

Village Board Meeting Minutes
VILLAGE OF ISLAND LAKE
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
September, 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.



1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin
2. **Roll Call** Present: Trustees Chuck Cermak, Thadd Lewis, Dan Powell, Stacey Pyne and Will Ziegler. Absent: none. Also present: Mayor Richard McLaughlin, Clerk Georgine Cooper, Attorney David McArdle, Police Chief Dan Palmer, Public Works Director Chris Carlsen, Code Enforcement Dan Celske
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mayor McLaughlin
4. **Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) Presentation**
Looking to restart the Municipal Aggregation Program: Does Island Lake want to, and if so: renewable energy or civic payment to municipality. NIMEC is a buying group for electricity for street lighting and water pumping; \$25,000,000 is managed by NIMEC. Program has been in suspense since 2014; residents remain with ComEd. Serve population base of 1,250,000. Currently cannot achieve a rate below ComEd for all residents. No savings for residents; would pay the ComEd rate. ComEd will deliver power and maintain the lines. Why do it? Renewable energy and/or contribution to municipality. Green energy is from wind, solar, heat recapture, for example—not nuclear. Currently 60 communities on the program. Pertains to residences and small commercial. A year from now, will offer 1, 2 and 3 year terms. Residents can opt out of program at any time for any reason at no additional cost. Cannot start program until March 2022.

Attorney McArdle: An attorney in his office worked on the first aggregation and it was a “no lose” for municipalities. Trustee Powell: Will we determine the amount of green energy to go with. Trustee Cermak: What about those on solar? Which residents will be in program? How will residents be notified? Response: They are excluded from this program. 1/3 to 2/3s served. Letter to each on Village letterhead. Trustee Lewis: How long is the agreement? Response: 12 months; rate will never be higher than ComEd. Trustee Ziegler: How do you make any money on this program? Response: With smart meters in place, suppliers have a different cost for residents in this room; will be based on usage. Supplier picks more favorable accounts are served by aggregation; others are served by ComEd. Mayor McLaughlin: How much feedback do you get from residents? What %age of renewable are other communities opting for? Response: About 2% feedback; doesn't have data on renewable.

NIMEC asks that Board approve program and designate signing authority to Mayor. Trustee Ziegler: Would there be a problem if we moved away from ComEd? Response: ComEd is indifferent; they don't generate power anymore; they just deliver it. Consensus: Ziegler: Yes, 0 green
Cermak: Yes; 0 green, Pyne: Yes, 0 green, Powell: Yes, 50% green, Lewis: Yes, 0 green

5. **Public Comment** none
6. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Approve Environmental Aquatic Management Proposal for 2021 – 2022 Fountain Services (for lake aerators) in the amount of \$4,000**
 - b. **Ratify 2021 Field Use Agreement with Wauconda Area Youth Soccer Club**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated by Trustee Cermak, Second by Trustee Pyne
Question: Trustee Cermak: What were we paying previous company? Response: \$3,800 for
Ayes: Trustees Cermak, Lewis, Powell, Pyne, and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

NEW BUSINESS

7. **Accept 2021 Water Improvements Project bid from Berger Excavating in the amount of \$ 458,966.00**

Discussion: Mayor McLaughlin: This is to put new water lines to original part of town to the remainder of residents; money provided by grant; cannot be used for painting of water towers. Trustee Powell asked to make sure Water Superintendent Stewart had been notified. Response: Yes.

Motion to accept 2021 Water Improvements Project bid from Berger Excavating in the amount of \$ 458,966.00 by Trustee Ziegler, Second by Trustee Powell

Ayes: Trustees Cermak, Lewis, Powell, Pyne, and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried.

8. Discussion of and possible action on Governor's COVID-19 mandates

Trustee Pyne: We have a preschool and we have run into difficulties in compliance due to religious and medical reasons of 2 staff members. Weekly testing is required: Tests available at Walgreens for \$23 for kit that tests 2, but the cost is prohibitive for staff who have modest pay. If a teacher test positive or exhibits symptoms, are they eligible for unemployment. Trustee Powell: The \$300 testing per month is not an issue; we can pay employees and sort it out with the federal government. Mayor McLaughlin: Is COVID money for this for all? Response: Yes. Treasurer Murray: The Village gets up to 80 hours of COVID pay per staff.

Trustee Pyne: Creative Playtime Director would look at one staff member's test; Trustee Pyne would look at other. Tests must be recorded. Testing would be done here. Testing started Wednesday. Mayor McLaughlin: Barrington Walgreens has test kits. Suggestion to call Abbott directly, as they make the tests. Creative Playtime can do their own contact tracing

Masking guidelines: Parents have questioned about front office masks. Mayor McLaughlin: Asked employees to mask at the counter; we do have the window barrier.

9. Mayor Comments included: Water main projects to start; MFT work to start—engineer tell us the most needed areas; Oktoberfest is setup—starts tomorrow; thanked Lions Club and other volunteers; introduced Chris Carlsen as new Public Works Director and Building Inspector. Mayor McLaughlin: IDNR will make a presentation on the lake at the 10/14/2021 meeting.

10. Trustee and Staff Comments included:

Trustee Cermak: sold 124 Fairfield; \$23,000 received today. Trustee Pyne: Wrapped up Integrated Lake Management Grant application for \$12,000; Lisa Wolford did most of writing with Stacy and Eric Acevedo filling in the rest; will be recommendations how to work with agencies when grant comes through; right now we are not renewing lake management contracts until the study is done. IDNR is doing a carp kill on October 22; October 2 will be a Big Island cleanup; thanked Director Carlsen for getting fence out of Channel; October 4 is next meeting of Parks and Lake Commission meeting; Vendor Fair in conjunction with Oktoberfest. Trustee Lewis: Welcome Director Carlsen aboard and wished Trustee Powell happy birthday; enjoyed his first Venetian Night. Trustee Ziegler: Welcomed Chris, wished Dan happy birthday. Trustee Powell: Welcome Director Carlsen aboard and plugged Oktoberfest. Building Official Adkins: . Public Works Director Carlsen: Thanked Board for opportunity; praised the department—especially Larry Loos, Patrick Stewart and Joe Zurawski; good setup; excited to be part of the team. Trustee Powell asked if he looked at the department after working in it. Carlsen: Has a new view.

Code Enforcer Celske: Busy doing enforcement. Question on Eastway property with boarded up garage; Celske will look into it. Attorney McArdle: Glad to have 124 Fairfield closed.

11. Public Comment included: Question about fish dying. Mayor McLaughlin: Many lakes in area have them. Shallow lake, drought and heat contribute. Trustee Powell: Kevin Dahm and IDNR will present and answer questions about it. Ed McGinty thanked the Board for approving the water project; people have been waiting for over 20 years for the improvement.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Pyne, Second by Trustee Cermak

Ayes: Trustees Cermak, Lewis, Powell, Pyne, and Ziegler. Nays: none. Motion carried at 806 p.m.

Submitted by Georgine Cooper