

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 2, 2010**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hinsdale Village Board of Trustees was called to order by President Tom Cauley in Memorial Hall of the Memorial Building on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:31 p.m.

Present: President Tom Cauley, Trustees J. Kimberley Angelo, Bob Saigh, Laura LaPlaca, Cindy Williams, Doug Geoga and Bob Schultz

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Ken Florey, Village Manager Dave Cook, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Finance Darrell Langlois, Police Chief Brad Bloom, Fire Chief Mike Kelly and Deputy Village Clerk Christine Bruton

Also Present: Amy Deis representing The Doings, Ken Knudson with The Hinsdalean, and Don Grigus, Suburban Life, Christine Martin the Tribune

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Cauley led those in attendance in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustees Saigh and Angelo and President Cauley asked for corrections to the minutes. Trustee Angelo moved **to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2010, as amended.** Trustee Saigh seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Trustee Saigh moved **to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 16, 2010.** Trustee LaPlaca seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Police Chief Patrick Anderson, Clarendon Hills, addressed the Board regarding the service Southwest Central Dispatch has provided to Clarendon Hills since 1993. SWCD is a CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accredited dispatch center, one of the few in country, and a flagship 911 center; they are at the top of the profession. He is a member of the SWCD executive board and can attest to their financial well-being. He also noted that they are moving effectively into new and cutting edge technology, they have added code red this year to their services, upgraded to digital radio system and are installing fiber optics for additional services. He also described the improved coverage provided the public, the radios are more functional and allow the ability to talk directly to a responding officer where cell phones were inoperable. He is looking forward to having Hinsdale Police and Fire on that radio network as it will contribute to improved communications with responding agencies.

Trustee Williams asked if Chief Anderson had reviewed Chief Blooms memo wherein he stated there is some concern about technology, yet Chief Anderson believes the technology is cutting edge. Chief Anderson responded that for day to day communications within the group of officers, firefighters and communities the technology is very good; citizens have immediate access to those services. He also pointed out that SWCD acts as a backup center for southern Cook County. Interoperability is a concern, but until the County installs the proper equipment, no one is able to address this.

Fire Chief Brian Leahy, Clarendon Hills, commented that switching dispatch centers is a big job and when Clarendon Hills switched it was seamless; residents never knew. He described the excellent staffing provided by SWCD with people who are dedicated fire, EMS and police dispatchers. He explained that all the telecommunicators are EMD certified, and there is sufficient staff on each shift so that a person can stay on the phone until a paramedic arrives on the scene. SWCD owns their own mobile data network and he has been very happy with their services.

Trustee Williams pointed out that one of the main issues of closing down is cost and that Hinsdale has been granted financial incentives for joining, but the by-laws state that SWCD has no obligation to grant incentives. She asked Chief Leahy if he can

guarantee these incentives will be awarded. Chief Leahy explained that the executive board does not have the authority to approve incentives, but they did unanimously recommend these. The Board of Directors will approve them tomorrow night at their meeting. Trustee Williams said SWCD is asking for grant money and wondered how this would impact approval of incentives. Chief Leahy said that SWCD is always looking for grant money; they are currently trying to raise \$5 million to expand the center. He noted they have zero debt and he is not aware of any money problems. SWCD realizes it is in their best interest to encourage more membership, which benefits everyone.

Kathy Gartlan of 616 S. Lincoln St. distributed a list of bullet points to the Board regarding the installation of a cell phone antenna at Hinsdale Central High School which she reviewed. She is worried about the safety of the children, possible health risks, the quality of water, the length of the agreement and security.

Jeff Holland of 633 Washington Street addressed the Board about the cell tower stating that it will be ten years before all the data is in and the terms of the agreement should allow us to remove antennas if they are found to be dangerous at any time. He also believes there should be a competitive bidding process with regard to this matter.

Captain Tom McCarthy, Hinsdale Fire Department addressed the Board to share the concerns of the Fire Department regarding shared services. He described the department going back to 1929, stating that even through the depression the consensus was that this department was special. When the Village switched to Lake Michigan water 15 years ago, Water Department employees whose jobs were in jeopardy, were given the opportunity to serve the Village in other valuable capacities. In 1986, fire and police were combined to form Public Safety. Captain McCarthy outlined the efforts of staff to improve services and strive to be the best. They were a paid on call department at that time, calls increased and they were understaffed, so the Village Board approved an increase in staffing. Last year, layoffs reduced staffing to six; not an optimal staffing level. There has been recent discontent in the department, pension has become a target, but it is no more and no less than mandated by the State of Illinois. The recent purchase of a ladder truck has been criticized, but it was not a renegade decision. It replaced a truck that was too large to service the larger homes in Hinsdale, this truck is of a size that provides and compliments the vehicles of surrounding towns.

He believes we will lose control over dispatch services, and as a contracted service the costs will rise. The Fire Department used to be part of the solution, not the problem. Why is this agreement vague, could there be another intent of the agreement? Why has there been secrecy? They have not organized into a union because of the historically good relationship between the department and Board. They will remain

professionals and will continue to respond, but they fear this is the beginning of dismantling the department.

Tim McElroy, Hinsdale Fire Inspector, grew up in Hinsdale, has been a member of other departments, but says this group is the best, they put others first. He is disappointed because it doesn't feel like we've been entirely honest with each other and these men deserve honesty. He asked the Board to make this decision with their heart, to look seriously at the work done to train these men and to consider reducing staff by attrition when people retire. He asked for consistency, trust and honesty.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cauley reported that the Veeck Park storm water facility has become fully operational this week and as a result, per the agreement we struck with Flagg Creek late last year, the \$8 surcharge will be eliminated. He thanked Village Manager Dave Cook, Park & Recreation Director Gina Hassett and Park & Recreation Commission Chair Jeff Curran for their hard work in helping the Village secure a \$150,000 grant from Lyons Township. This money will be used to build a picnic pavilion at KLM. Finally, he has moved the Board meeting to approve the budget from yesterday, March 1st to March 23rd. This will give residents and Trustees a full month to review the draft budget, which is currently on the Village website.

CONSENT AGENDA

President Cauley read the Consent Agenda as follows:

Items Recommended by Zoning & Public Safety Committee

- a) Approve a Request from Wellness House to close Hillgrove between Oak and County Line and County Line between Hillgrove and Walnut from Friday, April 30th through Monday May 3, 2010, to accommodate a tent for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Wellness House for a Competitive Race on May 2, 2010 and parking restrictions on Walnut Street between Oak and Mills and the use of Veeck Park and Highland Depot for race parking

Items Recommended by Administration & Community Affairs Committee

- b) Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Hinsdale
- c) License Agreement between the Hinsdale Tennis Association and the Village of Hinsdale
- d) Waive Rental Fees at KLM for the Hinsdale Center for the Arts
- e) Honorary Street Designation to be known as "Chuck Foster Way" for the Portion of Hinsdale Avenue between Garfield Street and Washington Street, requested by the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce

- f) Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce 2010 Schedule of Events and Banner Display Requests for 2010
- g) Proposal from Sikich LLP to Provide Audit Services for FY2010 and FY2011

Trustee Saigh referenced Item E, which he voted to approve last night at the ACA meeting. And although the Village was meeting obvious criteria for this kind of designation, for an extraordinary person, he has received contact from persons today who are concerned that the historic district might be jeopardized by this kind of designation. He thought it possible that this was occurring too fast, perhaps there should be a passage of time, a test of memory, but also the opportunity for the Village to think about these types of designations. There is no protocol or procedure for this type of request, and perhaps the Board should proceed more cautiously. He asked that Item E be pulled from the consent agenda so that it can be considered more broadly by Historical Preservation, Economic Development or the Beautification Task Force.

Trustee LaPlaca moved **to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended.** Trustee Angelo seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Trustee Schultz moved approve the **Honorary Street Designation to be known as “Chuck Foster Way” for the Portion of Hinsdale Avenue between Garfield Street and Washington Street, requested by the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce.** Trustee Williams seconded the motion.

Discussion followed regarding the need to develop a protocol for these kinds of requests and delaying approval of this item until such time as a protocol would be developed. Trustee Schultz pointed out that this request came from the Chamber of Commerce who had carefully considered this. He read the letter from the Chamber regarding this request and noted that several people came to the ACA meeting last night to speak in favor of this request. Trustee Saigh commented that this Board will be succeeded by other Boards and this is an opportunity to provide guidance. Trustee Williams stated that this is the first time in her six years of service that a request of this nature has come forward, she doesn't think this will open the floodgates to more and believes this needs to be approved. Trustee Geoga stated that the concerns raised are real and if the floodgates open, the Board can subsequently develop criteria, but he would not regret approving this action.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Accounts Payable

Trustee LaPlaca moved **Approval and Payment of the Accounts Payable for the period of February 13, 2010 through February 26, 2010 in the aggregate amount of \$693,659.00 as set forth on the list provided by the Village Treasurer, of which a permanent copy is on file with the Village Clerk.** Trustee Geoga Seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Ordinance Increasing the Electric Utility Tax as Contained in the Village Code of Hinsdale

Trustee Geoga introduced the item stating that ACA voted to approve the item on a vote of 3-1. He explained that this ordinance would increase the tax to the maximum permitted by the State. Approval will raise an additional \$120,000 next year. The reason to move forward with this now, instead of after budget discussion, is to give Commonwealth Edison enough time to effectuate necessary changes, otherwise we lose a potential \$10,000 per month in revenue. President Cauley confirmed that this will net to approximately \$20.00 per household per year.

Trustee Geoga moved to approve an **Ordinance Increasing the Electric Utility Tax as Contained in the Village Code of Hinsdale.** Trustee Saigh seconded the motion. Trustee Schultz commented that he believes the budget discussions should take place before the adoption of this ordinance, however, Trustee LaPlaca commented that the Village will need these revenues no matter what.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES

No report.

ZONING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

President Cauley introduced the items stating that they had been on the last Board agenda, but Rule 7 was invoked by Trustees Schultz and Williams. They took the position that this matter should go to ZPS first, however, he respectfully disagrees. It is customary practice for the Village President to bring these issues to the Board; staffing and employment matters are never discussed at committee level, always in closed session and brought directly to the Board. He has been criticized for: 1) preventing residents from public comment, and 2) not giving Trustees sufficient time to digest information. Neither is the case with these items; he described staff efforts to be available to address any concerns and previous closed session discussions of the Board. No emails have been received from any citizen on this matter.

Trustee LaPlaca moved to approve an **Ordinance Authorizing the Participation by the Village of Hinsdale in Southwest Public Safety Communications (“Southwest Central Dispatch”)**, and a **Resolution Approving Joint Public Safety Agreement – Southwest Central Dispatch** and a **Purchase Order to Motorola, Inc. in the amount of \$33,190.15 for purchase of 28 portable radios, 1 mobile radio and necessary accessories.** Trustee Angelo seconded the motion.

Chief Bloom gave a 9-1-1 Dispatch Consolidation Proposal power point presentation. He stated that he is on the Emergency Telephone Service Board and that their strategic plan calls for encouraging consolidation because funds have declined in the last three years, there would be less equipment to support and it would provide a more efficient environment. He stated that he started to look into consolidation two years ago; he has fully explored all options in every iteration; the proposed agreement will not adversely affect public safety and is cost effective.

Chief Bloom noted that SWCD is in the top 2% of all accredited agencies; they provide maintenance and replacement of all receiver site equipment, Hinsdale would only be responsible for portable radios. He emphasized the importance of a dedicated fire desk, it is difficult to train these individuals and mistakes are made, this is a definite

advantage. Also, two operators are needed to provide emergency medical dispatch; Hinsdale often only has one operator working. He recapped the savings to the Village thru the incentives to be approved tomorrow night. The internal impact of the consolidation would be a locked lobby at the least busy times, however the exterior foyer door would be open and an emergency phone would be located inside the building and could summon an immediate emergency response by fire or police. He outlined the reasons and recommendations for the consolidation. Hinsdale would continue to financially contribute to ETSB and utilize their resources. SWCD has a dedicated fire dispatch desk, can provide 24/7 Emergency Medical dispatch, has a higher level of staffing, no delay in emergency response times and non-emergency calls would still be answered by our personnel during peak periods. Further, SWCD is a CALEA accredited flagship agency, he has received positive feedback from agencies who are already members of SWCD, there will be immediate and future savings through shared services, and immediate and future savings over present dispatch cost and will not impact public safety.

Mr. Cook outlined the financial status of Southwest Central Dispatch. They are very sound, and they have the same auditors as Hinsdale. He has spoken with them and they had only good things to say. They have an exceptionally strong balance sheet, with an unrestricted fund balance of 195% of operating expenses; there would be no additional assessment to members. They are well run and maintain their budget. Their fund balance is comprised 100% of cash, they have no debt.

Trustee Williams pointed out that there are differences in tonight's presentation and Chief Bloom's memo from January 27th. She asked if this proposal is motivated by cost. Chief Bloom responded that everything has a cost element. She believes it is inconceivable to start with this cut; she noted the negatives mentioned in Chief Bloom's memo; that money has taken over and now these concerns are gone. Chief Bloom stated that he was trying to provide a balanced report, some of those concerns have been addressed, but looking at it in its totality, weighing the plusses and minuses he still recommends SWCD. Trustee Williams suggested that the motion before the Board be modified to include a contingency on the approval of the financial incentives. Mr. Cook commented that the incentives were negotiated in good faith, he believes they will be approved because this was not a one-sided discussion. Trustee Schultz asked if we are locked into this price and can they raise their rates. Mr. Cook explained that their projected budgets include a 2% to 2½% increase over the next years, but that number is factored into the number presented tonight. He confirmed that their pricing has been very stable. Trustee Schultz is troubled by the fact that there is no one present tonight from SWCD and that Congressman Lipinski has described the facility as overburdened and in need of technical improvement. He also wondered if SWCD has said they would hire our people, to which Mr. Cook responded that they have a civil hiring process, they have said they would work with us, but could not guarantee they would hire Hinsdale employees. Trustee Schultz stated that when he made the motion to table this matter, it was not political, but he believes

mission critical. This needs to be vetted, it is worth holding public hearings, it shouldn't be rushed and the budget should be looked at first.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Geoga

NAYS: Trustees Williams and Schultz

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Trustee LaPlaca made a motion to approve a **Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale in Regard to the Sharing of Fire Department Services**, and a **Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Villages of Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Oak Brook, Westmont, Hinsdale and the Tri-State and a Fire Protection District for a Fire Department Communications Network**. Trustee Angelo seconded the motion.

Fire Chief Michael Kelly addressed the Board and stated that this intergovernmental agreement is based on both agencies remaining separate, under their Boards and operating at their current locations. Operationally and functionally they will work together, it will blur the borders and resources will be shared. This is a guiding document, it is deliberately general as such; many areas will need further and detailed discussion which will occur over time, after and if this is approved. There are some specific critical areas to the plan; shared dispatch, a common communication platform and reciprocal immediate response between the Villages. Simultaneous dispatch will significantly improve response time, and as important as fire response time is the value of having a command staff. Both agencies have chiefs and deputy chiefs and evening and weekend staffing will improve. Chief Kelly said they will work together in the future toward a common rate schedule and ambulance billing. He described radio frequency licensing and the sharing of associated fees and costs. He also reviewed the Exhibits attached to the agreement.

Trustee Schultz asked about on duty personnel and why this isn't spelled out in the agreement. Chief Kelly stated that the discussion of staffing alternatives is ongoing. Mr. Cook commented that the staffing level in Clarendon Hills will be increased, but for the first year or two there may be a gap they have asked us to help with. They are looking at revenue sources to narrow this gap. Trustee Shultz believes these details should be addressed before the agreement is approved. It was pointed out that any amendments to the agreement will go to the Board for approval.

Trustee Williams asked if there will be joint training. Chief Kelly responded that we do mutual aid training currently; this is designed for consistent training, schedules, topics and drills, so that both agencies have the same standards. This will not have a negative impact, but will, in fact, improve both departments. Trustee Williams commented that Hinsdale residents have spent a lot of money on equipment, and if Clarendon Hills' equipment is old, Hinsdale shouldn't have to contribute to capital improvements of Clarendon Hills' equipment. Chief Kelly said there is duplication of equipment between the fire agencies, looking down the road if something needs to be replaced a determination will have to be made to avoid duplication.

Trustee Williams said that the unfolding of this sharing was disappointing. The only community who agreed to do this was Clarendon Hills, perhaps another eighteen months would have changed the minds of other communities. We are rushing to go with the first department that said yes. She thinks the tradition of our department is important; they have always been held in high esteem. We are abandoning this, creating a negative legacy for this Board and creating the potential for our Fire Department to form a union. This would be costly and creates a less favorable environment for our community.

Trustee Geoga stated that he supports the consolidation, the discussion regarding this agreement portrays a trade off of public safety for dollars; however we are all concerned about public safety. As stewards of financial affairs, we are required to address these issues. As to the specificity of the agreement, there have been many discussions between chiefs and managers, the essence is captured in the agreement and some protocols will be worked out in practice. Finally, that there is a lack of pride or a disrespect to the Fire Department is not the case. These are hard issues; this is only a matter of meeting responsibilities as best as possible for the citizens of Hinsdale.

Mr. Cook said that all financial items will be discussed with the budget. Trustee Schultz asked how can we approve without knowing who will pay to staff Clarendon Hills and for how long. Trustee Geoga commented that it is his understanding we are not agreeing to pay, but that is one possible solution. President Cauley referenced the language of the agreement. Trustee LaPlaca clarified that we did not settle with Clarendon Hills out of desperation, other communities were approached, but Clarendon Hills is right next to Hinsdale. Further, Burr Ridge and others are part of a different fire district and cannot engage in this agreement. She also commented that the Board should always be looking for money-saving efficiencies that do not compromise public safety. This matter has no bearing on the Board's esteem for the Fire and Police Departments. This is a positive step toward the future for both communities. Trustee Saigh believes this action is inevitable. This has been thoroughly thought through by good people on both sides and has

been developed over weeks and months. He remarked on the leadership of Chiefs Bloom and Kelly and Mr. Cook to implement this agreement.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Geoga

NAYS: Trustees Williams and Schultz

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

President Cauley stated firmly that there is no hidden agenda. The agreement is vague to allow baby steps moving forward, this is a good faith undertaking to work together. Any changes moving forward will go thru ZPS and the Board.

REPORTS FROM ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No reports.

STAFF REPORTS

Approve a Resolution Releasing Certain Closed Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cook introduced the item stating it is a State statute requirement for the release of closed session minutes. He stated that he, the Village Attorney and the Deputy Clerk have reviewed the minutes. President Cauley asked to read the approved minutes prior to the adoption of the resolution. Ms. Bruton will make the minutes available for review in her office, the item will be moved to the next meeting of the Village Board.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Village Board of Trustees and no need for a Closed Session, Trustee Angelo **moved to adjourn the meeting of March 2, 2010.** Trustee LaPlaca seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Angelo, Saigh, LaPlaca, Williams, Geoga, Schultz

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Christine M. Bruton, Deputy Village Clerk