

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 5, 2020**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees (conducted electronically) was called to order by Village President Tom Cauley in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:32 p.m., roll call was taken.

Present: President Tom Cauley

Participating by telephone: Trustees Matthew Posthuma, Scott Banke, Luke Stifflear, Gerald J. Hughes, Laurel Haarlow, and Neale Byrnes

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager Kathleen A. Gargano, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety Brad Bloom, and Village Clerk Christine Bruton

Participating by telephone: Fire Chief John Giannelli, Police Chief Brian King, Finance Director Darrell Langlois, Director of Community Development/Building Commissioner Robb McGinnis, Director of Public Services George Peluso, Village Engineer Dan Deeter

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT
INTRODUCTION**

“This open special meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Hinsdale is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order of March 16, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the State of Illinois given the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

In order to mitigate the transmission of the virus and reduce risk of COVID-19 illness, we have been advised and encouraged by the State to postpone consideration of public business where possible, and where a meeting is necessary, to limit public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Act that members of the public body be physically present. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order allows public bodies to meet remotely and encourages public bodies to ensure that the public may monitor the meeting.”

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Cauley led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) **Regular Meeting of April 21 2020**

There being no changes to the draft minutes, Trustee Hughes moved to **approve the draft minutes of the special meeting of April 21, 2020, as presented.** Trustee Stifflear seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cauley reported that the Village continues to get calls from residents about community events. Sadly, he can't override the Governors orders, but we are continuing to make recommendations to State officials to consider reopening. The Village Manager is on the Executive Board of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC), and is in regular contact with State Senator Glowiak and State Representative Mazzochi. The city of Chicago announced the creation of the Recovery Task Force which includes local officials, including DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin, and Willowbrook's Mayor Frank Trilla. As it relates to Hinsdale, he acknowledged the seriousness of the COVID issue, but is compelled to say that media reports that sound an alarm may not provide a fair picture. He reported a Patch article that stated the COVID caseload had doubled. This is a problem because it is not true; of the 125 cases reported in Hinsdale, 97 come from Manor Care. The increase in recent cases come from Manor Care, and while we are working with Manor Care to control the outbreak, this is reflective of the country with respect to these types of facilities. It is difficult to affect social distancing in assisted living facilities. Only 28 cases have been reported outside of Manor Care; this is only 15 cases per 10,000 residents. The six deaths attributed to Hinsdale were all elderly residents from Manor Care, and is representative of the national statistics, and likely because these persons have pre-existing conditions. This type of reporting creates a false impression that will make it more difficult to get back to normal.

President Cauley is concerned about closed businesses reopening. When restaurants can reopen, they will have to social distance which may make them unprofitable. He offered an idea from the Village Manager that when they do open, since it is summer, it might be possible to close certain streets to allow restaurants to have additional space to distance and serve food outside. The Board was receptive to the idea. President Cauley added the Village can't go against the Governor's orders, but we want to think of creative ways to save our businesses.

He went on to report area COVID case numbers, that the Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled, the library is talking about curbside service, Uniquely Thursdays and the opening of the Community Pool are still undecided, but the Farmer's Market will likely open in June. KLM is open again as a dog park as long as people are acting responsibly. He encouraged residents to complete their Census forms, as it makes a difference for funding in the Village.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Mr. Andrew Grieve, 609 Bruner Street, addressed the Board and referenced his recent email to the Village Board, and his concerns regarding the cancellation of the May 6 Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting and the economic impact of that action. He stated he owns a vacant

lot on south Elm Street that is not a teardown and has no linkage to an historic home. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) does not have binding authority, but can opine on this project. His case is not likely to be heard until July, four months after plans were submitted. Absent an official explanation, he can only assume that the HPC has declined to meet for public safety reasons, although other Boards have used modern technology to overcome this problem. Otherwise, to cancel their meetings is a blatant abuse of powers, and an egregious over-stepping resulting in undeniable negative consequences. In addition to the personal financial consequences, he believes there is a meaningful financial impact on the community, and referenced construction jobs and home values. He believes the action of the HPC is inexcusable, self-inflicted and avoidable. He implored the Board to act on this matter; to insist the Commission resume functionality and meet at least as often as statutorily specified in the Village code, or impose a moratorium on the HPC opinion as it is not binding, or except those projects that do not require demolition or effect historic property.

President Cauley responded and acknowledged the Board is in receipt of Mr. Grieve's email. He explained that he has left it to Commission Chairpersons to determine whether or not to conduct their meetings. The Chair of the HPC is of the view that public hearings cannot be effectively conducted over the telephone, and would like to defer public hearings till the Board room is open. President Cauley will defer to the Chair for time being, but if it becomes problematic, we will think of something else. Staff has spent time looking at Mr. Grieve's issue, and since the home is already gone, the matter does not require a public hearing, just a public meeting. Mr. Grieve should have an answer by tomorrow for a solution. As to issue of the cancelled meetings being a ploy, he pointed out that the moratorium would not apply to those properties already introduced to the HPC. This is not a retroactive attempt to forestall the demolition of those homes. The moratorium is the best way to have sufficient time to get public input on this public issue.

Trustee Hughes added he becomes increasingly uncomfortable the longer this goes on, and although he agrees the quality of a remote meeting is reduced, we need to be innovative and do things differently. He proposed the Board pick this up again at their next meeting, and discuss a proposal. Trustee Byrnes agreed the Village should do what we can to move Mr. Grieve's project forward. President Cauley added we are taking this seriously, it is not a game, and the Village has every intention of resuming meetings, and agreed to discuss this at the next meeting of the Board.

FIRST READINGS – INTRODUCTION

Administration & Community Affairs (Chair Hughes)

a) Approve an Ordinance Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations within Departments and Agencies of the Village

Trustee Hughes introduced the item which is an annual housekeeping item that will authorize the transfer of appropriations between departments to reflect annual expenditures. Finance Director Darrell Langlois added there is nothing unusual in this year's transfers.

The Board agreed to move this item forward for a second reading at their next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Administration & Community Affairs (Chair Hughes)

- a) Trustee Posthuma moved **Approval and payment of the accounts payable for the period of April 22, 2020 to May 5, 2020, in the aggregate amount of \$1,179,004.98 as set forth on the list provided by the Village Treasurer, of which a permanent copy is on file with the Village Clerk.** Trustee Byrnes seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The following items were approved by omnibus vote:

Environment & Public Services (Chair Byrnes)

- b) **Approve DuPage County joint bid purchase of bulk winter de-icing salt to Compass Minerals America, Inc. in the amount of \$56,791 (First Reading – April 21, 2020)**
- c) **Award the contract for engineering services for construction observation of the Chicago Avenue Water Main Improvement Project – Phase 1 to HR Green, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$75,142.75 (First Reading – April 21, 2020)**
- d) **Award the contract for engineering services for construction observation of the East Chicago Avenue Drainage Corridor Improvement Project to HR Green, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$133,514.75 (First Reading – April 21, 2020)**
- e) **Approve an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a certain portion of an unimproved alley situated east of and adjoining 821 South Thurlow Street in the Village of Hinsdale, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois at a purchase price of \$11,000**

Trustee Byrnes moved to **approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.** Trustee Stifflear seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

SECOND READINGS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA – ADOPTION

Environment & Public Services (Chair Byrnes)

- a) **Award the contract for construction of the East Chicago Avenue Drainage Corridor Improvement Project to H. Linden & Sons Sewer & Water, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,949,726 (First Reading – April 21, 2020)**

Trustee Byrnes introduced the item which is a major project to mitigate flooding that is 95% funded by the tollway. Available MIP funds will be used for the remaining \$115,000.

Trustee Byrnes moved to **Award the contract for construction of the East Chicago Avenue Drainage Corridor Improvement Project to H. Linden & Sons Sewer & Water, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,949,726.** Trustee Banke seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

- b) **Award the contract for construction of the Chicago Avenue Water Main Improvement Project – Phase 1 to John Neri Construction Company in the amount not to exceed \$998,662** (*First Reading – April 21, 2020*)

Trustee Byrnes introduced the item and recapped the purpose of the project, noting a main break in the vicinity of the BNSF line would be a major problem. MIP funds are available, and Phase 2 of the project is scheduled for next year, taking advantage of surface transportation funds from the State.

Trustee Byrnes moved to **Award the contract for construction of the Chicago Avenue Water Main Improvement Project – Phase 1 to John Neri Construction Company in the amount not to exceed \$998,662.** Trustee Banke seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) **Parking deck update**

Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety Brad Bloom said the project is moving along on schedule, and the lower level concrete slab will be poured this week.

- b) **Tollway update** – None

DEPARTMENT AND STAFF REPORTS

- a) Fire
- b) Engineering
- c) Parks & Recreation

The report(s) listed above were provided to the Board. There were no additional questions regarding the content of the department and staff reports.

Village Manager Kathleen Gargano thanked Village department heads for over 7-8 weeks of flexible thinking and help in securing a safe work environment. She thanked employees for

their stellar record coming to work. The Village is open for virtually all services. Sneeze guards and other means have been installed to protect the public and employees when offices re-open subject to the Governors recommendation. She noted Parks & Recreation virtual events, stating staff is working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission on other virtual initiatives, including restaurant week.

REPORTS FROM ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Haarlow noted the removal of certain shrubs in the triangular green spaces at Fourth Street and Park. She wondered if the remaining lilac bushes are also scheduled to be removed, and stated she hopes not because they add to the character of the Village. Director of Public Services George Peluso said he will speak to Superintendent of Parks & Forestry John Finnell and find out why they were removed and whether the others can be saved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President Cauley asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Byrnes moved to **adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees of May 5, 2020.** Trustee Banke seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Posthuma, Banke, Stifflear, Hughes, Haarlow and Byrnes

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Christine M. Bruton, Village Clerk