

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK, ILLINOIS

201 Acacia Drive

Indian Head Park, Illinois 60525

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

January 14, 2021

“Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06(3) minutes of the public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of the votes taken.”

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hinshaw

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Hinshaw. Due to the restrictions of the State of Illinois regarding gatherings of people during the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Sharon Allison, Village Clerk (attended via Zoom)

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum):

- Mayor Tom Hinshaw (physically present)
- Trustee Sean Conboy (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Rita Farrell-Mayer (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Shawn Kennedy (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Christian Metz (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Amy Wittenberg (attended via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT:

- John DuRocher, Village Administrator (physically present)
- Patrick Brankin, General Counsel, Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz (attended via Zoom)
- Maureen Garcia, Village Treasurer (attended via Zoom)
- Linda Merrifield, Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant (physically present)
- Andy Ferrini, Village Administrator Intern (attended via Zoom)
- Justin Fuller, Water Superintendent (attended via Zoom)
- David Karaffa, Cable Station Manager (physically present)

VISITORS: No residents were physically present at the meeting.

Several residents attended via Zoom.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Hinshaw reviewed the rules pursuant to Public Act 101-0640 prior to the meeting.

Coronavirus:

The Cook County Department of Public Health has determined that Indian Head Park has 238 confirmed cases of Covid-19, 45 cases more than reported at last month's Village Board meeting. The confirmed cases have exploded, an increase of 23% in our village in the last month which is actually better than last month's increase of 43%. There is a new strain of the Virus that seems to be spreading much faster, so please maintain wearing a mask, washing your hands, and be socially distant when you are around others.

Mayor Hinshaw asked Administrator DuRocher to explain the matrix for the re-opening of businesses during the pandemic. We are now in Stage 3—restaurants and gaming parlors are closed. Once we meet certain criteria, which includes lower positivity rates and hospital beds in use, we may be eligible to re-open. In Region 10, in which Indian Head Park is a member, this may happen as soon as tomorrow (January 15). We will await the ruling from the governor to re-open restaurants and gaming parlors on a limited basis.

If you are interested in a vaccine survey and getting on an email list for notifications about the survey, we have posted a link from the Cook County Department of Public Health on the IHP website.

Sidewalks: 4 Main Areas in the Village's Sidewalk Master Plan:

Acacia Drive: Will be added this year (2021) alongside the new road.

Plainfield Road and Wolf Road: Both in a Phase I Study.

Joliet Road: No plan of action set at this time.

I—294 Update:

Work in our area continues to be with the on-and-off ramps, and sewers on the west side of the Tollway. Bridge work in our area has started.

Village Goals:

The Village Board is starting a yearly process to discuss and then establish a few high priority village-wide goals. This is a way that this Board communicates some high-level initiatives. More on this later in this meeting.

Village Trustee Election:

The League of Women Voters will be hosting a Village Trustee Candidates Forum on March 9. More information to follow as it becomes available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

One resident (via Zoom) requested the status of the police department getting body cameras. Both Mayor Hinshaw and Administrator DuRocher commented that currently there are meetings in progress with the police department regarding this issue. In all likelihood body cams will be required for all police officers in the state by 2024 or 2025.

Two residents (via email) called attention to the indoor dining ban in the Village. All restaurants are presently ignoring the ban. Administrator DuRocher has personally told the restaurant owners that they are not abiding by state rules. If they refuse, they will be cited. If they continue to refuse, they will be reported to the state and run the risk of losing their liquor licenses. This 3-tiered approach is in process. These same residents reported that some people in the restaurants are not wearing masks.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as Established moved by Trustee Farrell-Mayer; seconded by Trustee Metz.

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2020
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending December 31, 2020, in the amount of \$466,043.51
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report for Month Ending December 31, 2020

Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Garcia:
Cash on Hand on November 30, 2020, was \$3,006,293.17
Payables for December 2020 amounted to \$466,043.51
Total Revenues for December 2020 amounted to \$202,665.66
Ending Balance on December 31, 2020, was \$2,742,915.32

Motion carried by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees Conboy, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz, O’Laughlin, and Wittenberg voted Yay. No Nay votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. GREEN ELECTRICAL AGGREGATION PRESENTATION

Over the past months, the Village has been researching options for green electrical aggregation. Administrator DuRocher introduced Andy Ferrini, Assistant Administrator, who has been working on this project. Ferrini introduced Sharon Durling from NIMEC (Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative), a consulting firm that assists municipalities with their electric aggregation programs.

Their clients range from Zion to Kankakee County. Durling stated that, in the past, electric collaboration was higher priced than other electric companies such as ComEd. However, market rates have recently been leveling out. Thus, the advantage of moving to an electrical aggregate would be that the Village would become more “green.” Various options and possibilities were presented. If the Board wishes to move forward with this program, more research and discussion, including considering bids presented would have to be determined. The program would be voluntary for individual households. Presently 13% of IHP households are already using green energy. Other questions or comments related to the advantages, disadvantages, EPA rankings, transfer effect to the administrative staff, etc., were discussed. At the close of the discussion, Trustee Kennedy observed that, in all probability, whether mandated or otherwise, “green will be the future.”

B. SELECTION OF AUDITOR

Administrator DuRocher stated that only 2 bids were received from auditing firms to serve as auditors in IHP. One was our present auditor, Sikich. Because of good service and a similarity of bids between the two bidding companies, DuRocher recommended retaining Sikich for another year. This action was agreed upon by the Board.

C. BUDGET PROCESS OUTLINE AND EXPECTED OPENING BALANCES

Administrator DuRocher reported that the Village has established an opening bank fund policy of maintaining at least \$1.3 million in the bank at all times. At the beginning of the pandemic, the budget was adjusted in expectation of a loss of revenue. Basically, that has not happened—sales taxes and gaming revenues are doing well. Thus, this year’s budget will have slightly over \$500,000 more to be used for Village projects. Some of this additional money came from the Covid Cares Act (used for police salaries), other small Covid grants, and the aforementioned sales taxes and gaming revenues. This year’s Budget will be presented at the February Board meeting; discussion at the March meeting; vote at the April meeting.

D. VILLAGE-WIDE GOALS

Mayor Hinshaw read the list of Goals for the Village 2021 that has been growing over the past months. They are as follows along with additional suggestions from the trustees at this meeting:

- Blackhawk Park improvements
- Security cameras at main entrances of the Village
- Heritage Center—a playground or park; a “village garden”; a possible move of the Library to the Church
- Attempt to join the Pleasant Dale Park District
- Acacia Drive landscaping improvements, if necessary
- Community activities—as Movies in the Park, Car Show, etc.
- Police, Administrative, Public Works/Water Department operational and technical review
- Annual plan for short- and long-term policies in the Village

The above will be further discussed at the February Board Meeting.

REPORTS:

TRUSTEES:

- Trustee Kennedy announced that the Fence and Shed Committee have come up with 3 points regarding fences that will be brought up before the Planning and Zoning Committee, then to the Board. The next meeting of the committee will be on January 19th at 7:00 P.M.
- Trustee Wittenberg thanked the many people who helped make the Winter Festival a huge success. About 200 people were present.
- Trustee Metz announced that puzzles can now be checked out at the Heritage Center. He also announced that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on January 26 at 6:30 P.M. on Zoom.
- Trustee Farrell-Mayer announced that the Smoke Signals prepared by Linda Merryfield will be out next week.

VILLAGE CLERK: None

VILLAGE TREASURER: None

VILLAGE ATTORNEY: None

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

- The update on Acacia Drive: The South section will be worked on in May and July.
The North section will be worked on in August and October.
The final layer of the road will happen in October.
This new road is the result of a federal grant.
A meeting was held recently with the associations regarding tree planting.
- The architectural firm that is evaluating Lyonsville Church will have an assessment for the Village by the end of January.
- Garbage/Leaf Removal update: Administrator DuRocher asked Andy Ferrini, Assistant Administrator, to report on the SBC status. Ferrini stated that we have had 3½ months of service thus far from SBC. He stated that complaints were filed throughout that time period. Calls-44; Emails—8; FaceBook—45. Typical complaints were: size of totes; day selection of pick-ups; preference to Groot service; animals destroying totes because the totes are not strong enough; missed pick-ups; incorrect tagging; leaves too far or not far enough into the street. Jake Diliberto, the SBC representative, was present and he gave reasons for the various situations that had taken place. There were also a number of compliments for SBC's service. Those compliment figures, as well as complaint figures, will be recorded by both parties in the future.
Several Trustees and Mayor Hinshaw thanked Jake Diliberto for his presence and persistence in making the garbage and leaf removal issue work for all of our community.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Water Superintendent Justin Fuller reported that the Village is ready for snow plowing with an ample supply of salt. The vehicle fleet is ready. Several salt issues have been resolved. There were 2 minor water main breaks during the month. Streets and sewer projects in 2021 are in the planning stages. Clean-up of

Flagg Creek is going on. Don Lorenzen and Justin have updated their pesticide licenses in order to ultimately “treat” the buckthorn along the Creek. All of their certificates are up to date. Administrator DuRocher acknowledged that the Public Works team had half of its team out of work due to medical or funeral leaves, but all jobs got done. Mayor Hinshaw thanked them for the efficiency shown during a recent water loss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

One resident requested clarification on 3 issues:

- Where would the cameras in the village (future goal) be placed? Administrator DuRocher answered that it is too soon to be making that decision as cameras have not been voted upon yet as a goal.
- Would the Village consider a dog park as part of any park upgrade? Administrator DuRocher answered that would be added to the list of future goals that will be voted upon in the upcoming Board Meetings.
- What would additional landscaping on Acacia Drive (also a possible future goal) look like? Mayor Hinshaw answered that it is too early to make that decision as the Village will not know what (if any) additional landscaping will be needed after the Acacia Drive road project.

At 9:15 P.M. Trustee Wittenberg moved to adjourn the meeting with the intent to go to closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues per 5 ILCS 120//2c)1 with no intention to return to Open Meeting thereafter; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

Motion carried by roll call vote (6-0). Trustees Conboy, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz, O’Laughlin, and Wittenberg voted Yay (6-0). No Nay votes.

**Sharon Allison
Village Clerk**

