

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL
January 14, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the January 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03 pm in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Pierce moved, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to allow remote attendance by Trustee Crosby. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 4: Pierce, Jozwiak, Dominiak and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSTAIN: 1: Crosby.

ABSENT: 1: Poulos.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce, Jozwiak, Dominiak, Crosby (via telephone) and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Folbrick. Absent: Trustee Poulos.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Jozwiak moved, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to approve the December 10, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Pierce, Jozwiak, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Poulos.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Liquor License Request for the property located at 311 Depot Street – Mr. & Mrs. Desai, reviewed their request to open a bar at 311 Depot St. They described their history of experience and expertise in the industry. Trustee Jozwiak expressed concern about the rehabilitation facility next door to the bar. Trustee Pierce responded that he is concerned with legislating morality. Trustee Dominiak said she doesn't object to the liquor license, but asked the board to consider an ordinance to limit signage for the video gaming facilities. Trustee Crosby said the location was utilized as a bar before, and the main issue is to make sure the owners/operators are of good character. This item will be placed on the next village board meeting agenda for consideration.

2. Discussion regarding social media and the open meetings act – Attorney Long explained that the statute regulating the open meetings act was written before social media became a phenomenon, and it is not addressed there. Items posted on the Village Facebook site by more than 3 trustees could pose a violation to the open meetings act. His suggestion is to maintain the Facebook page, but not allow elected officials to comment. Policy could allow the administrator to run the page, and elected official comments be filtered through the administrator, who would have the discretion on whether or not to make that post. This could also pose problems.

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Trustee Johnson asked if that would apply to friends of trustees on personal pages. Attorney Long said it's not a problem to reply to friends, but there are times where he would need to refrain from responding, or send a private message to that person instead of public comment. Trustee Dominiak asked if they should un-friend. Attorney Long responded that the comments must be related to village business for it to be a violation. One way messages do not pose a problem. It's a problem when responses are made by more than 2 trustees on a topic relating to Village business. Mayor Hanson asked if the trustees could reply that they are not allowed to comment, but would like to discuss one on one or put in touch with someone that could answer the question. Trustee Dominiak suggested that trustees make their pages public so it doesn't close it off to everyone. Attorney Long said he could shape a policy, but wanted to get the feeling from the board on which way to go. He will prepare a draft policy for a future agenda. Trustee Pierce asked if the local states attorney could make a presentation to the board regarding the open meetings act. Trustee Crosby asked to petition the state legislature regarding this policy, and said he would like to improve communication.

3. Discussion regarding Fire Department Liability and Tort Immunity – Attorney Long provided a brief overview of the recent complaint from a citizen regarding damage to her property in response to a fire call. He stated that the fundamental idea is that the fire department is given a certain level of immunity as long as it is not willful or wanton damage to property. Fire department responsibilities are to the community as a whole and not any one citizen. Attorney Long agrees with the actions of the fire department and does not see liability on their end. He added that there is an ordinance which says if there are so many false alarms the Village may assess a fine. Chief Nixon will reply to the resident once he gathers all of the necessary information. Trustee Dominiak said she hopes the reply to the resident isn't accompanied with all of the things they are doing wrong and thinks it sends a negative message deterring people from addressing the board. Chief Nixon said the impetus of the complaint has brought other issues to light, and now he has to address them.

4. Discussion regarding terms for Waste Services Contract – Administrator Keim reviewed the proposal from the current provider Waste Management, and the board request to go to bid. He reviewed the summary of services currently provided by Waste Management, including cart selection and recycling, both of which he anticipates continuing. Other services include annual spring clean up day, bulk item allowance, landscape waste, brush pickup, leaf vacuuming, Christmas tree collection and discounts for seniors.

Trustee Pierce likes the current program and is more concerned with the cost. He would also like a bigger recycling option. He discussed other providers that may have a similar but different programs to leaf vacuuming, and discussed the impact it may have on Waste Management to our community if we go elsewhere. Administrator Keim replied that free service for Village facilities is written into our current contract. Another impact to consider may include their hesitation to provide free/charitable services to organizations within the community. Some organizations benefit from the free services provided to the Village of Antioch. Trustee Johnson asked about a program to build playgrounds with recycled products. Trustee Jozwiak would like flexibility with the leaf vacuuming program. Trustee Pierce asked about emergency incidents that may require additional/special pickups. Administrator Keim said when we have an issue, Waste Management steps up and makes themselves available to their communities, which is the advantage of going with a larger, more accomplished vendor. Trustee Dominiak asked if there was a way to request and check references during the process. Attorney Long added that the executive director from SWALCO can provide assistance. Mayor Hanson asked if protection could be provided for non-payment and cutoff of services, and would like notice to the village of the cutoff list. Staff will take the recommendations and prepare a request for proposals from vendors.

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5. Discussion regarding Budget and Service Reductions – Administrator Keim said a meeting was held on Monday night with stakeholders in the community, to encourage their participation in the discussion regarding budget and service reductions. He asked the Board what they would like to discuss, or what additional information they are looking for at this point from staff. Trustee Pierce expressed concern with the revenue enhancements to the outside organizations. He said it is a small amount for organizations that put much more back into the community, and disagrees with that portion of Plan B. Administrator Keim replied that this is for future budget years. He relayed the concern from the outside organizations that have already set their budgets and done registrations, or published fees for this year, and did not take the possibility of being charged for their events into consideration when preparing their budgets. Trustee Jozwiak agreed that the outside organizations need support from the Village. Administrator Keim added that this also affects capital expenditures, including equipment, roads, etc. Trustee Dominiak said there is \$65,000 more revenue than anticipated in video gaming, and suggested taking that money and allocating it towards the community. Those present agreed not to implement the revenue enhancements and maintain the special events. Administrator Keim advised that they don't earmark certain funds such as video gaming, because you don't know what funds will be needed from year to year based on circumstances at the time.

Mayor Hanson asked Finance Director McCarthy about budget history. She said the budget was reduced a number of years ago to \$9 million after \$2 million in deficit spending was realized. Mayor Hanson commended staff on doing more with less, and only spending what is needed to give the best quality services to residents. Administrator Keim said the initial conversation established a target number to come up with money to make up for the lost referendum. He said if they want operations to remain the same, capital will no longer be able to be funded.

Administrator Keim restated that without making any cuts, the Village will not continue to fund capital. Mayor Hanson commended staff and parks department on their work cutting costs for current special events. Trustee Crosby doesn't agree with everything said and thanked Administrator Keim and staff for doing exactly what the board asked of them. He said there are service organizations out there that do not actively support the EMS issue, and view it as a political issue vs. a financial issue. He encouraged board members to step up to service organizations and ask them to help the board communicate their message.

Mayor Hanson invited the public to comment on the subject.

Mrs. Jane Larson, 885 Civic Club member, said they are a club that provides services to citizens in need, and the carnival revenues go back into the community. They have supported the Lions Club, Ducks Unlimited, Sawmill maintenance, boat for recovery and rescue, little league, fishing has no boundaries, and provide assistance to handicapped residents. Their organization would be hurt if the Village started charging them for their events.

Mr. Mark HOFFIE, Viking Youth Football, spoke about Monday's meeting and the willingness of all groups to help the Village. They asked for information to blast out in an easy format which they could send out to more than 500 families. He stated that they have volunteers that help with field maintenance, and raise money for capital improvements at the park.

Mr. Dan Gregg, 885 Civic Club, said the club is deteriorating because of aging and are down to 18 members. The amount listed by the Village is 20% of their income from the carnival and would hurt them tremendously.

Ms. Cynthia Carter, Antioch Garden Club, stated the purpose of their fundraiser is to plant downtown public gardens, maintenance and planting.

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Trustee Dominiak said she wasn't sure how to use this going forward. Ms. Ann Hitschel, discussed the Antioch Community for EMS meeting for the new year and the new ballot. She said it is a citizen community group, open to all Antioch community citizens, and recalled 2 pitfalls in the first referendum attempt: 1) Getting the message out (being able to tell residents the consequences). 2) They didn't have enough feet on the ground, or general support from the community to help communicate the need for the referendum. She appealed to everyone in the room to help get proper information to the voters and announced the date of their next meeting for those wishing to attend. She said they have a Facebook page and general website. Those present discussed the level of ambulance service if the referendum fails, staffing issues, and other services that will be sacrificed. Chief Nixon said that within the village limits there will be ambulance services, however the fire district has fewer options and no other source of funding to provide ambulance services.

Mr. Ron Taylor, Antioch Lions Club, provided an overview of the services the Lions Club provides and donations made back into the community and village facilities.

Administrator Keim revisited the question of a target amount, and asked the board if they would like to lower the amount to spend on capital funding. He indicated that a target of \$500,000 may not impact events or civic organizations. Mayor Hanson suggested that the board eliminate the revenue enhancements.

Trustee Dominiak asked if there are any discussions with current EMS provider in lowering their costs. Chief Nixon said that they will have to extend the contract until the referendum passes, and will have to seek proposals after that.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Pierce expressed concern with the private plowing companies plowing snow into areas that public works just removed snow from. Trustee Jozwiak explained ordinances and rules established and the resident's responsibility to remove snow.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel and Pending Litigation, Lease of Village Property, Collective Bargaining –

The mayor and board of trustees did not go into executive session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk