

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MEETING HELD VIA GOTO MEETING AND  
AVAILABLE LIVE AT WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/  
JULY 7, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Village President Bass called the Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees VIA gotomeeting to order at 6:01 P.M. Tuesday, July 7, 2020, meeting held via GOTO Meeting and available live at WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Before calling the roll the Village President read into the record the requirements for public comments for later in the meeting.

On roll call by Assistant Village Manager, Chuck Meyer the following were:

PRESENT: President Bass, Trustees Klatzco, Sargon, Hlepas Nickell, Patel, Ikezoe-Halevi, Cope  
ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

Also present: Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager; Chuck Meyer, Assistant Village Manager; Heather McFarland, Assistant to the Village Manager; Jon Bogue, Management Analyst; Robert Merkel, Finance Director; Andrew Letson, Public Works Director; Steve McNellis, Community Development Director; Jay Parrott, Police Chief; Anna Kaperski-Walsh, Superintendent Parks and Recreation Department; Melissa Rimdzius, Director of Parks and Recreation; Doug Hammel, Development Manager;

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of June 2, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting and the June 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell moved to approve the minutes of June 2, 2020 and June 16, 2020 Committee of the Whole meetings, seconded by Trustee Klatzco.

Village Clerk Herman called the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Sargon, Hlepas Nickell, Ikezoe-Halevi, Klatzco, Cope, Patel  
Nays: None

The motion passed.

## **Regular Business**

### **1. Discussion of Issuance of General Obligation Bonds**

This item was presented by Robert Merkel, Finance Director, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Merkel discussed the issuance of General Obligation Bonds to fund Year 2 of the Roadway Resurfacing Project to be funded by the Motor Fuel Tax fund. Mr. Merkel explained the resolution to allow costs already incurred to be funded by bond proceeds and that staff will present an ordinance about the issuance of these bonds at the next Village Board Meeting.

Financial advisor, Eric Anderson presented on this item. Mr. Anderson summarized the state of the market and demonstrated the market being very receptive to municipal bonds at this time. Mr. Anderson then presented the debt structure for issuing the bonds and summarized characteristics of the borrowing this year using private placement. Mr. Anderson presented the timetable of events related to the issuance of GO bonds including an expected ordinance to be presented on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked if the numbers estimated are considering the possible drop in the MFT fund.

Mr. Merkel confirmed that it is a conservative estimate and that there is a healthy fund balance for MFT. Mr. Merkel reiterated that the ordinance will be presented next board meeting.

The Mayor stated that the consensus of the Board was to proceed forward with the recommended programs and dates as presented by staff.

### **2. Discussion Concerning Strategic Plan Goals and Priorities**

This item was presented by Chuck Meyer, Assistant Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Meyer explained that the Strategic Plan would be organized by theme instead of by department in the categories of Safety, Development, Infrastructure and Service. The goals outlined in the plan derive from goals previously stated by the board. Mr. Meyer began by summarizing the goals in the Safety Category.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked why safety goals related to COVID-19 were not included in the plan.

Mr. Meyer explained that these goals were presented before the shutdown and that the village is actively responding to the pandemic. Mr. Meyer expressed the desire to work with the board to ensure their will is taken into consideration with these goals.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell recommended removing one of the stated goals in order to prioritize COVID issues.

Trustee Sargon agreed and recommended tabling the Youth Citizens Academy for now in order to prioritize goals related to COVID.

President Bass agreed about tabling the Youth Citizens Academy but expressed that the goal related to emergency training is essential to include and may be related to COVID issues.

Trustee Sargon agreed with President Bass that the emergency operations plan is very important but emphasized the importance of prioritizing the response to COVID in addition to the EOP.

President Bass suggested that some of the costs associated with sensitivity training and mental health training for officers may be able to be offset by grants.

Village Manager Gaura expressed that she would be happy to add a goal related to COVID. As for the Youth Citizens Academy, she recommended consulting Chief Parrott.

Police Chief Jay Parrott acknowledged that the Youth Citizens Police Academy, is a good program but may be logistically impossible to hold given the circumstances. He concurred with the board's suggestion to table the program for now.

Mr. Meyer then summarized the goals related to Development. There were no questions related to these goals.

Mr. Meyer then presented the goals related to Infrastructure.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked for an update on the advanced phases of the storm sewer project that would include the area north of Touhy.

Director of Public Works, Andrew Letson explained that Stage 2 is still under design and that the area north of Touhy and west of Crawford had to be omitted as part of that phase. Mr. Letson explained that Stage 3 should be in the design phase next year and that there is a plan to reevaluate what will need to be done in that omitted area later.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell expressed that the later phases should be included in this update.

Mr. Letson explained the focus of the presented goals.

President Bass asked when we may anticipate seeing the conclusions of the flooding surveys.

Mr. Letson explained that Public Works is still receiving responses from the surveys and that the data will be analyzed once the responses slow down.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell again expressed a desire for the goals presented to focus more on future phases of these projects and to expand on what will be done in the omitted area north of Touhy.

Trustee Klatzco requested that the Ad-Hoc Sewer Committee be revisited after the current phases are completed to determine whether or not we move on to the next phases.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell expressed her expectation that the goals outline what will be done moving forward opposed to current projects underway.

Trustee Sargon stated that it would be helpful to think about other ways to help the residents in the area that was removed from the project.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked how many homes are in the omitted area.

Mr. Letson confirmed the area includes almost 400 homes and that there are other projects underway that will benefit that area. Mr. Letson expressed that as the project progresses, more data is being collected that can help refine future plans, therefore, it makes sense to wait before reviewing future phases.

Mr. Meyer presented the goals in the Service category of the plan. These goals included: IT upgrades, reviewing of the personal policy manual, a media tool for Community Development, reviewing of Fence and Sign Codes, updates to the aquatic center, assessment of after school programs, a plan for attracting sponsorship for Parks and Recreation, and a plan for moving FOIA requests related to the Police Department, GIS enhancement, and a plan for properly implementing the pension consolidation bill.

Trustee Klatzco affirmed the importance of these goals.

Trustee Sargon suggested auditing the existing programs in Parks and Recreation to assess where there is a need in the community for programming as well as to conduct a cost benefit analysis of the current classes offered.

Mr. Meyer confirmed that her suggestion could easily be incorporated into the existing goals.

Trustee Patel expressed concern over this discussion being used as a placeholder for a meeting to discuss the strategic plan in more detail. He suggested resuming the process of creating a more comprehensive strategic plan.

Mr. Meyer confirmed that the process of developing the plan will continue in May 2021. These are the short term goals of the staff but the intention is to bring it back to the board to complete.

Village Manager Gaura stated that in addition to having that full strategic plan discussed in May of 2021, it can be added as an item on the next board meeting to be discussed in more depth.

Trustee Patel expressed a desire a more concerted planning effort before May of 2021.

Trustee Sargon stated that we are missing opportunities for residents to engage with these goals. She suggested hosting roundtables for them to voice their concerns.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that the goals should reflect the Board's decision to hire a full-time code enforcement officer. She expressed a desire for more commitment to enforcement be reflected in the goals.

Village Manager Gaura stated that a goal related to enforcement will be written and brought to the directive of the board at the next meeting.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell further articulated her frustration about the absence of a commitment to enforcement in these goals. She stated a desire to continue working on the strategic plan to rectify the disconnection between this plan and the board's goals.

Ms. Gaura stated that revisions to the plan will be made based on the board's comments and will be brought to the next board meeting.

President Bass asked if the board agreed.

Trustee Cope expressed concern about the consolidation of the pensions and stated he would like to see a presentation on how this consolidation will benefit Lincolnwood.

Ms. Gaura confirmed that she will coordinate with the auditors and Finance Department to give a presentation as soon as possible.

Mr. Merkel stated that audit is currently underway and that more information on the status of the pension fund is needed before a presentation can be given.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi expressed concerned about whether the Village will get back what it contributes to the pension fund.

President Bass concludes that additional information about the strategic plan will be discussed at the next board meeting.

### **3. Discussion Concerning Community Branding**

This item was presented by Charles Meyer, Assistant Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Meyer asked if the board would like to revisit the rebranding initiative that was previously discussed and if so, what their desired outcomes would be. Mr. Meyer shared some of the new logo options that were previously designed.

Trustee Klatzco stated that he likes the current logo with President Lincoln because it stands out compared to other logos.

President Bass suggested a refresh to the current logo.

Trustee Sargon stated she is open to refreshing the current design but does not want to stray too far from the current logo and its importance to the community. She expressed doubt about whether rebranding is something that should be addressed right now for financial reasons.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell agreed that now is not the time to address rebranding considering all of the current challenges faced by the Village.

Trustee Klatzco agreed that rebranding should be put off for now and affirmed the importance of the current logo with President Lincoln.

Trustee Patel agreed that the current logo stands out and he did not see a need for changing it at the moment beyond a slight refresh. He suggested taking advantage of the branding opportunity to place the logo on police vehicles.

President Bass agreed with the need for a refresh and affirmed the idea of branding police vehicles.

Trustee Cope stated that he does not think the existing logo needs to be changed but that we should consider more branding opportunities.

Trustee Patel complimented the new park signs that were recently installed.

Trustee Sargon stated that there may be opportunities for selling things with the current logo.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell suggested bringing back the street banners if possible as a branding opportunity.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that now is not the time to focus on rebranding and shared that the new designs already look outdated. She suggested that District 1860 may bring a different perspective for branding.

President Bass concluded that the logo should stay for now and continue to be utilized but the discussion on rebranding would be revisited at a later time.

#### **4. Discussion Concerning Restaurant Incentive Program**

This item was presented by Charles Meyer, Assistant Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Trustee Sargon stated that logistically it does not seem like a realistic project for Lincolnwood.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that it segregates the restaurants and other businesses in Lincolnwood. She suggested sitting down with the business owners to hear what their needs are.

Trustee Patel stated that the Village should keep doing what it can to help local businesses but agreed this program does not make sense for the scale of Lincolnwood. He thanked staff for looking into it.

Trustee Cope expressed concern that the program may not be effective in Lincolnwood and thought the issue is more about people not being able to go out to restaurants due to COVID.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi agreed that we should not continue with the program but was happy that we were able to offer a reduction in license costs.

President Bass concluded that the board was in agreement not to continue with this program but to remain committed to helping local businesses.

## **5. Discussion Concerning Local Internship Program**

This item was presented by Heather McFarland, Assistant to the Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Ms. McFarland explained that this program was a board recommended project to help facilitate connections between Lincolnwood students and business to create internship opportunities. The program would require hiring a staff. She explained this program would be in addition to the two internships that are currently in place in the Village. Ms. McFarland asked if the board is interested in developing the program.

Trustee Klatzco emphasized the importance of internships but did not think the Village should spend money on this program.

Ms. McFarland clarified that the program would not be for internship opportunities within the Village but for opportunities at local businesses.

President Bass stated that the Village could help to get the word out but that businesses should take it from there.

Trustee Sargon suggested partnering with the chamber of commerce to get this kind of program going.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell agreed that the Village should partner with the chamber instead of draining our staff's resources. She stated the importance of sharing opportunities with Lincolnwood residents first before sharing with schools in outside communities.

Ms. McFarland asked for clarification on if the board was seeking additional Village internships in addition to the ones that we have. She stated that there may be costs associated with making sure interns have workspaces and materials.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that more internships within the village could be helpful in filling a void of work that may be done and would be helpful to young people seeking experience.

Trustee Patel supported the idea of an internship program but understands that there may be challenges. He stated he would be willing to offer his time as a trustee to mentor people in lieu of an internship.

Trustee Cope stated that he did not think the village should get involved in providing any internships or mentorships outside of those already offered. He suggested collaborating with the chamber of commerce to produce a list of opportunities with local businesses to be sent out in the newsletter.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that she did not support an internship program at this time as it may be an issue with schools under the current challenges with the pandemic.

President Bass concluded that the board agreed to collaborate with the chamber of commerce on this item.

## **6. Discussion Concerning Flags of Diversity Program Funding and Fees**

This item was presented by Charles, Meyer, Assistant Village Manager, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Meyer stated that the Village restarted the program in 2019 and that the HRC recommended that the program be held again in August. Public Works assessed the cost to put the flags up again this year would be \$800.

Mr. Meyer asked for direction from the Board as to if they would like to continue the Flags of Diversity Program this year.

Trustee Klatzco suggested that the Village should be paying for the American flags as those are used for other purposes outside of this program. He asked if the \$800 estimate included replacing those flags.

Mr. Meyer confirmed that the 17 American flags were included in the estimate.

Trustee Klatzco reiterated that the American flags should not be included in the diversity program but that he supported soliciting funds for the flag diversity program.

Village Manager Gaura made it known that there was a resident present to make a statement about the flags of Diversity Program.

Trustee Sargon agreed the Village should be covering the cost of the American flags. She asked if the HRC would be open to supplementing this program. Trustee Sargon also offered to make a donation to the program.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell agreed.

Trustee Patel agreed and also offered to supplement the program with a donation.



Trustee Cope emphasized the importance of unity within our own country but supports the program because of the community's interest in it.

Trustee Cope then stated that he needed to leave the meeting and thanked everyone for their condolences on his recent loss.

It was then made known that a resident was present to speak on this item.

Resident, Alan Kahn, stated that he has been a resident of Lincolnwood for 52 years. He voiced his rejections to placing a flag for Palestine as part of the Flags of Diversity Program. He voiced that, in today's climate, the symbol of statues of slaveholders are not any different than this flag that represents the killing and hate of citizens of Israel.

## **7. Discussion Concerning the Keeping of Hens**

This item was presented by Jon Bogue, Management Analyst, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Bogue compared Lincolnwood's policy on keeping hens to that of six other communities as well as overviewed the benefits and concerns associated with keeping hens. Mr. Bogue asked the board whether they would like to explore the option of allowing the keeping of hens in Lincolnwood.

Trustee Klatzco stated that he is not in favor of changing the current policy as he sees enforcement of regulations will be difficult.

Trustee Sargon stated that she is open to the idea but is concerned about the long term and short term impacts especially during this time. She suggested a pilot program in the future.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that she is not closed to the idea but is concerned about regulation issues. She requested more information about the complaints that have come up in other communities.

Trustee Patel stated that he sees the benefits but agreed that more information is needed.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi shared some research on the topic related to the concerns she had about allowing for the policy change and animal safety. She stated that she was concerned about the public educating themselves enough on the topic.

President Bass concluded that the board has some concerns and would like time to consider the policy.

Mr. Meyer stated that a resident was present in the council chambers to share their thoughts.

Resident, Samuel Phillips advocated for allowing the keeping of hens in the community. He stated that it allows people to grow their own food and offers a more sustainable way for Lincolnwood residents to live.

Mr. Meyer read emails from residents into the record.

From resident, Sharon Mau:

I am all for allowing chickens to reside in Lincolnwood as long as there are no roosters and all humane guidelines are followed.

From resident, Maria L Therese:

Please read this at the village meeting 7/7/20 as I cannot attend due to having to be at work when the meeting is scheduled.

I have been a resident in Lincolnwood since 1985. I am asking the board to change the law and allow residents to have chickens. Our neighbors in Evanston have successfully shown that chickens live harmoniously in residential settings. We have a good model to follow in our midst! Many other communities from Chicago to Rolling Meadows allow chickens! Lincolnwood allows for pigeons already. Chickens are far easier to keep! In the year of Covid, when we could not find Charmin or eggs at Costco, we can at least be a little more self-sustaining having chickens in our community. We have a food source and a possible way to help ourselves and our neighbors with eggs. Our children can help learn to care for animals as well making for a family project. The village can create a license for more income to have chickens. It is win win for all! I appreciate your time and support on this matter.

From resident, Angela Gikas:

Hello Lincolnwood! Hope everyone is well! I think chickens are great! Reminds me of my childhood summers in Greece. My brothers and I would have fun chasing them around all day!

#### Benefits of Raising Backyard Chickens

Chickens lay eggs. ...

Chickens create excellent fertilizer. ...

Chickens make great pets. ...

Chickens help clean your yard. ...

Chickens are like a natural garbage disposal. ...

Chickens are fairly easy to take care of compared to other family pets...

Chickens help control bugs and weeds naturally. ...

From resident, Anna Jacobson:

I work on Tuesday nights and apologize for not being able to be present in person at the meeting, as I am a strong proponent of chicken-keeping in Lincolnwood. I have focused on the benefits of chicken-keeping in my past letters, but I just wanted to give my input on two negative issues that have been brought up: pests and salmonella. For those worried about

chickens attracting pests, the answer is simply to have good strong chicken coops with the chicken wire buried under the ground a foot deep to prevent digging. For those worried about salmonella, just consider similar rules to social distancing: Wash hands after contact, don't let your neighbors in to touch chickens, don't have them running around anywhere other than your property. If everyone can be good chicken-keeping citizens, there won't be any health issues of any kind. Thank you for your consideration.

**Adjournment**

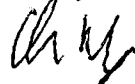
At 8:28 P.M. Trustee Sargon made a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi.

Upon roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Klatzco, Sargon, Hlepas Nickell, Patel, Ikezoe-Halevi

Nays: None

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Meyer  
Deputy Village Clerk