He explained that today is the first day of the 2024 Session. We have officially kicked off the Spring Session of the year. We are currently scheduled to go through May 24, 2024. At that time, we hope to pass our sixth balanced budget. So far we have had five balanced budgets, three since he became Speaker in 2021. Those balanced budgets have seen Illinois nine credit upgrades in just the last two years. We are beginning our work today and are really looking forward to continuing that budget progress. These are some of the things the Mayor and I have talked frequently about and continue to talk about. He is a true advocate for the Village through and through the Local Government Distributive Fund. We call it the LGDF. Since he has become the Speaker we have increased the amount of dollars that has been going into the LGDF. As we begin our budget making season it is something that is at the top of the mind. As we do our part working here in Springfield to properly fund the LGDF, it helps if the local municipalities do what it

needs to do. The Mayor mentioned the successes in regard to snow removal and things of that nature. When the State can adequately fund LGDF that means less taxation upon the residents that has to take place from the local government. We are trying to do our part to properly fund your local government, local schools through our school fund and across the board. Last year we passed a \$60.4 billion dollar budget. The last revenue reports that we have been seeing are pretty positive. We do not actually have a revenue projection yet that we will be working on for the 2024 budget. All of you should be paying attention to February 21, 2024 when the Governor will come before the joint session of the Illinois General Assembly in the Illinois House to present the State of the State Address and budget address. This officially kicks off the budget making season. Watch the Governor come before us per the Constitution and give us that address. That is what we term an Introduced Budget. The Governor will make proposals. After February 21, the House and Senate will begin in earnest negotiating a budget that we hope to have concluded and passed by May 24th. The last three years the LGDF has been front and center in those negotiations. He anticipates Mayor Walik and all the other Mayors in the West Central Municipal Conference around the state to be here on February 21st and Lobby Days with the Illinois Municipal League like they have done. That has been extremely effective in helping us get done what we need to do. Your advocacy does matter folks. When you are here, your voices are heard when you do make the trip to Springfield to meet with your local representatives. Elizabeth Hernandez, your Representative, extended her greetings. She is the Chair of the State Democratic Party. She is also Deputy Majority Leader. Stickney is well represented in Springfield. Your Mayor not only has access to the local legislator, but he is a friend to the Speaker of the House. Questions for the Speaker were requested.

In closing, the Mayor questioned the Speaker's recent three-year anniversary as Speaker of the House. The Speaker said that today, he would be starting his fourth year as Speaker of the House. It has been the time of his life. The Mayor thanked him for being a fan of Stickney. We are a fan of yours.

The Mayor asked that Roll Call be taken.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee were present:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee Kapolnek moved, duly seconded by Trustee Torres to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic that the bills, approved by the various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which authorize the Village Treasurer to draw checks to pay the bills, to be signed by the authorized signers, as provided for by the Ordinances of the Village of Stickney.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Absent: Trustee Savopoulos

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor thanked the police and fire. The police will have an additional report. Chief Boyajian put on an extra set of guys. We had a couple of minor incidents, but they were taken care of. Public Works worked above and beyond. Within twenty-four hours they had the Village streets cleared, the Village properties cleared, and Pershing Road cleared. Everything was salted. It was 5.3 inches.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk told people about a meeting she attended today for the Kopper's Community Advisory Panel. There were a few of us invited. The Mayor, Trustees Hrejsa and Torres and also in attendance was Fire Chief Boyajian, Deputy Fire Chief Omari Silvera and Public Works Director Joe Lopez. We met at the YMCA in Berwyn and had a nice luncheon. The goal of the CAP is to improve communications between the company and the community. The objectives of the CAP include, but are not limited to:

1. Provide feedback and input from the community about plant operations and concerns and identify ways to improve communications with the community.
2. Provide information to the community from the plant about facility operations and concerns.
3. Provide a mechanism for the plant to obtain community feedback about plant ideas and plans.
4. Address related community/industry issues.
5. Provide a means to educate plant and corporate personnel about the community.

We had a good representation from the Village of Stickney. They are still looking for representative who work with the veterans and clergy. We are going to meet for times a year unless there is a need to do more. Stickney has had an exceptionally long relationship with Koppers, and it is a good rapport for us to have this level of input.

The Mayor then asked for people in the audience to raise their hands in approval of the screens and our projection of the Zoom meeting. He thanked Chief Sasseti, Beth Lukas, Public Works Sam Alanzo and IT representative Goran for accomplishing the new theater that has been established in our court room.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: All the trustees thanked Public Works for their excellent job of cleaning our streets after the latest snow/ice episode and for the Police Department getting the cars moved.

Trustee Hrejsa: He thanked Public Works and the Fire Department for their assistance at his home after a tree fell and took down power lines and charged his fence. Three houses were involved. He cannot say enough about the help he received. The Trustee had to evacuate himself, his wife and his dogs.

Trustee Milenkovic: He reminded us that the first meeting of the Midway Noise Compatibility will take place on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Mayfield Banquet Hall in the City.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian: He wished everyone Happy New Year. The course of events last Friday was amazing. Within a brief time, things became treacherous. At 8:00 a.m. we received a call of a tree limb on fire on the 4300 block between Clinton and

Grove. There was a large tree limb that went across feeder lines and affected the neighborhood. It was partially on the lines and partially on a garage. He walked into Trustee Hrejsa's yard and witnessed the wind blow the limb further down and take down even more wires. It was scary. The electric line did hit the chain link fence in that yard and followed it all the way down to Trustees Hrejsa's property and toward Oak Park Avenue. The base of the tree had 350 degrees of electricity going through the ground. When we used the Thermo-imaging camera looking through the ground, it looked like lava flowing through the ground. We kept our distance. We had lines in place in case any of the garages started on fire. His main concern was the safety of his guys and then if a garage started on fire. Some garages sustained some damage. One lost its electricity totally. Trustee Hrejsa property had no damage. Totally, the fire department answered ten calls concerning downed lines and tree limbs down. The ambulance calls were average over the weekend.

The Mayor mentioned that these are bad conditions. At least with the summer storms it is warmer. He talked to some officers from another town that had had a bad accident. They were taking five-minute shifts investigating the accident that had injury or death. It was five-minutes in and five-minutes out. The officers can't be out there.

Police Chief James Sasseti: He commended Joe Lopez and his personnel for the excellent job they did. It was his people collaborating with the police department. Unfortunately, he reported that our public information campaign of social media, Code Reds and other avenues to get the word out concerning the Friday to Saturday storm didn't reach everyone. They had to issue eighty-one parking tickets for people who refused to move their cars. Our goal is to issue no parking tickets. Which would mean everyone is moving their cars. We want to keep issuing that message. They also had to relocate twenty-one vehicles so public works could clear the streets before the temperature dipped. We just want to reinforce to the people the ordinance signage located on every block. He then quoted the law.

In addition, our call center report for the month of December was 2,493 calls.

The Mayor did comment that he had communicated with some of the officers and saw the cold, wet snow that they were wearing during the storm.

Public Works Director Joe Lopez: He thanked the police department for their help clearing the snow. He also thanked the Board for making the rules and regulations that help them clear the Village of snow. We were reminded that garbage should be on their regular schedule. Any changes would be posted on social media. A series of warnings were made relating to aged people clearing the snow. There were many tree limbs of all sizes that were broken during the storm. Public Works continued to pick up branches. He warned of black ice. There are four signs on each block informing people of the rules and regulations. Other informative information was provided. He asked people to protect their animal's paws.

The Mayor asked if Finance Director David Gonzalez had a report. There was none. The Mayor then asked him if he met with all the Trustees and Department heads. David Gonzalez said that he did, and all went well.

Beth Lukas, Administration Assistant had no report. The Mayor thanked her for helping to set this up.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 6th of February, 2024

Jeff Walik, President