

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>

May 27, 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 7:07 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: Pierce, Macek, Yost, Dominiak, Poulos and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine.

IV. Approval of the February 26, 2020 Public Hearing, Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes as presented

– Trustee Dominiak moved, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to approve the February 26, 2020 public hearing, special meeting and committee of the whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Pierce, Yost, Dominiak, Poulos and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSTAIN: 1: Macek.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

V. Approval of the April 22, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes as presented

- Trustee Dominiak moved, seconded by Trustee Pierce, to approve the April 22, 2020 committee of the whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Macek, Yost, Dominiak, Poulos and Johnson.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Memo from the First Fire District relating to the Antioch Corporate Center – Administrator Keim reviewed the proposal from the First Fire District for a fourth fire station at the Antioch Corporate Center. First Fire Protection District President Dean Pedersen's family had donated land within the TIF District for the purpose of a fire station. He discussed incentives provided to offset construction costs in the past in TIF districts, and the remaining funds available in the TIF District. He further discussed the priority of payments to be made out of TIF funds, and the fire district would be the fourth to be paid if the board agrees to move forward. He asked the board if they were interested in participating with the District in the use of TIF funds for a future fire department in that industrial park.

Trustees expressed concern with the recently failed referendum and the appearance to the taxpayers if TIF funds are provided for this purpose. Trustees discussed call counts in the area and the justification for the need for a fire station in that area. Chief Cokefair presented a graphic with the calls for service in the fire district area and the increased density on the east side of town. He said this seemed like a good potential to partner with the village. Chief Cokefair said they are interested in starting the discussion at this time, and deciding what the benefits may be. They are not asking for a decision to be made at this point, but want to start talking about next steps with the Village. Trustees asked for a more detailed proposal, with financial and operational aspects included.

Attorney Long said fire stations are eligible for TIF funding, but do not add any revenue to the district.

Administrator Keim said there have not been any recent interested parties who have approached the Village for the use of TIF funds, and added that the TIF money is a use-or-lose program, and any unused funds must be returned to the other taxing bodies. He also mentioned the need for an outside consultant if a financial analysis is required. He further discussed the potential size of other projects and developments that may come up in that area. Chief Cokefair may be able to approach his board about contributing to the cost of any required financial analysis.

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Mayor Hanson thanked Chief Cokefair for bringing this forward. He discussed the failed referendum and is happy that this a 3-5 year plan, and wants to find a way to answer questions and work together. Administrator Keim will work with Chief Cokefair

2. Water Billing Ordinance – Mayor Hanson discussed his idea to do more for the residents in assisting with water billing during the COVID-19 crisis. Administrator Keim reviewed Director McCarthy's memo which presented options for relief on water and sewer billing including a flat credit amount, removal of the base rate, and formulae used in calculating water and sewer bills. The proposed relief is for one billing cycle and would be a waiver of the base water and sewer fee in addition to the waiver of the annual increase.

Trustee Pierce agreed to waive the annual 3% increase, and waive the base rate for one billing cycle.

Trustee Macek said he is in favor of hardships, but is 100% not in favor of this proposal. He discussed other projects and expenses that need for those over providing relief to residents that may not need assistance. He thinks relief should be for hardships and not to people making over \$100,000 per year. He said without knowing the full impact of the coronavirus, he cannot support this proposal.

Trustee Dominiak clarified that the cost to the village for waiving the annual increase is \$85,000, but the residents on the east side of town that use Lake County sewer will still see an increase. She said she would be more amenable to the waiver of the 3% increase, but is not in favor of the one-time base rate.

Trustees Poulos and Johnson agreed with the waiver of the annual increase, and would be in favor of providing relief for hardship cases.

Director McCarthy discussed options currently in place for hardship cases such as payment arrangements, agency referral such as LIHEAP and other assisting organizations.

3. Discussion regarding the Re-Opening Plan for the Village of Antioch – Administrator Keim discussed the re-opening and said there were a number of things happening to help businesses open according to the Phase 3 guidelines of the Restore Illinois Plan. Some efforts done by the Village so far were signage for curbside pickup, videos, and coordination with the Antioch Township and Chamber of Commerce.

Director Garrigan discussed the current economic downturn and the efforts of the Village to help businesses based on the Restore Illinois Plan. He summarized his memo to the board which outlined local marketing, providing logistical help for curbside pickup with signage and designated parking spaces. Phase 3 will allow outdoor dining at restaurants, and the Village has been working with numerous restaurants on an outdoor dining plan. Staff plans to work with the economic development task force to come up with some creative concepts in helping assist the small business community. He discussed the potential marketing components, including signage, marketing videos, township business videos and Chamber of Commerce initiatives. He proposes to continue to work with the business community for future phases to include board workshops, small business meetings and outreach, fiscal assessments, new event planning and tactical urbanism. He presented the board with proposed outdoor dining areas and discussed state requirements such as a 6-foot sidewalk allowance.

Barbara Porch, Chamber Director, discussed their efforts in working with the Village. She presented the tagline "Back in Business, and Better". She presented a business photo campaign, as well as the idea for a business parade.

Administrator Keim said that he went to the city of McHenry and saw their use of jersey walls, and discussed the potential cost for the village to provide those to local businesses for outdoor dining as well as picnic tables from our parks. He believes we have come up with an initial solution to help and staff has reached out to local business owners who have been very receptive and appreciative of Village efforts in helping them open.

A majority of those present discussed safety measure that should be in place, and agreed to allow staff to move forward in helping the local businesses in opening during Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois plan in the safest manner possible.

Trustee Johnson asked for clarification on the opening on non-restaurant businesses. Administrator Keim said they would have to follow state guidelines according to the Restore Illinois Plan. He advised there are specific toolkits for businesses on the state's website. Attorney Long advised that the official order will be what is following and has not yet been issued.

Chief Guttschow provided an overview of operations of the police department and their plan moving forward in order to be consistent and focus efforts on education for businesses and residents.

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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 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine
Village Clerk