

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 3, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Village President Bass called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 6: 05 P.M., Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook and State of Illinois.

On roll call by Village Clerk Beryl Herman the following were:

PRESENT: President Bass, Trustees Hlepas Nickell, Ikezoe-Halevi, Patel, Sargon, Klatzco, Cope

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

Also present: Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager; Heather McFarland, Assistant to the Village Manager; Steven Elrod, Village Attorney; Jon Bogue, Management Analyst; Steve McNellis, Community Development Director; Jay Parrott, Chief of Police; Renee Minneci, Scribe

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 4, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Halevi moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

The motion passed by Voice Vote.

**Regular Business**

**1. Discussion Regarding Permissibility of Video Gaming**

This item was presented by Steve McNellis, Community Development Director, using PowerPoint.

**Background**

\*In July, 2019, the State of Illinois authorized video gaming through the Video Gaming Act/

\*Requirements established as part of this act include:

- Must be open to the Public (video gaming machines for 21+ only)
- No more than six machines permitted per business location
- Operated only with a valid liquor license that allows for on-premises consumption (also permitted at truck stops and fraternal/veterans organization)
- 100' minimum separation (building to building) from religious institutions and schools.

\*Original intent of liquor license requirement was to assist bars/restaurants impacted by 2009 Smoke Free Illinois Act.

\*State requires Municipalities to opt-out to prohibit video gaming.

- Lincolnwood opted-out in 2010.

\*Request by Laredo Hospitality in 2016 to repeal prohibition and permit a video gaming establishment at 3934 -50 West Devon. (Northeast corner of Devon and Crawford).

\*Request was for a new video gaming café with five terminals and a bar.

\*Village Board debated economics, public safety, aesthetics and community image in considering the request.

\*Public response was sought through notification (Village website and social media) of a public discussion at a subsequent COTW.

\*EDC weighed-in and recommended maintaining the prohibition.

\*At June 2016 COTW there was a consensus of the Board to continue the prohibition on video gaming.

#### Current Request

(Aerial photos of the areas of the request were exhibited)

\*Lucky Bar Café LLC is requesting consideration of one-two video gaming cafes at: 4700 West Touhy Avenue and 3936 West Devon Avenue.

\*Both locations appear to meet the State-mandated separation of 100' from a school or religious institution.

\*Parking could be a concern at 4700 West Touhy Avenue.

\*Proposal is similar in nature to other Video Gaming Café concepts:

- Five video gaming terminals
- Bar, with limited food menu

#### Considerations

In determining whether or not to opt in to video gaming, Staff recommends the following be considered:

1. Cook County communities that have "opted-in":

\*124 communities in Cook County:

- 93 (75%) have opted-in
- 26 (21%) have opted-out
- 5 (4%) unknown or limited in their permissibility

2. Financial Considerations:

- Current State Tax is 33% of earnings (increasing to 34% on July 1,2020)
- 83 of tax goes to State of Illinois
- 17% distributed to municipalities

\*Examples of revenue distribution (to municipalities) in communities closest to Lincolnwood:

1. Village of Niles – 20 establishments generated \$444,527 in municipal revenues in 2019 (Average \$15,000 per location) Range = \$1,797 to \$51,105

2. Village of Morton Grove – 9 establishments generated \$307,031 in municipal revenues in 2019 (\$34,000 per location) Range = \$7,787 to \$55,274

3. Village of Harwood Heights – 5 establishments generated \$27,105 in municipal revenues in 2019 (Average - \$5,421 per location) Range = \$111.56 to \$11,678

4. Village of Norridge – 10 establishments generated \$246,324 in municipal revenues in 2019 (Average - \$25,632 per location) Range = \$8,525 to \$36,710

**\*Public Safety**

Chief Parrot reached out to the following communities, all of whom reported no law enforcement issues or increase in calls for service:

Village of Niles, Village of Morton Grove, Village of Harwood Heights, Village of Norridge and Village of Mount Prospect

Mount Prospect also noted that during their research in mid-2018, they conferred with the following communities, and found that they too reported no law enforcement issues or increase in calls for service:

Village of Buffalo Grove, City of Prospect Heights, Village of Hoffman Estates, Elk Grove Village, Village of Wheeling

**\*Zoning and Liquor Code Regulations – potential regulations include:**

A. Permissible Zoning Districts – Commercial

B. Regulate through a Special Use – Yes or No

C. Liquor Code Classification – Allow with existing or create new

D. Increase separation requirements or add new requirements from other uses (e.g. Parks)

E. Limit number of gaming terminals

F. Regulate operational aspects:

- Service of food
- Hours of operation
- Floor area requirements
- Limit outside advertisement

Zoning Districts were exhibited.

Requested Action

Prospective applicant is seeking feedback from the Village Board regarding the permissibility of video gaming in Lincolnwood, as well as feedback on their particular proposal and proposed locations.

Trustees Sargon, Patel, Halevi and Klatzco and President Bass know these applicants.

Applicants Billy Hido and Ramsin Benjamin addressed the Board. Mr. Benjamin stated that he has a vested interest in Lincolnwood, he doesn't live here but he has many friends and family members here. They would never do anything to cheapen the village. They do not want to have gaming near or in a family restaurant. The fees can be per machine, per license can increase revenue.

Trustee Sargon opposes the use of gaming. There are other issues that more important. Trustee Sargon stated that she opposes the use in Lincolnwood for multiple reasons. She stated that it does not fit with the vision and image of what the residents in Lincolnwood would like to see the rest of the commercial use being filled with. Trustee Sargon stated that personally it is an ethical issue and that gambling and addiction impacts families. Trustee Sargon also stated that the proposed sites are near a church, synagogues and a mosque and members of those communities have reached out to her with issues of a gaming facility near religious institutions.

Trustee Nickell asked the applicant what his reason was to be here. Was district 74 consulted? The response was no, it was not out for public comment

Trustee Cope mentioned there are several religious establishments and asked Mr. McNellis where they were located on the map.

Trustee Halevi asked what the applicants have to offer for the community. The applicant responded that there are no gaming facilities in the village. The residents are going to other cities yet passing through Lincolnwood. He would like to bring an upper-class location and type of gaming facility.

Trustee Klatzco stated there will need to be a new liquor license for this class. We do have high property taxes and this would be a good way to have revenue to offset the taxes. He is not particularly for or against. Can we put the license issue on another agenda at another meeting? He also noted that we have a pension obligation which could be helped by extra revenue. We should have a referendum from the Village Board and talk to the residents.

Attorney Elrod stated that if we opt-in to the state program it must be where liquor is served on the premises, after which the procedure is up to the Village. Mr. Elrod also mentioned that if there was to be land use, they can get a testament to get the zoning code changed. The difference between that and OTB (Off Track Betting) it is not a village issue. The applicants need the village to change their mind.

Trustee Patel asked if this was sent to the Plan Commission previously? Laredo and Blackhawk were the companies that previously asked the Village about Gaming in 2016. Trustee Patel also stated that there were 5 or 6 meetings in the past.

Trustee Patel asked if this has gone to the Plan Commission. This is a use that would help the character of Lincolnwood. There is something in the law that says if you have a liquor license you can have a gaming license. As a member of the finance committee we need to review all the options on where we would get our revenue. We need to have the plan commission review

the locations of where we could have these video gaming facilities considered. Residents do not like the change that would happen in Lincolnwood.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that there are several places within Niles where there is a small cluster of Video Gaming and is not sure about the success of the businesses. She would like to have more feedback.

President Bass:

Applicant 3 – Erin Bolenchek mom of 4. Cons outweigh the pros. Gambling does not promote hard work and ethical values. It does bring misery to those that cannot afford to gamble. Please vote no.

Applicant 4 – Louis (?) He is half owner located at the 4700 shopping center for 5 years. Is for the Video Gaming. He is aware of the parking issues. There would be more than enough due to the retail stores that around there. There is also parking behind the building and on the West side. The retail market is dwindling due to Amazon. It is getting more and more difficult. The pros in his opinion would be to crack the ice for the city.

Applicant 5 – Jay (?) He was caught off guard by how the revenue was for the city. We are drawing the families here from other communities.

Poll to the Planning Committee:

Trustee Sargon voted No

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that we need to do a better job with the Park District and Park Board. Voted No

Trustee Cope stated the world has changed, and the hypocrisy of politicians they would play the lottery, drugs. There is not a lot of money, small amount of money. Always thought Lincolnwood is a family community. Should our municipality make that decision? Back in 2016 on Devon Ave. there was not really much benefit to our community.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that Lincolnwood is very conservative. If this city was a bit bigger, I would have to say no.

Trustee Klatzco stated gambling is everywhere. We should have an open and public hearing and send this to the Planning Board.

Trustee Patel The businesses need to understand and should have a public hearing

4 – no  
2 – yes

There is no consensus.

Per President Bass - Final call was that the Board will not consider moving forward with the Video Gambling issue.

## **2. Discussion Regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement with School District 74**

This item was presented by Andrew Letson and our Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Village Manager Gaura stated that she meets monthly with the School District about this agreement.

Andrew requested to Staff about use of the Village Facilities at no cost, wave taxes, would provide vehicle stickers. These are all existing Crossing guards' Wireless alarms Annual and Monthly fees.

Todd Hall is used for after school sports

Rutledge Hall for our kid program

Lincoln Hall open gym on Friday's.

The School District uses this room for school board meetings. The schools will provide their own AV operators and we will have the final say if we want to use them or not. All School Board meetings are broadcasted on our public channel.

The agreement will expire in 2024 and all parties would come together to go over the new policy. All will provide proof of insurance to use the facility once a new agreement is mandated.

There is no financial impact on the village. We will provide all scavenger service

Looking for feedback;

Trustee Hlepas Nickell mentioned our Village manager needs to pass it off to staff. Our Village staff needs to pass along our draft to speak to our Superintendent.

Village Manager Gaura spoke with the Superintendent and discussed this in the past 2 meetings, the agreement would include all of the committees.

Trustee Cope – why are we paying for the School district to use the scavenger service?

Trustee Klatzco stated we are not paying for rental of the rooms.

President Bass interjected and mentioned this was discussed in a previous meeting.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell It all comes out of the tax payers in the long run. This was discussed in the past that the tax payers are overall paying for all this. At the end of the day it would even out.

Trustee Patel stated to make sure we work closely with the school districts. We have a facility with District 74 and Lincolnwood that sits dark 65% of the time. Talked about a community center with a fitness center and gym when there is the facility that we share go there for free. Glad little league goes there, however our camps take the kids out of the village.

Anna Koperski-Walsh, the new Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, was introduced to the Village Board.

**Public Forum**

None

**Adjournment to Closed Session**

At 7:15 P.M. Trustee Patel moved to adjourn the meeting to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Employment Matters Per Section 2(c)(1), seconded by Trustee Sargon.

**Reconvention**

At 7:27 P.M. Mayor Bass reconvened the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 7:27 P.M. Trustee Patel moved to adjourn Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

The motion passed by Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beryl Herman  
Village Clerk