

**September 17, 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, September 17, 2024, at 7:01 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:**

**Trustees Milenkovic, Torres, Hrejsa and Kapolnek**

**Absent: Trustees Savopoulos and White**

**Trustee Kapolnek moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:**

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

**Absent: Trustees Savopoulos and White**

**Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

**Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek 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 Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa**

**Absent: Trustees Savopoulos and White**

**Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

**Trustee Torres moved, duly seconded by Trustee Hrejsa to Approve payment of \$57,000.00 for Preliminary Architectural & Engineering Services Agreement for Proposed Community Center and Site Improvements at 41<sup>st</sup> and Ridgeland Avenue**

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:**

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

**Absent: Trustees Savopoulos and White**

**Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

**Prior to the vote the mayor explained that this afternoon he spoke to our Senator. This \$57,000 is coming out of a grant fund. Grant funds for the community center. He thought that is \$200,000 of the preliminary engineering services and site improvements. We will be receiving an additional \$3 million towards the community center all from grant funding. He reiterated that all this is through grant funding. The clerk asked where the \$3 million is from. She was told that all the funding is from our Senator. Again, the mayor said that the \$57,000 is from the \$200,000. The clerk mentioned that the engineer will give a presentation. The mayor also told us that he attended a Water Reclamation District meeting to ask for permission to build this.**

Trustee Hrejsa moved, duly seconded by Trustee Torres to grant permission to the Stickney-Forest View Lions Club to Solicit for “Candy Day” in the Village on Friday, October 11, and Saturday October 12, 2024.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:

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

**Absent:** Trustees Savopoulos and White

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** The mayor spoke of the successful Pet Fest the previous Saturday. There were a lot of volunteers there. Over one hundred hot dogs were served. He told the students in attendance to come forward after the meeting to have their paperwork signed.

**CLERK’S REPORT:** The clerk reminded everyone that it is National Suicide Prevention & Action Month. She read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS** September is known around the United States as “National Suicide Prevention and Action Month” and is intended to help promote and give attention to the Suicide Prevention services available to us. The goal is to speak openly about the topic of suicide to help erase the stigma surrounding it, and to direct those in need to the appropriate support services; and

**WHEREAS** Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

**WHEREAS** According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), 1,454 people died in Illinois by suicide in the year 2022 and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-34, 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 35-54, 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults aged 55-64 and 18<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 65 +; and

**WHEREAS** According to the U.S. Surgeon General Advisory, suicide is an urgent public health issue; and

**WHEREAS** Stickney, Illinois is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly state and place our full support by recognizing Suicide Prevention Month at our Village Board meeting; and

**WHEREAS** Illinois law requires that at least once every 2 years, licensed school personnel and administrators who work with children in grades K-12 be trained to identify the warning signs of mental illness and suicidal behavior in youth; and

**WHEREAS** Local organizations like Suicide Prevention Services (SPS), national organizations like the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and groups like Hope For The Day (HFTD) are on the front lines of a war that many still refuse to discuss, as suicide and mental illness remain too uncomfortable of a topic to talk about; and

**WHEREAS** People that are in crisis can call or text 988 anywhere in the nation to find help.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I **MAYOR JEFF WALIK**, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2024, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the Village of Stickney. I encourage all residents to take the time to check in with their family, friends, and neighbors on a regular basis and to honestly communicate their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer.

**In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Village of Stickney, this 17th day of September 2024.**

The clerk also reminded people of the Illinois Municipal League 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference September 19-21, 2024. It is not too late to register at the facility. She mentioned several of the classes available for every level of municipal office. She said that she had gone to these regularly and she was going alone for a long time. Please consider going.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:** Everyone wished Trustee Milenkovic a happy Constitution Day.

**Trustee Milenkovic:** The students were told to come up after the meeting to get their paperwork signed. We were then reminded of Operation Support Our Troops. "It was founded in 2003. This has become one of the largest volunteer-based military support organizations in the country. As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, they provide comfort and care at home and away to active-duty military, families, and veterans.

Their mission is to support the morale and well-being of American Forces by providing comfort, resources and education to them and their families both while they are deployed in harm's way and after their return. This is accomplished by providing a link between the citizens and military personnel of items that are not readily available to the troops in their deployed locations along with personal letters, cards, and notes of support from the community at large."

He thanked people for their generosity. As has been done in the past, we will be collecting donations for the troops. There will be a collection box at the Village Hall. Donations will be accepted through November 30, 2024. In addition, the Trustee informed people that today is Constitution Day or Citizenship Day. It is an American Federal observance recognizes the United States Constitution and those who have become United States citizens. It is observed on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the day in 1787 that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

**Trustee Torres:** The trustee thanked everyone for attending our Pet Fest. It was quite a success. There were a lot of helpers which included Joe Lopez, the police and fire departments. The next event will be the Halloween Fest. There will be a Haunted Hayride. We are looking for actors. She handles the pumpkin patch. There will be a bonfire. It is October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Trustee Hrejsa:** He promoted the Haunted Hayride and the pumpkin patch. We have a bunch of new volunteers. He has a sign-up sheet for volunteers. He is going to walk the actors through the woods a week before to orientate them.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** Everyone wished Trustee Milenkovic a Happy Constitution Day.

**Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian:** He informed us that the fire house day room and training area floors are being replaced. They should be finished tonight. The open house for the fire house is October 12<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He has been working with Trustee Kapolnek to get the information on the website. The mayor recommended that a Code Red be used to inform all the people of the event.

**Police Chief Jim Sasseti:** The Chief wished Trustee Milenkovic a Happy Constitution Day.

**Public Works Director Joe Lopez:** He told us that Oak Park Avenue construction is underway. The curbs and sidewalks have been grinded up. By Friday all of that should be done. By next week, they will start grinding out the street. It should be completed within two weeks.

There being no further business, Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2024

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Jeff Walik, President