

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

August 13, 2020

“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, August 13, 2020, 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 (physically present)
- Trustee Christian Metz (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin (physically present)
- Trustee Amy Wittenberg (physically present)

ALSO PRESENT:

- John DuRocher, Village Administrator (physically present)
- Patrick Brankin, General Counsel, Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz (physically present)
- Steven Stelter, Police Chief (physically present)
- Matt Gadziak, Strand Engineering (physically present)
- Linda Merrifield, Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant (physically present)
- Don Lorenzen, Public Works Superintendent (attended via Zoom)
- Nick Tantillo, Cable Station Manager (physically present)

VISITORS: About 25 residents and a vendor were present at the meeting.

About 22 non-Board members were present on Zoom.

AFFIRMING MICHAEL KURINEC AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE:

The consensus of the Village Board affirmed Michael Kurinec as deputy Chief of Police.

Deputy Kurinec was introduced by Police Chief Stelter who took a family picture after the Swearing-In Ceremony by Trustee O’Laughlin.

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 60 confirmed cases of Covid-19. We are still asking that everyone practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, and stay home if you are sick. In our area, Pillars Community Nurse Association in LaGrange is offering Covid-19 testing. Illinois has a state-wide face-covering order in place. If someone is not wearing a face mask in a business in IHP, that person would first get a verbal notice to make reasonable efforts to comply. A second step would be to give that person a written notice to comply. A third step would be to have some or all patrons vacate the business premises. And finally, a fourth step would involve a misdemeanor citation fine of between \$75-\$2500.

Sidewalks—4 main areas:

One of the Village Board’s 3 goals from last year was to focus on improving pedestrian access in the Village. We have been working to improve pedestrian access on our primary roads. There has been no discussion or plans of working to get sidewalks on every street in the Village, only for the primary roads.

Acacia Drive—Tonight we will discuss and potentially vote on the sidewalk options available. The Board listened to the feedback we received and asked our Engineer to give 3 options for the sidewalk. Administrator DuRocher and I had a meeting on July 28 specifically for the Executive Boards of Wilshire Green, Acacia, and Indian Ridge. If approved, construction is planned for 2021.

Plainfield Road—Phase I for Plainfield Road from the tollway bridge in Indian Head Park to East Avenue in Countryside has started. The first Corridor Advisory Committee meeting will be September 1. The Phase I will be around 18 months (around the end of 2021). Construction would be after 2022.

Wolf Road—This Phase I project is from Plainfield Road south to 79th Street. This project has been approved by Cook County. The \$1,800,000 cost of Phase I will be paid by the County and is expected to take about 18 months. Phase I is the initial engineering of the road, sidewalk, drainage, utilities, bridges, and everything involved. Nothing is guaranteed, because this will be a big project. But after Phase I is finished, we should have draft plans to share with the community to get feedback and potential modifications.

This Board has talked about the potential to allow fences along Wolf Road due to the road expansion. We have also talked about working to eliminate Buck Thorn and other invasive plants in the community. Over the next year, the Board and I will envision the Wolf Road Corridor, who pays what, potential fences, Buck Thorn, and whatever else may be affected. We will have at least 4 years before any construction starts.

Joliet Road—The State of Illinois recently-passed budget includes \$4,125,000 for a sidewalk/pedestrian access from Wolf Road to Willow Springs Road. A big thank you to State Senator Jaqueline Collins for her efforts. We have started the process of working with Senator Collins and the state departments to keep this project moving forward.

I-294 Update:

Work in our area has begun on the sound walls in Countryside, sewer system in Burr Ridge, and ramps on I-55 and I-294. Work still progresses. When the sound walls in the Village will be affected, the Tollway will send out letters to all residents involved. We will discuss these events at our monthly Village Board Meetings.

2020 Census:

We are at 83% completion of the census in IHP, making us 2nd in completion in the township. The deadline for the census is September 30. I strongly encourage every person to be counted since its count is used for factors such as distribution of federal tax dollars. Census employees may knock on your door; if so, check their ID badges.

BIG NEWS:

The Federal Government, through the state, has paid off \$1,500,000 of the \$2,000,000 water main project from last summer. This means we will be able to plan for the next project sooner.

SHEDS AND FENCES:

We are aware that many residents are here regarding sheds and fences. The Board and I have heard your responses. We will be discussing this issue further at next month's meeting. However, that does not mean that you cannot comment on the issue at tonight's meeting. For those of you who received letters about removing fences by September 30—that date has been extended by 6 months while we discuss various solutions to this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At least 16 residents commented on 2 major issues:

One issue dealt with the sidewalks which will soon be constructed on Acacia Drive. The type and size of the sidewalk will be voted upon at tonight's meeting. Topics included possible alternatives and compromises, green spaces, least invasive structures, trees, increase in property values, future ordinances regarding use of sidewalks, and more ticketing of speeding drives along roads.

Another issue involved fences and sheds. A letter had been sent out at the beginning of August about homes with fences and sheds which were to be removed by October 30. This letter was very upsetting to long-standing residents, many of whom were under the impression that they had been grandfathered into the original ordinance of 1969 forbidding sheds and fences. Mayor Hinshaw stated that several options presented in tonight's Comments will be considered as the Board evaluates this issue for future action.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to Establish Consent Agenda as Printed moved by Trustee Kennedy; seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin.

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

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as Established moved by Trustee O'Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2020
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending July 31, 2020, in the amount of \$385,631.73
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report Ending July 31, 2020

Financial Report was presented by Trustee Metz in the absence of Treasurer Garcia. Cash on Hand on June 30, 2020, was \$2,972,557.91.

Payables for July 2020 amounted to \$385,631.73.

Total Revenues for July 2020 amounted to \$561,229.44.

Ending Balance on July 31, 2020, was \$3,148,155.62.

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. BOY SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION BY CHRISTOPHER NOGA

A resident of Indian Head Park and a junior at Lyons Township High School, Christopher Noga, approached the Board with a design for a new entry sign into the Arrowhead Trail subdivision of IHP. Christopher plans to use this project in order to achieve Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts. He has designed four possible signs which his neighbors on Arrowhead will help choose. The project will cost about \$800 which is being funded through private donations. Boy Scouts and adults will build the sign this autumn. The Board applauded his efforts and gave Christopher its full support.

B. ORDINANCE 2020-22—ROAD CONSTRUCTION AWARD OF CONTRACT

A motion to pass Ordinance 2020-22—an Ordinance awarding the 2020 road program contract to Chicagoland Paving in the amount of \$200,000 was made by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

Administrator DuRocher explained that at the last meeting, the Board rejected Austin Tyler's low bid. Previous work done by Austin Tyler was done unsatisfactorily. The next low bidder is Chicagoland Paving. Thomas Engineering Firm has recommended Chicagoland Paving. Chicagoland had promised to have the necessary work done by October 15, as colder temperatures are not beneficial to paving.

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

C. DISCUSSION—ACACIA DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION SIDEWALK OPTION ACCEPTANCE

Matt Gadziak of Strand Engineering was introduced by Mayor Hinshaw. He discussed the three proposals for the sidewalk which all included width of the sidewalk and width of the grass buffer.

A motion to accept Option 1 with a 5-foot sidewalk and a 5-foot grass buffer for the Acacia Drive Road reconstruction project was made by Trustee Kennedy; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

Motion failed to pass by roll call vote (2-4). Trustees Conboy and Kennedy voted Yay. Trustees Farrell-Mayer, Metz, O'Laughlin, and Wittenberg voted Nay.

A motion to accept Option 2 with a 3-foot sidewalk and a 5-foot grass buffer for the Acacia Drive Road reconstruction project was made by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

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

D. ORDINANCE 2020-23—APPROVAL OF ROOF REPAIR BID

A motion to pass an ordinance awarding the roof repair contract to Red Feather Group in the amount of \$36,770.00 was made by Trustee O’Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Wittenberg.

Administrator DuRocher explained that the roof repair has been in the budget. The repair would involve the Village Hall and the gazebo in Sacajawea Park.

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

E. ORDINANCE 2020-24—REFUSE BID/LEAF VACUUMING AWARD OF CONTRACT

A motion to pass ordinance 2020-24 to award the waste hauling/leaf removal franchise to SBC Waste Services was made by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Kennedy.

Administrator DuRocher reiterated the history of the Waste Hauling/Leaf Vacuuming issue that is before the Board at this time. This project started out as a possibility of bringing back leaf vacuuming to the village. During the research, the possibility of lower rates for garbage disposal might also be considered which would benefit the community. Three companies submitted bids—SBC, DeGroot, and Lakeshore—with SBC being the low bidder. SBC also presented a program for leaf pickup. The representative from SBC, Jake Diliberto, was present (via Zoom) and he answered questions that were presented by Board members.

Motion carried by roll call vote (4-2). Trustees Conboy, Farrell-Mayer, Kennedy and Metz voted Yay. Trustees O’Laughlin and Wittenberg voted Nay.

REPORTS:

TRUSTEES:

- Trustee Kennedy questioned the estimated starting date/ending date of the Wolf Road Project. Matt Gadziak, Strand Engineering, estimated that from beginning to end it will probably take about/at least 3 years. The representative from one of the associations contributed to the discussion with information about recent evergreen bush plantings along Wolf Road. Mayor Hinshaw added that bushes, fences, etc., along Wolf Road would be taken into consideration during the planning sessions for the road construction.
- Trustee O’Laughlin reported that plans are in progress for a Movie in the Park Night with Seaspar on September 12.
- Trustee Metz announced that a new railing had been installed on the front steps of the Heritage Center for added safety. He thanked Administrator DuRocher for his actions in requesting the grant of \$1.5 million forgiveness on the government loan for last year’s water main project in the Village. Trustee Metz expressed confidence that the sidewalk in Acacia and the road construction on Wolf Road would be wisely handled with regard to the landscaping to fit in with the beauty of our Village. He also questioned the process involved in the Shed and Fence Moratorium which would be discussed over the next months before a final decision is made by the Board.

VILLAGE CLERK: None

VILLAGE TREASURER: None

VILLAGE ATTORNEY: None

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

- September is Suicide Prevention Month. This is a very serious issue of which everyone should be aware. More info to follow in the next Smoke Signals.
- Rebuild Illinois and the CARES Act have a significant amount of money that is available to municipalities. DuRocher has applied for these grants for IHP.
- Several Town Hall meetings will take place soon to provide information to the residents regarding the new waste hauling and leaf vacuuming process.
- Parking overnight in a resident's driveway with a commercial vehicle will be brought up for further discussion at upcoming meetings.
- A follow-up letter will soon be sent to residents who received an initial letter re: fences and sheds. This letter will announce that no action will be taken until further discussion by the Board.

POLICE REPORT: None

PUBLIC WORKS:

Don Lorenzen reported on the Buck Thorn shrubbery in the Village. He stated that 99% of the Buck Thorn in the Village is on private property or on state and county roads. He also confirmed that it would take about 5 days to do the re-roofing of the Village Hall and the park gazebo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Via e-mail, a resident questioned about Acacia Association staying with Groot instead of moving to SBC for garbage pick-up. Administrator DuRocher confirmed this decision which was made by Acacia.

At 9:36 P.M. Trustee Kennedy motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Trustee Metz.

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**