

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MEETING HELD VIA GOTO MEETING AND  
AVAILABLE LIVE AT WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/  
NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Village President Bass called the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees via GoToMeeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 4, 2020, meeting held via GoToMeeting and available live at [WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/](http://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 Village Clerk Beryl Herman the following were:

PRESENT: President Bass (Via GoToMeeting), Trustees Ikezoe-Halevi and Patel present in meeting, Klatzco (Via GoToMeeting), Hlepas-Nickell (Via GoToMeeting), Sargon (Via GoToMeeting), Cope (Via GoToMeeting)

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

Also present at meeting: Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager; Doug Hammel, , Development Manager; The following were present via GoToMeeting: 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; Doug Hammel, Development Manager; Nadim Badran, Assistant to the Public Works Director; Steve Elrod, Village Attorney (7:14 pm); Jake Litz, Management Analyst.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of October 8, 2020 Meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the October 20, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell made a motion to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of October 8, 2020 seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Clerk Herman called the roll.

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

Nays: None

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated she had minor corrections for the October 20, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that she too had corrections for the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell made a motion to table the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 for changes, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Clerk Herman called the roll.

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

Nays: None

### **Regular Business**

#### **1. Biennial Report by the Traffic Commission**

Chief Jay Parrott introduced Traffic Commission Chair, Scott Troiani. Mr. Troiani made a presentation to the Village Board using PowerPoint.

Mr. Troiani listed the Traffic Commission members past and present for the last two years.

Mr. Troiani gave an overview of the items that the Traffic Commission considers, such as resident only parking, stop and yield signs, and speed humps.

Mr. Troiani presented to the Village Board anticipated Traffic Commission activities/goals for the future: vehicles parked in the public way; review and address cut thru traffic in residential neighborhoods; expanding the use of yield signage; reviewing intersections with high incidents of traffic crashes.

Trustee Klatzco thanked the Traffic Commission for their work and thoughtfulness in their decision making.

Trustees Sargon, Hlepas Nickell, Ikezoe-Halevi and Patel had no comments but thanked the Traffic Commission for their work.

Trustee Cope also thanked the Traffic Commission and stated the work they do for the Village is very important. Trustee Cope asked about traffic violations, if that is ever discussed at the Traffic Commission meetings. Mr. Troiani stated that there is conversation to the item that is on the agenda for that evening.

President Bass spoke of the deep consideration the Traffic Commission takes on items before them and how they take each issue seriously and shows they care about the Village. President Bass thanked the Traffic Commission for all the work they do.

## **2. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Presentation**

President Bass asked Heather McFarland, Assistant to the Village Manager, who would be making the presentation. Ms. McFarland stated that Edward Jankun, Civil Engineer with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) would be making the presentation.

Before the presentation President Bass spoke of MWRD and how some of their programs will fit in with the environmental group the Village is looking to form.

Mr. Jankun stated he would be presenting some of the services available but first presented an overview of when MWRD came to fruition, their initial mission of potable drinking water and the evolution of MWRD.

Mr. Jankun presented a photo of the building of one of the canals. Mr. Jankun stated that in 1910 treating waste water before releasing it into the water ways began. Mr. Jankun stated that Lincolnwood's waste goes to the O'Brien plant located at Howard and McCormick, which opened in 1928.

Mr. Jankun gave an overview of MWRD and explained the sewer system and the tunnel project.

Mr. Jankun spoke of stormwater management in an effort to deal with the stormwater. Mr. Jankun stated this is an opportunity to have partnership programs to help with flood prone properties. There are three programs. Mr. Jankun broke down the three programs and what they entail.

Mr. Jankun spoke of Lincolnwood and the Outfall Sewer project on North Shore Avenue.

Mr. Jankun explained the programs that MWRD offered and what residents can do to help, such as using a rain barrel.

Mr. Jankun also stated that you can pick up biosolids and EQ Compost at an MWRD location and noted how the compost is beneficial to the soil and is offered free to all Cook County residents.

Mr. Jankun noted that due to the pandemic MWRD is not offering on site tours but they are offering virtual tours. Information on virtual tours are available on the MWRD website along with other helpful information.

President Bass thanked Mr. Jankun for his presentation and that he provided a good overview on programs that are offered. President Bass asked staff if the Village has taken advantage of any of the things being offered by MWRD? Ms. McFarland stated the Village communicates the initiatives that are available to our residents through social media such as the Village website. Mr. Letson stated Public Works has used the biosolids for different areas within the Village.

Trustee Klatzco thanked MWRD for everything they do for Lincolnwood and the County.

Trustee Sargon also thanked Mr. Jankun. Trustee Sargon stated there are opportunities in the green infrastructure program for the alleys which might help with flooding in the alleys and asked if this could be brought back to the Committee of the Whole to discuss or get that information out to the public. Trustee Sargon stated the Village will definitely be getting more of the green information out to the residents.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell thanked Mr. Jankun for his presentation and thanked him for the assistance the Village receives from MWRD.

Trustee Patel thanked Mr. Jankun for his presentation.

Trustee Cope thanked Mr. Jankun for his presentation which was extremely informative and perhaps do a letter to MWRD regarding Mr. Jankun and his great presentation. Trustee Cope asked about the clean water act, and enforcement of that. Mr. Jankun stated they receive permits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are responsible for reporting any releases to the EPA. Mr. Jankun stated MWRD enforces through their Water Waste Management program. Trustee Cope stated there was a big push for the combined sewer system, if that is still ongoing or being monitored. Mr. Jankun stated MWRD monitors the combined sewers through the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) system. Mr. Jankun stated it was cost prohibited to install new separate sewers which is why the tunnel project was done to deal with overflow. Mr. Jankun stated he could send more information regarding the combined sewer and what they have done to improve the water ways and the environment.

President Bass stated he is looking to have a committee in the future to look at the green initiative for the Village.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi thanked Mr. Jankun. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated in the summer of 2019 she had visited Commissioner Josina Morita at the Niles Township Governor's Garden and she had plants that were grown in the biosolids and how much bigger the plants grew than with regular soil. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi noted how the biosolids could increase crop production.

President Bass thanked Mr. Jankun for his time

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked to shuffle the agenda to move number five regarding the Lincoln Avenue Bicycle Path Crossing up in the agenda. The Board concurred.

### **3. Discussion Concerning Lincoln Avenue Bicycle Path Crossing**

President Bass prefaced the discussion by speaking of Tracey Shimabukuro and her child, and the Lincoln Avenue bike crossing where he was struck by an auto when crossing the road and his long road to recovery after the accident. President Bass stated there were meetings with Skokie as to how to make the crossing of Lincoln Avenue more safe and conversations with IDOT to prevent a reoccurrence.

President Bass asked Andrew Letson, Public Works Director to begin his presentation.

Mr. Letson gave background information on this project of trying to create a safer crossing on Lincoln Avenue, at the bike path in Skokie. Mr. Letson spoke of the meeting with the Village of Skokie. Mr. Letson stated that IDOTs guidance is to install flashing beacons. Mr. Letson stated he reached out to Skokie to find out where they are in the process and Skokie stated it is part of their upcoming budget which is not approved yet.

Mr. Letson provided locations where Lincolnwood has flashing beacons. Mr. Letson spoke of some of the other items that can be added for safety.

Mr. Letson stated that Skokie has asked for cost sharing on this project but at this time do not yet know the full scope of the Skokie project. Mr. Letson stated the projected install time would be summer/fall of 2021.

Mr. Letson stated that staff is seeking direction from the Village Board as to whether or not the Village should participate in the project with Skokie.

President Bass offered the time to the Shimabukuro family to speak. Ms. Shimabukuro gave details of the accident and thanked the Village for putting the wheels in motion on fixing this area.

Mr. Shimabukuro thanked Mayor Bass for his call at the time of the incident and steps taken to prevent this from happening again.

President Bass thanked the family for sharing their story.

President Bass asked for Trustee input on this item.

Trustee Klatzco, stated that he has known Jack and his family for years. Trustee Klatzco asked if Skokie had flashers on Howard Street. Mr. Letson said they do. Trustee Klatzco asked if the intersection was in Lincolnwood. Mr. Letson stated it is in Skokie. Trustee Klatzco suggested President Bass contact Mayor Van Dusen and escalate this process.

President Bass stated he has reached out to Skokie, but has reached out to Village staff to move the project forward.

Village Manager, Anne Marie Gaura, stated they would be happy to set up a meeting and staff has been working with Skokie on this issue. Ms. Gaura stated that Skokie is introducing this as part of their budget process, and the wheels are in motion but the question tonight is should Lincolnwood make a monetary contribution.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated she brought this issue up to staff last week as to what the status is. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that improvements being asked for are no guarantee of no accident occurring again but we created the hazard by creating the path to connect with Skokie. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that to our credit our crossways have the safety measures. She

reiterated that she has been looking at this for 31/2 years and that is too long to wait for action. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that she doesn't know why Skokie didn't install safety measures for their crosswalk. Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked Village Attorney, Steven Elrod, if the Village can legally use Lincolnwood money for a Skokie project and if participation would open up the Village to future liability or maintenance. Trustee Hlepas Nickell also asked what if Skokie decides to table this to another budget and leave this hazard that has been created, can they legally postpone this. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated she would like to compel Skokie as a Board to create a safer environment for the users of the paths. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated a letter should be drafted and sent it to Skokie. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that we looked at our budget which was just as impacted by COVID-19 and cut out non-essentials but this should be essential. Mr. Elrod stated there is no restriction on the use of Village general funds outside the boundaries as compared to the geographical restrictions for TIF funds. Mr. Elrod stated as long as a determination is made by the Board that funds may be used outside the boarder for public safety. Mr. Elrod stated if you make that determination that it benefits the Village then yes, there would be legal basis.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked if we spend the money will it expose us to liability and maintenance and is Skokie grandfathered in regarding IDOT requirements. Mr. Elrod stated the expenditure of funds for this project no more than any other project and remain covered by the Illinois Torte Immunity Act which protect the Village.

Trustee Patel stated the reason that Skokie did not install the safety features was because IDOT would not let Skokie install them. IDOT has changed their determination and now Skokie is allowed to install safety measures. Trustee Patel stated that Skokie is not required to put them in but that IDOT is now allowing them to be put in. Trustee Patel stated Skokie is preparing to place them in their budget. Trustee Patel stated that the question is if we don't pay will Skokie not go ahead with the project. Trustee Patel stated we paid for our own traffic control measures, why can't Skokie pay for their own. Trustee Patel stated we want to put every safety measure we can out there but the question is if we do not agree to pay half, will they do it anyway.

President Bass stated to Trustee Klatzco that is that is why he, as Mayor, did not get involved as staff was working with Skokie. President Bass stated he would be happy to intervene if there is a hiccup in the process. President Bass stated that safety is number one. President Bass asked again when Skokie is putting it in their budget. Mr. Letson stated it would be in their upcoming budget. Mr. Letson stated the reason for the length of time is that there is an IDOT permit required and if we pay a portion it would require an intergovernmental agreement.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell asked when we installed safety measures on Devon Avenue. Mr. Letson stated that was done in 2016. Mr. Letson gave the history with IDOT and their changing of guidance on blinkers. Mr. Letson spoke of the standards of IDOT and that they change their standards frequently.

Trustee Cope stated he doesn't understand how lighting would prevent the accident from happening again. Trustee Cope stated stop lights are the safer way.

Trustee Sargon gave her sympathies over what happened to Jack. Trustee Sargon stated a stop light would be better but that is not going to happen. Trustee Sargon stated if we have to contribute to make this happen then we should contribute but in order to make a judgment the Village would need to know why this is before us. Mr. Letson stated he cannot answer as to whether or not Skokie will go through with the project if Lincolnwood does not contribute to the project.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi gave her sympathies to the family for what their son went through. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi spoke of cars speeding on Lincoln Avenue. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi also stated that the south side of the trail is flat and you can see the path and the road but the path on the north side of Lincoln Avenue has high hedges and makes visibility difficult. Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi stated that flashing lights are a start.

Trustee Patel reiterated what he said earlier regarding if they are going to go ahead. Trustee Patel stated it was appropriate for Lincolnwood to ask for that safety crossing. Trustee Patel stated we put them in for our paths. Trustee Patel stated that he doesn't think Skokie would hold us to funds or there would be no safety measures.

President Bass stated that we can speak with Skokie to find out.

Trustee Patel stated he is on the paths every day and they are very dangerous but the blinking lights have helped but some sort of education measure with Chicago, Lincolnwood and Skokie should be considered. Trustee Patel stated people push the button and as soon as it starts blinking they cross without making sure the vehicles are stopped or stopping.

President Bass asked if there were further comments.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell doesn't think the Village should be contributing to a Skokie project. Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that we have been discussing this for three and a half years. Trustee Hlepas Nickell noted that nine different times she has brought this issue up. President Bass noted there have been restrictions by IDOT.

Trustee Cope stated that we shouldn't offer to pay but our residents are impacted by this intersection. Trustee Cope stated the Board is in favor of meeting with Skokie but the Village doesn't have to pay.

President Bass stated he wants to give staff a chance to work on this but if the Board wants him to meet with Mayor Van Dusen he will make it a priority.

Trustee Sargon stated that it has always been a priority with staff but IDOT has been the holdup.

#### **4. Update Regarding COVID-19 Grant Funding**

This item was presented by Jake Litz, Management Analyst, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Litz provided the background on COVID and when funding sources started becoming available and which ones the Village has applied for.

Mr. Litz gave information on the different grants applied for and which expenses were reimbursed or awarded from those grants.

Mr. Litz presented the Village Board with information on grants that the Village is still waiting to hear on.

Mr. Litz explained the FEMA grant, how much the Village has spent to date, how much was submitted from the Village for the grant and how much the Village is eligible to receive if awarded.

Mr. Litz also explained the Cook County Coronavirus relief funds, how much is allocated for Lincolnwood and the amount staff expects to actually receive.

Trustee Patel stated he reviewed the packet and asked about the amount, what it was from. Mr. Litz stated it was police and fire straight work time. Trustee Patel stated it was not a cost accrued due to COVID-19 but that it is something we can receive because of COVID-19.

Ms. Gaura stated the Village wanted to make sure we included all our expenses. Ms. Gaura stated that one of the things indicated is that not all municipalities submit all that they can. Trustee Patel stated these are funds from the Cares Act handed over to the County to allocate. Trustee Patel stated population, budget, effect of COVID on the municipality but that it is good to know the Village only has access to \$200,000 but we put more in the request in case it is available. Ms. Gaura stated that out of all the Northwest Municipal Conference municipalities Lincolnwood had the highest per capita allocation.

President Bass asked to table the Code Enforcement Process Improvements. The Village Board concurred.

### **Adjournment**

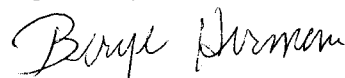
At 8:14 P.M. Trustee Klatzco made a motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Upon roll call:

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

Nays: None

Respectfully Submitted,



Beryl Herman  
Village Clerk