

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
GERALD C. TURRY VILLAGE BOARD ROOM  
MAY 16, 2023**

**Call to Order**

President Patel called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 6:03 P.M., Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in the Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room of the Municipal Complex at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Upon roll call by Deputy Village Clerk Charles Meyer, the following were:

PRESENT: President Patel, Trustees Klatzco, Diaz-Herrera, Sargon, Saleem, Halevi

ABSENT: Trustee Martel

A quorum was present.

Also present: Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, Assistant Village Manager Charles Meyer, Community Development Director Scott Magnum, Planning and Economic Development Manager Doug Hammel, Assistant to the Public Works Director Brendon Mendoza, and Assistant to the Village Manager Lamar Jones.

**Approval of Minutes**

The May 2, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Trustee Sargon moved to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. Trustee Klatzco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call, the results were:

AYES: Trustees Klatzco, Sargon, Diaz-Herrera, Saleem, Halevi.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Trustee Martel

The motion passed

**Regular Business**

**1. Discussion Concerning 2024 Infrastructure Program Design**

Acting Public Works Director Mike Reynolds provided a background on the infrastructure program by stating that in 2018 Village Board accepted the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Infrastructure Committee to resurface all of the Village's streets over ten years and replace all of the "poor" rated water mains and 15% of the "fair" rated water mains installed in the 1920s over the same period. Remaining roadways in need of immediate repair all require main water replacements. In 2021, Governor Pritzker signed the Lead Service Line

Notification and Replacement Act (LSLNRA) into effect as of January 1, 2022. In March of 2022, the Village submitted its 5-year Lead Service Line Replacement Plan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion in the State Revolving Loan Fund. The program entails replacing 2.94 miles of roadway, 2.48 miles of water mains, and 77 lead or unknown services at a design cost of \$430,350 and an estimated construction cost of \$7,780,000. Director Reynolds stated that Staff is seeking concurrence on the intended 2024 Infrastructure Program and the proposal from CBBEL for project design. With the Board's concurrence, staff will return to the June 6, 2023, Village Board meeting with a request to approve a design proposal from CBBEL for the design of the 2024 Infrastructure Program.

Trustee Sargon stated that she would like to see the 10-year infrastructure Program where we are and how much more we have to finish. She said that she would like to know the completion timeline due to having to replace lead lines and the cost implications with inflation.

Trustee Klatzco asked if the Village has heard any updates on funding for the lead line replacement plan.

President Patel stated that there are funds constantly being sought. The last funding source was for planning efforts and doing inventory.

James Amelio from CBBEL stated that when he spoke with the Grant Project Manager, the Manager informed him that more funding would likely not be with principal forgiveness. It wouldn't be grant money but a low-interest loan based on a municipalities incomes compared to other municipalities.

Trustee Sargon stated that they are most likely to get that grant funding when projects are shovel-ready, and money becomes available.

Trustee Martel asked about the scope of the lead service line and the plan for 2024.

President Patel asked if the Village plans to implement the pilot program for the 77 homes, and if any issues arise with the 77 households, the Village will revise the course of action regarding the 77 homes.

Village Manager Gaura stated that staff would report back to the Village Board after the conclusion of the lead service line pilot program and explain what is seen in the field, and the Board can state any policy changes they would like to make.

Trustee Klatzco asked when the pilot program is anticipated to be completed.

Director Reynolds stated that the anticipated completion date is December 1.

President Patel asked when the plan needs to be completed for the 2024 work.

James Amelio stated that completing the plan as soon as possible is the best practice because that would enable the Village to get the best pricing. If the Village can submit plans in December or January, the Village would be in good shape to get the best pricing.

Trustee Klatzco asked if there is a cost per foot to bring a water line into a house.

President Patel stated that the restoration inside the house is an unknown cost. Where the pipe sits inside the house, and its location would determine the price.

Trustee Sargon stated that there should be something that would state that the Village would not be liable or have a warranty for the work the Village did with a resident's water main.

Trustee Sargon stated that she thought before the pilot program began that there would be an outreach to the residents explaining the program and options.

President Patel said he is willing to go door to door to inform residents of the program.

Village Manager Gaura stated that staff would review the previous direction from the Board and have it at the next Committee of the Whole based on staff findings. Staff would either bring back the item or bring the item back on whether the Board would like to provide direction on the bid award.

James Amelio stated that bids would open on May 24, and staff can either leave everything as is, and if the numbers aren't favorable on the restoration scope, we would scrap it or state that we would give the contractor an allowance.

## **2. Discussion Concerning Paramedic Services of Illinois Agreement Amendment**

Fire Chief Barry Liss stated that Successful negotiations of a successor contract retaining fire protection and emergency medical services through Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc. was approved by the Village of Lincolnwood and went into effect May 1, 2022. The contract is a 4-year term ending April 30, 2026. On February 27, 2023, pursuant to section 3. C of the current contract, PSI provided the Village written notice desiring to re-open and negotiate the compensation for the agreement for year two starting May 1, 2023. To offer a more competitive starting wage, PSI proposes a \$5,000 increase in personnel wages. A national and statewide shortage of EMS personnel gives rise to increased demands, and recruitment and retention of qualified individuals remain difficult. In previous negotiations in 2022, the Village and PSI mutually agreed to a \$10,000 increase in contracted personnel wages.

Fire Chief Liss stated that despite the adjustment, the Lincolnwood contract continues to be lower than many comparable communities and other PSI-contracted services. To ensure the recruitment of future personnel and retention of existing personnel, PSI and the Village must remain competitive in the marketplace. Lincolnwood's current starting wage is \$60,000 or

\$5,000 lower than any of the current communities or contracts of PSI. PSI has demonstrated professionalism and a willingness to provide Village staff with a thorough statistical compensation analysis. Any increase in compensation will go directly to current employees. All existing contract employees would get a \$5,000 contract increase. The increased starting salary would be \$65,000 for all future recruitment.

Chief Liss stated that staff is seeking Consideration of the proposed PSI wage increase for year 2 of the current 4-year contract, providing a \$5,000 wage adjustment to each of the 28 assigned contract employees.

Trustee Sargon thanked Chief Liss for the presentation and PSI's professionalism. She said she favors the wage increase because she thinks it's important for the Village to stay competitive.

Trustee Klatzco asked how many hours are put into the \$60,000 annual figure.

Fire Chief Liss stated that \$60,000 comes to 2040 hours a year. The shifts are 24 hours on and 48 hours off.

The consensus is to move forward with the \$5,000 wage increase and bring the item for the Board's consideration at the June 6, 2023, meeting.

### **3. Discussion Concerning Multi-Tenant Office Building Signage**

Planning and Economic Development Manager Doug Hammel provided regulatory context regarding wall signs in multi-tenant properties by stating that Section 11.04(2)i.1. The Zoning Officer may authorize an additional wall sign for each distinct use within a business establishment, provided there is a separate exterior entrance for each such use; and Section 11.04(2)i.4. No wall signs shall be erected for individual tenants in a multistory, multi-tenant office or industrial building. At the April 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting, there was a discussion about whether a Text Amendment is warranted to allow wall signs for individual tenants of multi-tenant buildings. Two properties have recently been granted Zoning Variations from these provisions: 6540 N Lincoln: Multiple wall signs for tenants a) without exterior access and b) with more wall signs than would otherwise be permitted. 7250 N Cicero: Multiple wall signs for tenants a) without exterior access and b) in a multi-story office building. Mr. Hammel stated that some policy questions for the Village Board to consider are should the Zoning Code allow certain individual tenants of multi-story office buildings to install exterior wall signs? If so, what criteria should be used to determine which tenants of such buildings are permitted to have an exterior wall sign? Should there be certain limitations related to the total maximum number of tenant wall signs?

Mr. Hammel stated that staff is seeking a discussion of policy questions presented by staff and a referral of the matter to the Plan Commission for a public hearing at a future date.

Trustee Sargon stated how many applications for the signage the Village has received over the last two years.

Doug said there have been three requests in the last two years.

President Patel stated that there had been three in two years, but two applications were after the April 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Trustee Sargon stated that if the Board was to move forward with any changes, we should specify what requirements we are allowing because having too many signs could also result in a problem.

Trustee Martel stated that the Board should discuss whether it is worth adjusting the code, and he thinks it matters how the Board makes those adjustments. He said that what he doesn't want to see is applicants come to the Zoning Board of Appeals and not show a clear need for the signage. He stated that it is tough to justify special signage use. He said he agrees with Trustee Sargon that a building should have as few signs as possible.

Trustee Klatzco stated that he agrees that there is a need for regulation. However, he noted that he doesn't think it's fair for someone renting on a strip mall and everybody has their own sign, and for someone in a multi-tenant building, the Board has to consider how they get the same treatment. He said that because in a strip mall, everyone should have a sign that is going to be tasteful and isn't all over the premises.

Trustee Diaz-Herrera stated that she thinks our multi-tenant signage policy needs to be more specific. She stated that she doesn't think there should be many signs on multi-tenant buildings because that's the type of building in which the business owners choose to be located. She said a monument sign on multi-tenant properties should be the best option.

Trustee Sargon stated that the Plan Commission should discuss when someone puts up a wall sign and moves out two years later.

President Patel stated that would be a landlord-tenant issue.

Trustee Diaz-Herrera asked if the landlords were involved in the multi-tenant signage approval process.

President Patel stated that the landlord has to sign off on the application.

Trustee Halevi stated that a monument sign would be more practical. She stated that an issue she has seen is that some multi-tenant buildings' address signs are often difficult to find on the building.

President Patel stated that there is a lot of sign clutter in the Village, and he thinks it's important to look at the Village Code and see what it is achieving. He thinks that the current Village Code isn't minimizing sign clutter. He stated that he knows that signage is important to businesses, and the Board should look at the best signage policy.

President Patel stated that the Village Board should be sending input to the Plan Commission.

That the Village Board came to a consensus that they did not want sign clutter and would like the Plan Commission to define what sign clutter is. Furthermore, the Village Board requested that the Plan Commission provide focused and specific feedback and guidelines, including sign measurements and examples.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Sargon moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 7:35 P.M., seconded by Trustee Halevi.

The meeting was adjourned by roll call vote.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,



Chuck Meyer  
Deputy Village Clerk