

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING Virtual Meeting

Call In # 1-312-626-6799 Public Access Code: 592-598-564

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/592598564>

APRIL 22, 2020 – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the April 22, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present online: Macek, Yost, Dominiak, Poulos and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustee Pierce.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Groot Renewal Proposal – Mayor Hanson introduced Mr. Josh Molnar from Groot to present their proposal for a contract renewal.

Mr. Molnar presented their proposal for a contract renewal for a period of 7 years. The contract will begin October 1, 2020, however, there will be no price increase from the current year. The new contract also removes Exhibit C from the original agreement which provided for port-a-lets at parks and certain identified Village sponsored special events.

Administrator Keim discussed the service Groot has provided, and recommended the board approve the extension.

Trustee Macek believes it is a great deal. Trustee Dominiak clarified the recycling language in the proposal. Trustee Poulos appreciates the pickup on the same day for all village residents. Mr. Molnar added that they are working on a website function where residents can type in a product to see if it is recyclable. Trustee Johnson agreed with the comments made by trustees and said there have been positive responses to Groot. Mayor Hanson asked how leaf vacuuming would be handled in the future. Mr. Molnar said that it can be approached in many different ways, but expects to have daily communication with administration. This item will be placed on the next village board agenda for consideration.

Trustee Pierce arrived online at 7:23 pm.

2. Discussion regarding Electronic Message EMB Signs – Mayor Hanson asked to discuss this item at a future meeting. Anyone with comments can forward them to Director Garrigan.

3. Budget Discussion – Administrator Keim discussed the budget process, and input from individual board members in preparing the budget. He said the budget was ready for presentation to the board before the pandemic, but now will be presented a bit differently.

Finance Director McCarthy presented the issues facing this year's budget as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. She discussed the recent history of the pandemic, the virtual emergency operations center, shelter-in-place orders, and the FEMA public assistance grant application. The Village of Antioch has already applied for the public assistance grant, and has been tracking expenses related to the impact of coronavirus. Director McCarthy discussed operational changes, and essential spending. Administrator Keim discussed adjustments to staffing in departments in order to keep our workforce safe and stop the spread while still providing essential services to our residents. Director Heimbrodt discussed the separation of crews in order to minimize exposure to staff, and proper cleaning supplies and PPE available to staff. He discussed challenges with facing the public and trying to limit interactions as much as possible while fulfilling the Village's needs. Director McCarthy discussed the aid the Village is prepared to provide to residents and businesses, including suspended water shutoffs, waiver of late fees, and an extension for business license renewals. Director McCarthy discussed the better together task force recently formed in order to assess community needs and coordinate assistance to residents. She spoke about enhanced communication by the Village, new federal regulations in place affecting employees, and budget discussions among various other organizations on best practices during this time. Director McCarthy presented the plan moving forward, which is to present the original budget, analyze the scope of the impact of lost revenue, identify and prioritize non-critical purchases, limit the use of fund balance, and monthly review and updates. Director McCarthy reviewed the major accomplishments of 2020, including a successful road program, IT

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upgrades, vehicle repair and replacement, reserve levels and sewer replacement grants. She reviewed fund balances and police pension who recently reported a \$600,000 loss in investments due to a decrease in the stock market. Director McCarthy reviewed economic development incentives and their funding sources as well as revised business district budgets. She discussed capital outlay, and capital projects originally included in the FY21 budget. Finance Director McCarthy advised the list she is presenting is a deferral list, and will be a team effort between the board and staff. She reviewed the originally budgeted road program and broke it down by streets and the amounts needed which can be determined based on the amounts available. Trustee Dominiak asked to see the visual of the condition of the roads. Director McCarthy discussed outstanding debt, which is a priority, and she believes the funds can adequately support the debt. Finally, she discussed water and sewer funds and what was budgeted. She reminded the board that the Village does not have any control over the sewer rates on the east side of town which are subject to county rates. Director McCarthy discussed the pandemic financial response plan, including the impact on the local economy which will result in decreased revenues to the Village. She asked for input from the board on the deferral list she sent to them previously.

Trustee Macek discussed body cameras and asked why we didn't seek grant money in the past or moving forward. Mayor Hanson said this is not a new concern, and department heads do their research before making a recommendation to the village board. Deputy Chief Guttschow is only aware of the state camera grant which includes a tremendous amount of red tape. He has reached out to several colleagues, and they all share the same concern about the grants. He added that there is speculation that the legislation may implement labor and cost intensive data storage which would not be a part of the grant. He said the concept of body cameras are supported, but advised that it needs to be approached in a thoughtful manner. From a survey of 40 police departments throughout Lake County only about 40% have body cameras at this time. He believes we should approach it legislatively. Administrator Keim said that the deferral of cameras does not compromise public safety in any way.

Trustee Dominiak discussed the closure of the senior center, and expressed concern with seniors congregating during this pandemic.

Director McCarthy discussed IT deferrals, and the good job our IT Coordinator has done to keep the village running during this time. Coordinator Pisciotto discussed the future IT needs and potential deferrals. Trustee Pierce discussed the IT costs and suggested speaking with neighboring communities to attempt to work together. Trustee Pierce believes cameras should be a priority and would like to see them stay in this budget. Director McCarthy pointed out that they are up higher on the deferral list and have a larger priority.

Director Kabrick reviewed upcoming special events and aquatic operations. She has discussed with surrounding communities, and there is no certainty at this point on what anyone is doing, however there are great concerns regarding distancing, safety, hours, limitations on attendance and other factors to be considered. She added that when the stay-at-home order is lifted, it will also affect staff training and facility opening. She has greater concerns as it relates to special events, and has concerns with the ability of social distancing, particularly during the concert series and 4th of July. She also asked the board to consider the fact that members of the public may not feel safe going out. Trustee Pierce said we need to plan that the stay at home will go on as long as possible, and events will not be occurring. He believes the residents are eager to interact, and asked if there are ways to do that which will work. Trustee Dominiak agrees that limits may be in place for quite some time. Deputy Chief Guttschow discussed the potential extension of the stay at home order, peaks, and downward trajectory needed before any of the rules may be relaxed. He added that it would be nearly impossible to maintain a 6-foot social distance, and suggested cancellation of those events in the interest of public health and safety. He added that there is a tremendous amount of planning and work by staff well in advance of these events. Trustee Macek discussed an email from a resident regarding the requirement to use masks. Mayor Hanson replied on the use of face masks and upcoming communications and education for the community. In the interest of being proactive, there are plans in place moving forward that the EOC has developed.

Trustee Dominiak suggested looking at future chamber events to see if they should still be cancelled as well. Trustee Hanson said opening the pool for 4 weeks does not make sense from a cost standpoint, and cancelling most of the events may be necessary. Administrator Keim said there is a short amount of time, and we may know more information next week with more guidance from the health department, state of Illinois and CDC/federal guidelines.

Director McCarthy asked for input from the board on closing the senior center. Director Kabrick recommended it be closed to gathering activities, but doesn't know that it needs to be closed as a resource at this time. The board agreed seeing that the seniors are the most vulnerable due to the virus. Trustee Pierce believes we should start planning for the future and challenged the parks department to come up with creative ways to remotely connect with each other. Mayor Hanson stated that the township and village are already working closely together in an attempt to start blending the services into one unified service.

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Mr. Tim Hudson, Antioch resident, said that his company recently mandated the use of masks at work and asked about the ability of municipalities to make the same requirement of its residents. Mayor Hanson replied with the proactive approach the board is taking, and strong messaging with a plan in place.

Administrator Keim said if the board is in favor of the financial plan to assess and report back, we would move forward to approve the provisional budget with the understanding of staff's approach. He asked for input on a bond issue, and said there are certain projects will not go away regardless of the pandemic. From his perspective, bond rates may be low at this time, and he would like to proceed if there is an indication that the revenues will be there. He asked for input from the board knowing there may be a perception from the public. Mayor Hanson said that we can't stop the future or planning for the future and believes it should be considered seriously and think of how it can help the village moving forward. Trustees would like to know costs associated before moving forward with a bond. Trustee Poulos asked the board to provide feedback to the finance director in prioritizing the deferred expenses. Trustee Dominiak asked to wait and see what happens in the next couple of weeks before approving a budget, and asked to look at how the village may be able to help the business community moving forward. Mayor Hanson said the good news is that we have reserves built up and a healthy fund balance. This item will be placed on the June meeting for consideration.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel, Pending/Probable Litigation, Sale or Lease of Village Property, Executive Session Minutes, Collective Bargaining – Pending Litigation

The Mayor and Board of Trustees did not go into executive session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Trustee Johnson moved, seconded by Trustee Poulos to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine
Village Clerk