

December 3, 2013

**State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 7:05 p.m. in the Stickney Village Hall, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:

Present: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and White

Absent: Trustee Sleigher

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to approve the minutes as amended of the previous regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2013.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and White

Absent: Trustee Sleigher

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos 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 Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and White

Absent: Trustee Sleigher

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez to pass and approve Ordinance 2013-13, "The 2013 Tax Levy ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2012 and ending April 30, 2013".

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees Lazansky

Absent: Trustee Sleigher

Nays: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Savopoulos and White

Mayor Morelli declared that the motion did not carry.

Prior to the vote Trustee David DeLeshe asked if this is the same one we discussed at the last meeting and if it will raise the taxes? Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka explained that yes, it is the same and yes, it will raise taxes. He went on to elaborate that there is a proposed increase in the police pension fund of \$9,787.00 and a slight decrease to the

Bond and Interest fund of \$2.20. Together they reflect an increase of \$2,907 or 0.09% increase. He forecasted an increase of \$.90. The conversation continued on the police pension funding extension to 2044 to be fully funded. Mr. Kasnicka explained the fund's actuarial auditor versus the state of Illinois recommendation. Trustee DeLeshe questioned the bottom line of the tax levy. The treasurer told him it was \$3,186,252. We were told that the police pension fund has the funding stuck at 35% to 40% for years. Trustees Savopoulos and White remarked that cuts should be made in spending. Trustee White said, "How can we ask people making \$25,000 a year and struggling to pay their property taxes now, to increase their property taxes and to give increases of any kind, to give someone like you (the treasurer) a raise to have a salary of \$80,000." Trustee Savopoulos remarked that he has always complained over the property taxes. He recommended making cuts. He felt people cannot maintain their homes due to the cost of the property taxes.

An audience member asked about the Hawthorne Race Track Property Tax Appeal. Kurt said that this issue was not going to be discussed tonight but it is a component. That will call for a 2.4% increase that will equate to \$24. That will be discussed separately. This affects the cash in the bank in the general fund and the ability to pay bills. The village has not had a balanced budget in a few years. We started off with a good level in the bank. But, as the balance goes down, we aren't going to have enough money in the bank for services. Trustee Savopoulos suggested that all board, county, state or township should cut taxes.

Treasurer Kasnicka recommended that perhaps the board should have a special meeting to discuss the expenditure side in order to control spending. The trustees should decide what level of services to provide and how we can save money. Trustee White said that, "In the real world, if you don't have money, you don't give raises." Trustee Lazansky remarked that there are signed contracts. He then gave examples of public works services. More examples were given of wasteful spending.

Treasurer Kurt Kasnicka directed people to focus on the tax levy. Trustee De Leshe finally asked that we all sit down and work on this and end this all at once. Why hit the residents with \$.90 now and \$2.00 in January, and so on. Let's look at it and not piece it along. Attorney Kreger suggested that they get this in committee and get it done by the end of the year.

Trustee Lazansky moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to approve the acquisition of 4026 Euclid Avenue for a sum of \$64,750.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and White

Absent: Trustee Sleighter

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote Attorney Donald Kreger explained that we were acting on behalf of Stickney Township and the Township is giving us the money. Mayor Morelli elaborated that this building is near the clinic. The building will be taken down and

the land will be used for additional parking. The money has already been transferred.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos to grant permission to the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana to conduct the Cook Order Program January 1-25, 2014 with delivery starting February 8, 2014.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees De Leshe, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos and White

Absent: Trustee Sleighter

Nays: None

Mayor Morelli declared the motion carried.

MAYOR REPORT: Louis Viverito, President Board of Health of Stickney Township wrote a thank you letter of appreciation to the Village of Stickney for their help in acquiring the property at 4026 Euclid under eminent domain. This will be a most needed improvement that will add extended parking at the clinic. Much can be accomplished by working together.

The Mayor then swore in newly appointed Ken Polivka to the Police and Fire Commission.

CLERKS REPORT:

In keeping with the new centennial tradition, Clerk McAdams read the following:

Fourteenth Installment of the Centennial Minutes

Trustee Javurek moved to place Resolution 1-97 on the April 1, 1997 ballot to acquire the property commonly known as 'Haley School' located at 40th Street and Grove Avenue in the Village of Stickney consisting of 13 lots, with the dimensions of 400' by 189' for an amount not to exceed \$780,000.

On June 17, 1998 a bid was accepted for the complete removal of two 1,000 gallon underground fuel storage tanks and all related pumping equipment at the Village Hall to R.W. Collins Company in the amount of \$3,700.

Ordinance 98-9 was passed on September 2, 1998 requiring a permit for garage, attic, basement or house sales and obtaining that permit fourteen days prior to the sale.

Trustee Javurek moved, duly seconded by Trustee Schimel to pass Ordinance 2000-14, "An ordinance setting salaries of the village President, Village Liquor Commissioner, Village Clerk and the Village Trustees." The salary of the President is set at \$21,500, the Liquor Control Commissioner \$3,500, Salaries of Trustees set at \$7,200 and salary of Village Clerk set at \$17,000.

A Resolution was passed on June 20, 2001 to appropriate a sum of \$95,000 of M.F.T. funds for the construction of a Road Salt Storage Building.

Ordinance 2002-11 reads in part: Any lot in a single ownership may be utilized for single-family residence purposes shall not be interpreted to reduce the buildable width of the corner lot or a corner lot and adjoining lot to less than 35 feet.

It was on February 5, 2003 that Trustee Dolezal moved to accept the Illinois State Police audit of Stickney Police Department's Evidence Room, as presented,

which refutes the allegations made that \$200,000.00, and other properties, were missing from the Stickney Police Evidence Room.

On January 7, 2003 a statement was made by Mr. Donald Kreger, the Village Attorney: "In the fall of 2000, the office of the Cook County State's Attorney instituted a grand jury investigation of the Village of Stickney. This investigation called for the production of massive amounts of documents and records, and interviews of numerous witnesses many of who were subpoenaed.

This very lengthy and thorough investigation failed to uncover any wrongdoing by an elected village official or the Police Chief and the Police Department. However, the investigation did result in the indictment and conviction of former Village Treasurer, Dora Madsen.

According to Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, Karen Stratton, in a sworn deposition, the grand jury investigation of any wrongdoing by any elected village official, including the Police Chief and Police Department, is completed and terminated and has been for quite some time."

Trustee Dolezal moved, duly seconded by Trustee Lazansky, that this statement be made an official record of tonight's meeting and be recorded as such in the minutes.

It was on May 19, 2004 that an amendment was made to the Municipal Code Relating to Ethics.

On May 4, 2005 an authorization was voted upon to change the limit of six to eight as the maximum number of children who may be in such a home; and to require that the applicant to submit a valid license issued by the Department of Children and Family Services of the State of Illinois; and to execute a Hold Harmless document, before the use permit will be issued.

It was on August 2, 2005 that ordinances were passed to add 'Municipal Gas Use Tax', 'Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax', and 'Municipal Tax on Electric Service'.

TRUSTEE'S REPORTS: Trustee Savopoulos commented on the tax levy. He stated that we could find \$.90 in a budget that was raised half-a-million dollars. We could find \$.90 to cut.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Chief John Sladetz reported that all the computer installs have been done on our squads. We are waiting for our carrier, Verizon, and our software company Capers, to complete their work later in the week.

Assistant Public Works Supervisor Doug Czech told us that new lights were put in at the recreation center, public works and the fire department. We received a grant to upgrade our lighting making it energy efficient. Part of the grant supplied a high-efficient LED light on 43rd and Oak Park to show us what it would look like. Any future grants could be used to improve residential lighting. We also were told that the project on 43rd and East Avenue is still going on. The project manager informed us that the project should be completed on December 20.

Fire Chief Larry Meyer remarked that the new perimeter lights on the fire station increase their intensity when they detect motion. It is a big improvement. We were given an update on a Firefighter FEMA Grant which we received last year. It was a \$50,000 grant and our share was 5% that equates to \$2,500. We spent \$2,700 for a

replacement fire hose, valves, and two power stretchers. These stretchers run on a DeWalt power tool battery. Two firefighters brought in one of these stretchers to show the audience. Each stretcher cost \$11,111. The feature will save possible back injuries. A demonstration was given. The stretcher can raise 700 pounds. A stair chair would still have to be used in certain situations. The Chief then spoke of the self-contained breathing apparatus equipment. These were originally bought from a grant. In today's world they are not compliant. They are maintained. They still function. They are starting to have trouble with them. The Chief is submitting an application for a grant this week. They would like to replace the old air packs. There is a need for 24. Each air pack is \$5,500.00, with \$900.00 for cylinders, and \$300.00 for each face piece. Trustee De Leshe asked how much this would cost if the grant doesn't go through. He learned that it could be \$250,000 to \$300,000. This would have to be done in steps. We also have a fifteen-year-old ambulance that needs to be replaced.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Gomez that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 18th day of December, 2013

Deborah E. Morelli, Village Mayor