

Village Board Meeting Minutes
VILLAGE OF ISLAND LAKE
3720 Greenleaf Avenue, Island Lake, IL 60042
October 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.



1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 by Mayor McLaughlin
2. **Roll Call** Present: Trustees Brittany Alers, Chuck Cermak, Steve Deasey, Thadd Lewis, Stacey Pyne and Will Ziegler. Absent: none. Also present: Mayor Richard McLaughlin, Clerk Georgine Cooper, Attorney David McArdle, Treasurer Dennis Murray, Public Works Director Chris Carlsen, Police Chief Jennifer Paulus, Building Official Ken Adkins, Fire Chief Patrick Kane
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Wendy Mills
4. **Wendy Mills, Island Lake Notables Honor**
Mayor McLaughlin read a Certificate of Recognition from Senator McConchie in recognition of her achievements notably with District 118 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). He also unveiled her Island Lake Notables banner, which will be raised in the gymnasium.
5. **Status of Lakeview Bridge Project, Jacob Thede/BLA**
Jacob Thede, Engineer for the bridge project, gave an overall project status. Project has been in progress for 2 years; area just east of Veterans Park where bridge bisects the lake. Currently there is very little clearance under the bridge—approximately 3 ½ feet. The bridge is nearly 50 years old—built in 1975—and has a condition rating of 49.6 of 100, meaning it is eligible for replacement. It is not in immediate danger but is deteriorating; the purpose of the project is to replace it before it deteriorates too far. Improvements to the bridge will make the bay more accessible. Who is paying for it? The State of Illinois has a bridge replacement program and this bridge is eligible for the funds; 80% of Phase 1 & 2 engineering and 80% of costs are absorbed by the State as part of a Federal bridge replacement program. The remaining 20% is funded by the Rebuild Illinois program. There is no additional cost to the Village or the taxpayers. The State is looking into having the construction of bridges to be 100% funded; this would allow the 20% Rebuild Illinois funds to go back to the Village. Preferred alternatives were researched over the past year; we met with area residents through a public informational meeting and again later. We are looking to raise surface 2 ½ feet and decrease bridge thickness by 1 ½ feet increase clearance to 7 feet and wider access to the bay; width of the bridge will be reduced allowing span will be reduced to 20 feet; length will be reduced 20 – 22 feet. This will lessen impact to area residents.

We are held to a schedule by the State; document environmental impact, do safety investigations and meet with residents; approaching end of Phase 1 (will be complete in 3 – 6 months) is Investigation; approaching Phase 2, Design and detailed plans—including easements will take 1 – 2 years. Last phase is construction in 2026/2027. Updates will occur as we move along.

Question: Trustee Pyne: Is there a plan to rip rap some of the shoreline? Response: Yes.
6. **A Proclamation in Support of Red Ribbon Week: October 23 – 31, 2024**
Chief Paulus read the proclamation.
7. **Public Comment** included: John Gutierrez: RE: property at 4001 Roberts Road; wants to open a car dealership in the former lawyer's office; was previously affiliated with a dealership out of state. Vehicles between \$5,000 and \$20,000; expects to sell out of the property and will have about 10 spaces for parking. Trustee Cermak: is busy entrance and egress; 10 cars is a lot for that spot. Mayor McLaughlin: Plan to ramp up local sales. Trustee Pyne: Is there any business back in the spot behind it? Trustee Ziegler: Expressed concern about the aesthetics of it and the layout of cars. Response: Fixing and reconditioning will be outsourced. Official Adkins: Met with people interested in having a business upstairs; I would have to sign off on zoning and allowable use before Mr. Gutierrez can get license.

Martin Horn: The Wrights are doing their annual Halloween display at 400 Lane and are collecting for the local food pantry; invited board to attend Island Lake Café's Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 16.

8. Committee and Department Reports

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

Action Items

9. Consent Agenda

- a. **Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$648,027, including Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$156,175 and MCMRMA semiannual municipal insurance in the amount of \$170,482**
- b. **Approve minutes of the 9/12/2024 meeting**
- c. **Adopt Ordinance 1686-24 *An Ordinance Amending Title 4, Section 4-10-22, Small Cell Ordinance, Regarding Annual Recurring Rates and Title 1, Section 1-16-13, Schedule of Fees, Fines, and Penalties***
- d. **Approve Meade proposal to replace and repair decorative pole street light assemblies in the Walnut Glen Subdivision in the amount of \$13,500, a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgeted expense**
- e. **Approve purchase of 2024 Haulmark Passport 7X14 Trailer in the amount of \$7,098 from Brad Bailey Sales LLC dba Lake County Trailers, a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgeted expense**
- f. **Authorize Mayor to sign the ILEAS Less Lethal Alternatives for Law Enforcement Less Lethal Device Grant Agreement**

Discussion: Postponing Small Cell Ordinance

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read, excluding item 9c by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Deasey

Questions: Trustee Pyne: What is trailer for? Response: Trailer is for Water Department and street lights were broken prior. Trustee Alers: Is Police Pension Quarterly? Response: It's monthly, but the larger payment is because of delayed budget approval.

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

10. Ratify authorization for purchase of Team Reil Inc. proposal for purchase and installation of Miracle Equipment additional playground equipment for Converse Park in the amount of \$94,783

Discussion: Mayor met with Director Carlsen and Trustee Alers to select equipment; Team Reil was the best option for the cost; we had originally picked up a larger play structure; we are getting more bang for the buck with a large discount. Attorney McArdle: Is there a warranty? Director Carlsen: Yes. They were responsive when there was a warped slide. Trustee Pyne: We have about \$6,000 left to spend. Director Carlsen: We need to spend about \$1,000 on border. Mayor McLaughlin: This completes the grant; we can also add to it.

Motion to ratify authorization for purchase of Team Reil Inc. proposal for purchase and installation of Miracle Equipment additional playground equipment for Converse Park in the amount of \$94,783 by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Alers

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

11. Adopt Ordinance 1687-24, *An Ordinance Updating the Island Lake Village Code by Amending Title 1, Chapter 5, Section 1-5-3, Bond; Oath; Salary*

Discussion: Trustee Ziegler: We would move up from \$21,000 - \$25,000. For context, if we hired a

Village Manager, we would be spending about \$120,000; on average it can be upwards of \$200,000 with benefits; we are able to hold our bank balance. The Mayor would be paid less than Directors. In places with a manager/administrator, mayors make little money. The mayor job has been upwards of 40 hours and we are paying only \$21,000. It's been a problem not to have a mayor present. You get what you pay for; don't believe we are ready for administrative reorganization. We have strong directors and treasurer. We have had impact in the past with litigation and needed more oversight. There is immense pressure and strong leadership needed. Mayor is the administrator and runs day to day operations, oversees directors and all departments and builds relationships with other governmental officials. Mayor is CEO; duties include employment decisions. Lakemoor mayor \$8,000; administrator \$140,000. Mayor oversees board and works with administrator; Island Lake mayor does both.

Trustee Cermak: How did you arrive at \$70,000? Current mayor has accomplished much. My concern is the future and that anyone can run for mayor without particular qualifications and get the \$70,000 whatever they do or don't. The only repercussion is that the performance is public; they could do less. Trustee Cermak: Would be happy to do that for those who work hard; that is not guaranteed. We have seen good growth in current administration, but \$70,000 is too much. Prior mayors did their 20 hours. The mayor doesn't report to the board; would hope that any mayor elected would step up. Will anyone work hard for the [current] \$21,000? Response: Looked at the \$140,000 and took ½ of that. Past research shows other mayors make less, but they have administrators.

Trustee Lewis: It seems the big question is that the raise of the salary will not necessarily increase the quality of the candidates; what is the enforcement mechanism if mayor doesn't do their job? We are talking about going forward. Attorney McArdle: It is an exposure; this would be effective for 4 years. Trustee Cermak: When the 4 years go by; we would need to reevaluate. Trustee Ziegler: We are not ready for an administrator now; may be ready in 4 years. Trustee Pyne: When a salary is tripled, a needs assessment is done; there are no additional responsibilities; village administrators need credentials; all you [a mayor] needs to do is be elected. I'd be happy to have a needs assessment done to determine gaps. Trustee Lewis reminded that this is about this ordinance.

Attorney McArdle: This is about the position, not a person. It's 180 days from commencement of the term; tonight is the night. Trustee Cermak asked about possibility of annual bonus. Response: No, the pay cannot be increased or decreased during the term. Trustee Deasey: It's not just about money; it's about time commitment; right now it requires more than 20 hours per week. Mayor McLaughlin: A mayor would add 20 more hours onto the workload but would lose money; if elected, they would work 20 more hours for the same money with Social Security restrictions/payback. Trustee Alers: What would we be comfortable with? Trustee Cermak: People who run for mayor tend to be retired. Trustee Ziegler: We can table this to next meeting. Trustee Cermak: Worked with past mayors; they all put in over 20 hours a week. Trustee Pyne: Asked for clarification that compensation for liquor commissioner and meetings is included.

Motion to adopt table #11 Ordinance 1687-24, amending the compensation to \$48,000 for 40 hours by Trustee Lewis, Second by Trustee Pyne.

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

Discussion Items: none

12. Mayor Comments: none

- 13. Trustee and Staff Comments** included: Trustee Deasey: Continuing economic development progress; every dollar helps; appreciates everyone's efforts. Trustee Alers: Oktoberfest was great; was bigger than previous; Converse Park looks good; will be at Lions Fall Fest. Trustee Lewis: Invited everyone to Fall Fest and Golden Pumpkins event; Lions are having meat raffle at All-In—money will go back into the Village. Trustee Pyne: Excited about new business Leather for You; Trunk or Treat on October 26; Trick or Treat is 4 – 8 pm on Halloween. Trustee Cermak: Drove through Newbury; roads were great; praised Building Official Adkins. Director Carlsen: Wonderful Oktoberfest; thanks for all the help; it has

grown over the 5 years; we should do memorial for Bob Carpenter; see you at Fall Fest. Official Adkins: Lots of tree trimming by homeowners' association; working on rental inspections; tremendous amount of permit applications. Treasurer Murray: Based on Board approval, the equipment loans came through with good rates; figures in report are for 2 quarters; anomalies: SIC categories for furniture, radio and electronics and building supplies. The Senior Loft project is likely the thing that increased furniture sales tax; we can only guess. The State doesn't allow us to see individual business sales tax. Clerk Cooper thanked volunteers and their families; look forward to more volunteers next year; is grateful for everyone who steps up to do a job and we are largely a group of step up people. Attorney McArdle: Grateful Clerk is here. Trustee Cermak praised Chief Paulus.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Cermak, Second by Trustee Deasey
All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by Georgine Cooper