

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

Call to Order

President Pro-Tem Elster called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 5:36 P.M., Tuesday, February 5, 2013 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook and State of Illinois.

Roll Call

On roll call by Deputy Village Clerk Douglas Petroschius the following were:

PRESENT: President Turry (by Video Conference), President Pro-Tem Elster, Trustees Patel (6:05 P.M.), Heidtke, Leftakes (5:37 P.M.), Swanson

ABSENT: Trustee Sprogis-Marohn

A quorum was present. Also present: Timothy Wiberg, Village Manager; Douglas Petroschius, Assistant Village Manager; Charles Meyer, Assistant to the Village Manager; Timothy Clarke, Director of Community Development; Aaron Cook, Development Manager; Robert Merkel, Finance Director; Janice Hincapie, Director of Parks and Recreation; Manuel Castaneda, Public Works Director; Melissa Steirer, Management Analyst; Steven Elrod, Village Attorney; Reese Gratch, Parks and Recreation Board Chair; Katie Smith, Community Center Program Supervisor; Georgia Talaganis, Board of Fire and Police Commissioner; Paul Eisterhold, Plan Commission Chair; Tom Jakobsen, ClientFirst; Nicholas Greifer and Robert Rychlicki of Kane McKenna & Associates.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 15, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting and were examined. Trustee Heidtke moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote, 4-0.

1. Discussion Concerning the Proposed Information Technology Strategic Plan

This item was presented by Mr. Petroschius using PowerPoint. Mr. Petroschius introduced this item as a follow-up to an inquiry made by a Trustee last year. Each year the Village Board adopts the Strategic Master Technology Plan by Resolution to serve as a guide for how the Village allocates resources on technology projects. A staff committee represented by each department known as the Information Technology (IT) Committee is responsible for preparing and implementing the plan. This process is assisted by Tom Jakobsen of ClientFirst. Mr. Petroschius proceeded to present the current year activity and status and the proposal strategies and initiatives for fiscal year 2013-14. Mr. Petroschius indicated that all of the projects pursued through the plan are contingent on budget approval and follow all purchasing policies. Trustee Leftakes commented that it will be important to prioritize the projects planned for next year during the budget process. President Turry commented that it will be up to staff to prove their case for the expenditures planned for next year.

2. Status Report Concerning the Proposed Devon/Lincoln Tax Increment Financing District

This item was presented by Mr. Wiberg with use of a PowerPoint presentation. Beginning in 2007 the Economic Development Commission (EDC) identified the general area for the proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District consisting of manufacturing and commercial properties with the borders of Proesel Avenue on the west, Lincoln Avenue on the north, and Devon Avenue on the south. In subsequent years of

planning the borders of the proposed TIF District were expanded to include properties on Devon Avenue east of the original borders to McCormick Boulevard and north along the Union Pacific Right-of-Way. Mr. Wiberg presented a map of the proposed TIF District and the other three existing TIF Districts for illustration. In 2011 the EDC recommended the creation of a TIF District for the proposed Devon/Lincoln area. At its Budget Workshop in February of 2012 the Village Board decided not to pursue a TIF. The EDC continued to discuss a TIF at their meetings in 2012 included February, May, July, and September. Also in 2012 the Village Board discussed the proposed TIF District at their meetings of February, June, July, and December. On July 17 the Village Board directed staff to proceed with the TIF creation process and on December 18 the Village Board set the public hearing date of February 19, 2013. A statutorily required Joint Review Board meeting was held on January 15, 2013 with a follow-up meeting taking place on February 6. Mr. Wiberg indicated that on January 25 Village staff met with School District (SD) 219 staff and discussed issues pertaining to retiring existing TIF Districts and if the Village would be willing to share the increment for recently developed properties in the proposed District. On January 29 Village staff attended the SD 74 meeting, whose Board clearly objected to the proposed TIF District. On January 31 Village staff and SD 74 staff met to discuss the issues relating to the proposed TIF including the rationale for the SD 74 Board's objections and issues whether the Village would consider retiring existing TIF Districts and if the Village would be willing to share the increment for recently developed properties in the proposed District. Mr. Wiberg presented a map of the existing and proposed TIF Districts and identified that 59% of commercial properties in the Village are outside of TIF Districts and the Village's total EAV increment generated by existing TIFs is 3.3%. If the proposed Devon-Lincoln TIF District were to be created, 45% of commercial properties will be outside of TIF Districts. A timeline showing the final steps in the TIF creation process was displayed. Staff sought direction from the Village Board as to whether there was still interest in pursuing a TIF and staff should discuss potential agreements with other taxing bodies regarding the issues raised by the School Districts. Discussion ensued regarding possibly extinguishing the Touhy-Lawndale TIF District once the final benefit payment to Lowe's is made in approximately three years and for staff to look at possibly ending the Northeast Industrial TIF District early depending on what projects are planned. Trustee Leftakes addressed the Committee and the audience in saying that the taxing bodies are all residents first and that if it was not for commercial development the Village would have a lower tax base. Trustee Swanson recommended that the Village still consider pursuing the TIF District and continue to receive public input on the matter. The rest of the Village Board agreed.

President Pro Tem Elster asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak on this matter and recognized Tony Ficarelli of Hinshaw Culbertson, legal counsel for SD 74, to speak. Mr. Ficarelli distributed a position letter from SD 74 on the matter of the proposed TIF and indicated that SD 74 is not necessarily opposed to TIF Districts but has concerns that the majority of the funds of the proposed Devon/Lincoln TIF will be for four public works projects. The Lincolnwood Library District is taking the same position as SD 74 and will be at the Joint Review Board meeting on February 6.

Trustee Elster thanked everyone for their input and reminded everyone of the Joint Review Board meeting on February 6.

3. Discussion Concerning the Use of Village Hall for a Candidates' Forum

This item was presented by Mr. Elrod. The Village received an inquiry regarding whether Village Hall could be used for a candidates' forum. Mr. Elrod's original recommendation is to not allow this. State law governs what can be done on Village property and there are limits as to what activities are allowed to take place under the Prohibited Political Activities Act. The Ethics Act also prohibits employees and Village Officers from using Village facilities as a "public forum" and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution allows for there to be "Public Assembly Areas" on public grounds. Mr. Elrod elaborated on the various rulings that the Illinois Attorney General's office has made regarding the use of public facilities for activities such as a candidates' forum and the factors that need to be considered. In general, there is no problem with a candidates' forum being held in the Village Council Chambers or other public facility. Mr. Elrod supports the concept of

having a neutral candidates' forum where each candidate can speak on their issues. The Village Hall is not considered an official public forum and has no policies or rules on record to govern how it is used. Mr. Elrod recommends that the Village adopt a formal policy governing the use of Village Hall. Discussion ensued regarding liability issues, reimbursement costs for Village staff and facilities, by organizations that utilize the Chambers, and limiting the use to independent, non-partisan, non-profits and to prohibit the use for primary elections. Mr. Elrod indicated that the Village would not assume any liability. Mr. Wiberg recommended a user fee of no more than \$200 per event. The Village Board determined that there was consensus to proceed with an interim policy for the immediate need and then formalize that policy by Resolution a few months later.

4. Water and Sewer Fund Workshop Dates

Mr. Wiberg inquired with the Village Board about setting meeting dates for a Water and Sewer Fund Workshop in the Council Chambers. The Village Board agreed that March 13, 2013 would be the best date.

Adjournment

At 7:26 P.M. Trustee Swanson moved to adjourn Committee of the Whole. Trustee Heidtke seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote, 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,


Douglas Petroschius
Deputy Village Clerk