

December 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, December 17, 2024, at 7:04 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa**

Trustee Torres moved, duly seconded by Trustee Hrejsa to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Wednesday, December 3, 2024.

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Absent: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

Trustee White 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 Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Absent: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Hrejsa moved, duly seconded by Trustee Torres to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2024-17, "An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Village of Stickney, Cook County, Illinois"

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Absent: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Pass and Approve Ordinance 2024-18, "An Ordinance Amending Chapter 22, Section 22-3 of the Municipal Code, Village of Stickney, Illinois Regarding Business License Regulations"

**Upon the roll call, the following Trustee voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Absent: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

After the vote, the mayor explained that this ordinance is just an update, noting new and it is just housekeeping.

CLERK'S REPORT: She alerted everyone that needs to fill out the Statement of Economic Interest from the Cook County Clerk's office that they should expect it sometime in February. She recently received the application to submit the list of SEI Filers.

At this point, the mayor asked Public Works Director Joe Lopez to come forward. We were told that Joe Lopez is retiring as of January 1, 2025. The following proclamation was read:

WHEREAS: Joe Lopez currently serves as the Director of Public Works in the Village of Stickney and;

WHEREAS: Joe Lopez has a long and distinguished history with service to the Village of Stickney and;

WHEREAS: Joe Lopez was hired by the Village of Stickney Fire Department back in 1988 and;

WHEREAS: Joe was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant with the fire department and;

WHEREAS: Joe retired from the fire department in 2017 and continued thereafter as the full-time Director of Public Works for the Village of Stickney and;

WHEREAS: Under Joe's leadership, the Public Works Department has improved streets, parks, appearance and operations of the Village of Stickney and its infrastructure and;

WHEREAS: In addition to his dedication to the Village of Stickney to Public Works, Joe regularly goes above and beyond for Village residents by cooking for our events and;

WHEREAS: Joe answers to Stickney as a leader, colleague, and friend and;

WHEREAS: Joe has dedicated his entire working career to the Village of Stickney and its residents;

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Jeff Walik, and the Board of Trustees would like to express our sincere thanks to Joseph for his life-long dedication to the Village of Stickney and congratulate him on his retirement from the Village of Stickney.

A prepared video presentation was now given of pictures and personal testimonials from employees and elected officials from the Village of Stickney. A much younger picture of Joe was also included. It was truly a wonderful sentiment of respect for his 35 years of service to the Village of Stickney and its residents.

The mayor thanked an assortment of people for planning this event. He now presented Joe with an engraved plaque that read: Congratulations for 35 years of dedicated service 1988 to 2024. Thank you for the service to the Village of Stickney.

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian presented Joe Lopez a shadow box for his 29 years of service to the Stickney Fire Department and the residents of the Village of Stickney.

Joe Lopez then spoke about his history with the village. He was hired in the fire department and then part-time in public works. He remembers lifting 55-gallon drums of garbage. He remembers his first accident call on Cicero Avenue. You will never forget that. In public works he learned the water system. He has learned from other people and other directors. Other directors could not believe he was leaving. In my heart it was time for me to go. I did not want to. In my heart I felt that if I could not give 110% each day that it was not worth it. I would be aggravated, and I would not make other people happy. I had to think about the residents, and I could not make them happy too. We have 6,000 plus residents and all the people passing through to worry about. I made up my mind that it was time for me to leave and pass it on to someone else. Over the last few months, I have been teaching the guys more. He named off the list of the employees he oversees. The girls in the front office were thanked for helping and coping with him. When he yelled at his employees, he just wanted them to do things the right way. He reminisced over how many people who work for the village were

classmates. He said that he grew quite a bit while doing this. His final thank you drew an applause.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Trustee White: He is happy for Joe. Whenever I needed something, he was respectful and helped me.

Trustee Savopoulos: He congratulated Joe. He had a nice ride. Joe was always responsive to anything I asked of him.

Trustee Milenkovic: He wanted to wish Joe the best. He gave seasonal greetings.

Trustee Torres: She is going to miss Joe. We do a lot together. She could not believe it when he said he was going to retire. We cook together. She wished him the best.

She mentioned that Trustee Milenkovic's birthday was missed on the day of the Christmas party. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to him. Then Trustee Torres told us that we also missed the birthday of Deputy Chief Chlada. The mayor also informed the audience that Clerk McAdams celebrated her birthday on December 8th.

The parties for the seniors and the kids' parties had the most people ever seen. The kids kept running in the hall. It was hard to send them home when the event was over.

Trustee Kapolnek: He will miss Joe and the snappy communication answers he gives. He also commended Joe and his crew and the way they cleaned up after the Christmas parties. They did a fantastic job. He wished him well in his retirement. He will miss him. He told people to have a blessed Christmas.

Trustee Hrejsa: He thanked everyone that helped at the Christmas party. He especially thanked Joe for his cooking. He told Joe that he runs a great department. You showed them how to do it.

At this point, Clerk McAdams asked if she could say something because she was not included in the video presentation. She said that she also liked dealing with Joe. He was always respectful when I needed help. We had great conversations about books. She wished him a healthy retirement. She wished his wife the same thing and to be happy in the years ahead. She said that she did not know about this recognition prior to today otherwise she would have done something for him.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian: He gave season's greetings. He wished Joe much happiness. He said he would miss him.

Deputy Police Chief Chlada: Stated that he will miss Joe and invited him to visit.

Financial Director David Gonzales: Told the people Merry Christmas. He congratulated Joe.

Comments from various people around the room were given concerning Joe Lopez. Public Works employee Doug Czech provided remembrances of growing up with Joe. While working in Public Works he had good times and bad times. He wished him good luck in his future endeavors.

Finally, the mayor described how Joe presented his letter announcing his retirement. At first, the mayor laughed it off. It took a couple of days to sink in.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk

Approved by me this 7th day of January, 2025

Jeff Walik, President