

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK, ILLINOIS
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, Illinois 60525

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

April 8, 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, April 8, 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 (joined the meeting at 7:12 P.M.--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, Administrative Intern (attended via Zoom)
- David Karaffa, Cable Station Manager (physically present)

Several residents attended via Zoom

MAYOR'S REPORT:

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

Governor's Executive Order:

The Village continues to operate under the emergency declaration of the Governor with regards to the Open Meetings Act. To this end, the Village Board will still conduct its meetings remotely. The Village will record this meeting and will make it available on its website as soon as possible after the meeting. Until the Executive Order is lifted, the Village will conduct its business 100% remotely. Our plan at this point is not to go to the hybrid system where some of the public attends remotely and some attend in person. We are planning to either be in 100% physical attendance or 100% remote attendance. Persons wishing to submit questions tonight may do so via text message, via e-mail, or verbally through Zoom during the public comment portions of the meeting. At some point in the future, hopefully, we will be returning to pre-pandemic meetings.

Coronavirus:

The Cook County Department of Public Health has determined that Indian Head Park has 265 confirmed cases of Covid-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, 8 more that were confirmed in March. This is a similar increase to the increase as recorded in Cook County. In Cook County we have 19% of the population fully vaccinated. In Illinois, a little more than half of the population have been vaccinated with at least one shot.

I-294 Update:

Joliet Road, under the tollway, is having new lanes reconstructed. The noise wall from Plainfield Road to about half way down to Joliet Road will be removed and replaced in 2021. A new noise wall will also be added alongside the south-bound ramp onto the I-294.

Plainfield Road Update:

Cook County has scheduled a Plainfield Road Open Meeting on April 14 from 6:00-7:30 P.M. If you are interested in joining this on-line meeting, please register at improveplainfieldroad.org.

SBC Amnesty Day:

SBC will have a garbage Amnesty Day on April 16. SBC will collect 5 yards of trash for 3 garbage stickers. The Village will also have a free Electronics, Paint Recycling, and Paper Shredding Day on June 12 from 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

New Village Trustees:

Congratulations to Eileen Donnersberger, Charles Eck, and Brenda O'Laughlin on the election to the Village Board of Trustees. Election results will be certified near the end of this month.

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

Acacia Drive: New sidewalks will be added this summer (2021) alongside the new Acacia Drive on the east side. **Reminder—Acacia Drive will be a construction zone all summer.**

Plainfield Road and Wolf Road: Both in a Phase I Study. We are expecting to have Wolf Road alternatives available in May for resident review. There will be public meetings for discussion, review and comment in the near future for resident feedback.

Joliet Road: A study of potential right-of-way land acquisition is currently underway.

Village Employee News:

Congratulations to Linda Merrifield on her 5-year anniversary with the Village.

Congratulations to Chief Steven Stelter on his 1-year anniversary with the Village.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Residents questions or comments on Zoom or by email:

A resident questioned the amount of the total bid for accounting and auditing services as requested at the February meeting (when the question was not answered)

Administrator DuRocher responded that the bid was \$29,230.

Another resident questioned why the February meeting of the Village Board was not posted. Why? She also inquired why SBC has named the pick-up of large trash items on April 16 being called Amnesty Day when residents are paying for the service. She also commented on the Survey Monkey currently on the Village Website questioning whether residents prefer to pay extra to SBC if SBC picks up large items at every pick-up. She called this a bait-and-switch tactic. She also questioned why trash in front of Driftwood Lounge has not been picked up. Is this a violation? She also questioned the possibility of the Village offering a used household items pick-up day for paint, electronics, batteries, etc.

Administrator DuRocher responded that the February meeting video was delayed due to technical difficulties; it has since been posted. Regarding Amnesty Day, the amount of trash (5 yards for 3 stickers) is a very large amount; as it stands, the service is as stated in the Village-SBC contract. Regarding the SBC Survey Monkey-- it is just a survey, not a vote. Regarding the trash in front of Driftwood; the owner and landlord have been notified. Regarding a disposal day for household items (paint thinner, Styrofoam, etc.); currently, this type of costly pick-up is not in the Village's horizon.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending March 31, 2021, in the amount of \$801,309.00
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report for Month Ending March 31, 2021

Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Garcia: Cash on Hand on February 28, 2021, was \$2,807,869.04 Payables for March 2021 amounted to \$801,309.00
Total Revenues for March 2021 amounted to \$835,666.46 Ending Balance on March 31, 2021, was \$2,842,226.50

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. ORDINANCE 2021-04: 2021-2022 BUDGET AND CAPITAL PLAN FINAL READING

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-04, the Budget and Capital Plan for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

After final adjustments made to the budget were announced, it was reported that there were no questions brought forward regarding the budget either from the Board or the residents. Administrator DuRocher reported that in spite of the Covid restrictions of the past year, the new budget, as presented, is balanced.

Trustee Metz thanked the Staff, the Board, and the Finance Committee for the efficiency exhibited in presenting a balanced budget for the new fiscal year. Mayor Hinshaw expressed his thanks as well.

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

B. ORDINANCE 2021-05: SCHEDULE OF FEES

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-05 establishing the fee schedule for the Village as printed in Packet with the following changes to the bed fees from \$150 to \$175 was moved by Trustee O’Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

Administrator DuRocher explained that Village fees are changed annually. He stated that

each year certain fees are added, certain are subtracted. This motion is an approval of a bed fee change.

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

C. ORDINANCE 2021-03: FENCE ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-03, an Ordinance adopting revisions to the Village’s fence code, was moved by Trustee Kennedy; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

Committee Chair for the Fence and Shed Committee, Trustee Kennedy, announced that the adoption of this ordinance is the final step in its approval from the Shed and Fence Committee and the Planning and Zoning Committee. The following conditions will be added to the present fence ordinance: all fences need approval through the special use process; if property is sold, fences need to be removed; allows for fences to be used for cover-up of garbage cans. Trustee Metz questioned how the ordinance will be enforced. Administrator DuRocher stated that Staff will monitor village property occasionally. Residents’ complaints will be considered. Recorder of Deeds will be notified that, if a property being sold, the fence needs to be removed before finality of the sale. Mayor Hinshaw thanked Trustee Kennedy and Trustee Farrell-Mayer and village residents for serving on the Fence and Shed Committee.

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

D. ORDINANCE 2021-06: VIDEO GAMING AT WILLOW HILLS RESTAURANT

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-06, an Ordinance allowing for video gaming at Willow Hills Restaurant was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin.

Administrator DuRocher informed the Board that the Village strictly regulates the number of gaming licenses permitted. Willow Hills has the capacity and the required licenses to have video gaming. There are no instances of police activity at any of our video gaming establishments. Staff recommends approval of this ordinance. Trustee Kennedy questioned if this is the last location that can request a gaming license. Administrator DuRocher said yes; in order to have a gaming license, one must have a liquor license; Willow Hills has a liquor license.

Motion carried by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy, Metz, O’Laughlin, and Wittenberg voted Yay. Trustee Conboy was Nay.

E. FIRST READING—SHED ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Administrator DuRocher informed the Board of the progress of the Fence Committee. All sheds must be approved by Fence Committee, then the Planning and Zoning Committee, then the Village Board as a special use. Special consideration will be granted to houses without

basements and/or with only single-car garages. Special consideration will also be granted to houses in the Robert Bartlett subdivision (behind Walgreens) in terms of streamlining the application and overall expense to the property owner.

A lively discussion followed as to whether a shed would have to be removed when the property is sold. At this point, Counsel Brankin recommended that he meet with Administrator DuRocher to clarify language regarding tear-down and re-building sheds to satisfy this ordinance. Administrator DuRocher will then bring the issue back to the May Board meeting for additional discussion leading to a vote in June or July.

REPORTS:

TRUSTEES:

- Trustee Farrell-Mayer congratulated Trustees Wittenberg and O’Laughlin for a job well done with the annual Easter Egg hunt.
- Trustee Metz stated that an air quality study took place at the Heritage Center. Administrator DuRocher explained that the study surfaced a small amount of mold on the main floor, but that is not out of the ordinary where a large collection of books are present.
- Trustee Wittenberg thanked all who assisted at the Easter Egg Hunt. The successful event was attended by around 200 residents. A total of 3000 Easter eggs made for a fun day. She reported on the March Police Committee Meeting: Chief Stelter has good ideas for growth in the police department. An investigation into technology issues and cameras is now in the works. The Citizens Police Academy will take place with several participants already in place. Chief Stelter recently toured the Cook County Dispatch Center. Chief is looking into placing a Senior Community Service Officer to assist the village seniors. He is also studying the major impact of the state’s most current Police Reform Bill so as to be prepared for the July initiation date. The Chief also is planning to integrate policies and procedures discussed after attending the recent Illinois Police Chiefs meeting.
- Trustee O’Laughlin announced that there would be 2 Picnic and Movie Nights with SEASPAR in Blackhawk Park. The dates are Saturday, August 14, and Saturday, September 25.
- Trustee Kennedy announced that the recent March 31 meeting of the Public Works Meeting spent time discussing the issue of a take-all garbage pick-up policy which would cost about \$1-2 more per week for residents. Members discussed the Public Works portion of the 2021-2022 budget, recently passed. Trustee Kennedy announced that the MWRD recently cleared the buckthorn foliage on Village property on 70th Place west of Wolf Road. Native plants will take the place of the removed buckthorn. Mayor Hinshaw announced that the Village Engineer did a road assessment recently (normally done every 5 years). The results will now be integrated with the ongoing Capitol Plans for road improvement.

VILLAGE CLERK: No report

VILLAGE TREASURER: No report

VILLAGE ATTORNEY: None. There will be a Closed Session after tonight’s meeting to discuss land acquisition.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: No report

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Steven Stelter just passed an enjoyable first year of service as police chief. Since Covid hit shortly after he was sworn in, Chief felt that that allowed him to do things on a much faster time frame. He got to meet with and build greater relationships with the police staff. He updated the Village's policy manual. He appointed Mike Kurinec as his Deputy Chief. He promoted a fee for towing of cars of arrestees at a \$500 rate. A police officer was placed on duty (when needed) as a Task Force officer. Two officers went through supervisor training, a training program for future leadership with certification from the state. A Facebook page was set up to better communicate with the world of social media. Chief encouraged communication with the residents. He would like suggestions to build the best police department that we can for Indian Head Park.

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERN: Andy Ferrini announced that the electrical aggregation notice was sent out to every village resident on March 22. It explained the Village's attempt to be "greener" with its electrical usage. The deadline to "opt out" of the program is April 14, though, in reality, you can opt out at any time. A question regarding Renewal Energy Certificates is answered on a FAQ page on the Village website.

Another question regarding Eligo—the alternative supplier of electric power—concerns whether it is a for-profit business; yes, it is, since it takes the risk of matching the price of electric power. Eligo's integrity was questioned, but was supported after serious vetting and referencing by the Board. Call Andy at the Village Hall (708) 246-3080 x178--for additional information or questions.

Andy discussed the topic of the waste franchise with SBC which had been talked about at the recent Public Works Committee meeting. Should the residents prefer the present pick-up with use of stickers or prefer a flat fee for take- all pick up as in the past with Groot? A survey is on-line and will be in the next mailing of Smoke Signals. In March, 2 complaints from residents came in to the Village Hall; 6 complaints came in to SBC. Forthcoming in April, Amnesty Day for 5 yards of garbage for 3 stickers will take place on April 9. Paint and electronics can be dropped off on June 12 from 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. at Public Works building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A resident requested that a complaint filed on SBC by Ashbrook in court again should be included in the SBC report given by Administrative Assistant Intern Andy Ferrini.

Another resident questioned why a letter at the Public Comments at the end of the March meeting discussing the Lyonsville Church issue was not published in the Minutes.

Another resident commented about the SBC survey, wishing that there had been a space for comment. The resident applauded the leaf pick-up program, but wished to make a comment about the day of the week for waste pick-up. She also gave high praise to Amy Wittenberg for her service as a Trustee with hopes that she will stay involved in our community.

In answer to the question about the Church issue, Counsel Brankin offered that anyone can request to see the letter or can request the letter via FOIA.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:12 P.M. Trustee Wittenberg moved to adjourn the meeting and move to closed session for the purposes of property acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2©5 with no additional business after the Closed Session; seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin.

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

**Sharon Allison
Village Clerk**