

Village Board Meeting Minutes
VILLAGE OF ISLAND LAKE
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
October 13, 2022, 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, Julie McManus, Dan Powell, Stacey Pyne, Will Ziegler. Absent: none. Also present: Mayor Richard McLaughlin, Clerk Georgine Cooper, Attorney David McArdle, Chief Dan Palmer, Treasurer Dennis Murray, Public Works Director Chris Carlsen, Building Official Ken Adkins: Planning and Zoning Chair Joe Zeinz, Wauconda Fire District Chief Patrick Kane
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by the Island Lake and Wauconda Queens and Princesses
They introduced themselves after the pledge.
4. **Presentation on Lake Michigan Water Study: Steve Zehner, Robinson Engineering, LTD**
Richard Leber began with an update on the Water Tower Park water tower. All inside work is complete. Outside has been sandblasted and primed; intermediate coat next, then final coat and logo.

Steve Zehner and Aaron Fundich: Village has 6 wells—4 of them shallow, 1 intermediate and 1 deep. Available Lake Michigan water connections are through Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA) are in Wauconda and Volo. \$16,810,000 for Wauconda connection. \$19,385,000 for northern Volo connection; \$19,230,000 for southern Volo connection; \$19,025,000 for direct CLCJAWA connection along Darrel Road to Gilmer. \$7.5 million for tap on fees are the JAWA connection fees. Robinson recommends the CLCJAWA option to the Village. Funding: IEPA has low-cost loan program (currently 1.78%. Future water rates would retire the debt. \$16,500,000 in construction cost and system improvements. Connection fees would be a 0% interest loan over 20 years.

Next steps: Authorize IDNR Lake Michigan Water allocation application; complete negotiations with CLCJAWA for direct connection; commence discussions with potential Island Lake water customers. Trustee Cermak: RE: Size of pipe to connect; is there enough water pressure to add others—for example Port Barrington; if we hooked up to Wauconda, would we pay their rates? Response: 16"; will need to do a model to answer other questions; every community that buys Lake Michigan water has their own operating costs. Trustee Pyne: If we go through Volo, it would be the same situation with potential rates. Attorney McArdle: Have any communities waived the wheeling charges? Response: In most instances, it's tacked on; if a group of communities would partner, they may save. Attorney McArdle: Will costs be less with Lake Michigan water? Response: There may be savings offsets; once debts are retired there will be more savings; if Village grows, it will eliminate costs of drilling new wells. Realistically, process will take approximately 5 years.

5. **Public Comment** included: Resident extended an invitation to Trunk or Treat at Island Café on 10/19/2022 from 4-7pm.; will be collecting donations for the Village. Trevor Mock of Island Lake Lions presented the Village with a donation in the amount of \$700 from the most successful Corn Fest ever and thanked the Village for help. Patrick Stewart of Local 150 mentioned layoff notices 3 months ago; vacant positions were not filled and more positions were eliminated. Resident: Why are we spending money on fireworks if we don't have it; why isn't 2021-2022 budget approved on the website? Willie Koostra, former Public Works Director, thanked Fire District for service to him; was grateful for clear roads; after 34 years of experience with Village, we have had plenty of opportunities to remove snow with more staff in Public Works; how will roads be plowed with reduced staff? Resident: How will Village pay for litigation to resolve grievances? Resident: Has been waiting for call about driveway damage. Director Carlsen: Are waiting for materials and the repairs will be done. Mark Beeson: Have lived here over 20 years and have lived through storms; roads here were well plowed; Public Works has helped with damage from microbursts; staff needed for more than snow storms; relayed experience with outsourcing for work; expressed hope for a good plan.

6. Committee and Department Reports

- a. Public Works, Trustee Powell
- b. Lakes, Parks, Recreation, and Education, Trustee Pyne
- c. Economic Development and Grants, Trustee McManus
- d. Building and Zoning, Trustee Cermak
- e. Police, Public Safety, and Ordinances, Trustee Lewis
- f. Finance and Administration, Trustee Ziegler

7. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approve payment of bills totaling \$ 256,066.23**
- b. **Approve Minutes of the 9/08/2022 Village Board Meeting**
- c. **Appoint George Roach and Associates (GRA) for the 2021-2022 Audit in an amount not to exceed \$20,000**
- d. **Approve Park Rules**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as stated by Trustee Ziegler, Second by Trustee Powell

Questions: Trustee Lewis: Will these be on the Park sign

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

OLD BUSINESS

8. Discuss and possibly authorize the Mayor to sign the Gifting Agreement between Sunil Puri and The Village of Island Lake for the conveyance of 11.159 acres in the Village of Island Lake, McHenry County and sign the closing documents

Discussion: Attorney McArdle: The Board has seen the Agreement; highlighted the restriction on matching funds; note the restrictions on use. Trustee Lewis: Were we going to ask for an extension for allocation of matching funds? Response: This was the agreement they provided. Allocation is not spending. You are not obligated to accept the funds. Trustee Pyne: Big stretch from park to municipal facility; from parks and lake perspective, it's another piece of land to take care of. Attorney McArdle: Act on it tonight or send it to Finance for consideration. Trustee McManus: Inclined to let this go at this time; we should focus on other matters.

Motion to respectfully reject the offer by Trustee McManus, Second by Trustee Pyne

Ayes: Trustees Cermak, Lewis, McManus, Powell and Pyne. Nays: Trustee Ziegler. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Discussion of 2023 Lake Treatment

Trustee Pyne: This discussion is about philosophy—not about hiring a company. Parks and Lake made a presentation projecting costs for lake. In grant applications, Public Works “donation” is a plus. This year we paid \$40,000 and did only half of the treatments. Would it make sense to have Public Works do some of the treating? The 2023-2027 Lake Study is clear on what needs to be done. Some treatments get rid of good vegetation with the bad. We also have \$4,000 contracts for pond aerators install and storage; if Public Works did it [pond aerator work], we wouldn't have to pay this; Public Works is doing much of the aerator work already. Lake Management contractor only goes out once a week. We are paying a total of almost \$47,000 to outside vendor. This might allow us to bring back someone back. It is correct to have Public Works manage lake treatment contract; needs to be consistent and have ongoing records of lake care. Can the Village support the recommendations of the Lake Plan to manage lake? Trustee Powell: When we had 11 Public Works employees, Public Works didn't do a lot of the work on the lake; we need to look at year one and see what we can do. We can't create an ability for Public Works who have a full list.

Trustee Pyne: Spoke with other entities about flat rates for treatments. Trustee Cermak: Besides beaches and grass cuttings, are you talking about one employee who is certified do herbicides? Director Carlsen: Needs discussion; have the talent, but may not be able to allocate the time. Trustee Lewis: If we decide to go that route, get training for more than one. Trustee Powell: Will need to evaluate possibility; small investment now may pay off later. Trustee Pyne: Contractor will remove and store

aerators, as they must come out now; have time to consider the rest. It is a huge philosophy change; think we can do better and save money. Mayor McLaughlin: Where are we with parks; residents are asking about them.

10. Discussion of Procedures for New Employee Recruitment, On-boarding and Off-boarding

Trustee Pyne: When I first started, I asked about procedures for recruitment and hiring; best practices were discussed, but not finalized; worked with Treasurer Murray to draft procedures; need on-boarding and off-boarding procedures so that new employees have what they need to get started. Trustee Ziegler: I worked on this with Treasurer Murray; needs to consider unions and ordinances; need to run it through a committee before we look at it as a Board; it is the Treasurer and the Mayor. Trustee Lewis: Is this a Board issue or for Department Heads to resolve; want to make sure we don't take away departments flexibility. Trustee McManus: Agree with Trustee Lewis; it's not really a board issue.

11. Discussion of Public Works Layoffs and Operations Plan

Trustee Pyne: From a financial perspective, understand why layoffs were made. In retrospect, wondering if cuts went too deep and need to be reconsidered at budget time; residents contacted her and asked her how roads will be plowed. Trustee Ziegler: During finance meetings and approval of the budget, the Board approved it; we were over budget last year; had our Lake County Treasurer look at our budget. It is an uneasy feeling to cut people; sat down with Treasurer, Public Works Director and the Mayor; asked if we could call back people for plowing; was informed that the union would not allow it; we have to "keep the engine turning" for all the residents. Mayor has been working with townships for help. Trustee Powell: We have been asking ourselves financial questions; we have been spending ahead of receiving funds. Trustee Pyne: Does the union contract allow contracting out for plowing. Director Carlsen: We have 7 plow routes and 6 staff; I will have to consolidate routes. Trustee Cermak: It is possible we can have two people out? Trustee Powell: We have to reevaluate the routes and do the best we can with what we have; in the worst-case scenario, call Local 150 for help. Trustee Lewis: Do we follow the budget we have, or do we change the budget? What is the solution now? Trustee McManus: What do you need to do the job; have we looked at dropping anything we do; we are still \$200,000 in the hole; need to balance need to look at the needs of the community and where we can get revenue. Director Carlsen: Full staff would be 9 people. Trustee Lewis: What is the cost to get to 9? Look at the budget and see where money could come from. Treasurer Murray: We are capped at 5% for property taxes without a referendum. Trustee Cermak: Can we keep staff on through the winter and forego other things like fireworks.

12. Authorize Mayor McLaughlin to sign the contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. in the amount \$21,735.00 for the 2023 fireworks contract

Discussion:

Motion to authorize table Item 12 until we evaluate the financial situation by Trustee Powell, Second by Trustee Lewis

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

13. Mayor Comments included: I am not anti-union; I am anti-not paying our bills. We did not pay our garbage bills on time; our recreation department ran at a loss for 5 years; 50% of our budget was salaries; it should be 35%; we are finding solutions for problems.

14. Trustee and Staff Comments included: Trustee Cermak: Building and Zoning are going well; brought up about possible parks/property for sale; we will have surveys of our land so that we can sell land that is not being used. Trustee Pyne: We need to do the surveying; we have too many parks that we cannot maintain. Trustee Lewis: A resident is having a scavenger hunt at parks; Trunk or Treat on October 19 at Island Café and October 22 at the Village Hall; thanked Lions for donation; thanked residents for voicing opinions. Trustee Powell: Thanked Lions Club and Local 150. Trustee McManus: Thanked all the people who put together Oktoberfest. Trustee Ziegler: Thanked Lions for donation; residents for supporting Oktoberfest and Public Works for the work they do. Chair Zeinz: Working on Comprehensive Plan; looking for feedback from Board. Official Adkins: Will be working with Baxter & Woodman on maps of parks; October revenues will be approximately \$30,000; thanked Ms. Sizemore

in the building department for her work; welcomed Code Enforcement Officer Martin Horn.

- 15. Public Comment** included: Mr. Shrader: Mentioned cost of layoffs and fighting Local 150 in Algonquin Township; consider the cost of layoffs and the consequences. Retired Teamster: Thanked Public Works for years of service; took a cut in pay as a Teamster to save jobs; had issue with raise for Public Works Director. Willie Koostra: Street Department was certified in pesticides; it's a simple test; have had financial issues since 2008; expenses were scrutinized. Patrick Stewart: Had issue about response to grievance from Public Works Director. Resident: Snow plowing over fireworks.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Cermak, Second by Trustee Powell

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by Georgine Cooper