

# APPROVED MINUTES

## VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Antioch Senior Center: 817 Holbek, Antioch, IL 60002  
Virtual Meeting – Call In (312)626-6799 Access Code: 592-598-564  
October 28, 2020

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the October 28, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:01 pm in the Antioch Senior Center: 817 Holbek, Antioch, IL.

### 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: Macek, Yost, Dominiak and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Attorney Long, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustees Pierce and Poulos.

### IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no absent trustees wishing to attend remotely.

### V. Approval of the September 23, 2020 Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes as presented.

- Trustee Macek moved, seconded by Trustee Yost to approve the September 2, 2020 Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

**YES: 4:** Macek, Yost, Dominiak and Johnson.

**NO: 0.**

**ABSENT: 2:** Pierce and Poulos.

**THE MOTION CARRIED.**

### VI. Regular Business

#### **1. Business Incentive Grant request from Bellucci Medical Office located at 425 Lake Street –**

Director Garrigan presented the request for \$20,000 through the Business Incentive Grant (BIG) program. The applicant is requesting the grant to reface 425 Lake Street and the adjacent retail center with a stone veneer. Staff has reviewed the application, and based on the limited funding for the program, does not believe approving the applicant's request would be the best use of the Village's program.

Trustee Macek asked for an explanation of the scoring. Director Garrigan explained the criteria that are scored at a maximum of 30 points, and this applicant received a score of 7. Trustee Macek asked the occupancy of the building, and asked if the façade would improve the possibility of retail rentals. Director Garrigan replied that there is not great exposure, and this building has historically been for office use. The visibility and setback aren't conducive to retail businesses. Trustee Macek asked if the building was improved, if that would help the downtown business district. Director Garrigan said the improved appearance would make it better for officer not retail. Based on resources, and the fact that the building won't attract retail led to its low score.

Trustee Dominiak agrees with staff's recommendation and does not recommend the village fund this project.

Mayor Hanson commented on the proposed drawing, and said perhaps a colored or improved drawing may change the board's decision. He suggested an architect add color to the drawing and bring it back to the board. Director Garrigan said the applicant has an opportunity to improve the building. Trustee Dominiak opined that the change in appearance may not necessarily change the overall score and therefore wouldn't change her vote on the façade. Staff will work with the applicant on any other proposed changes to the

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building during the site plan review process. This item will not be considered any further by the board at this time.

**2. Discussion regarding police body worn cameras** – Police Chief Guttschow provided an overview the proposals received, the status of the current in-squad system, and the selection process for the proposed system. He provided cost estimates, including initial and future costs, and a timeline for implementation of the cameras.

Trustee Macek asked if community service officers would wear the cameras. Chief Guttschow replied that they would not. Trustee Macek asked about downloading time. Chief Guttschow responded that squad cameras download automatically, and the body cams would download when taken off their vest and placed into the docks. Mr. Mark Gottlieb, CDS Office Technologies, responded that 4 hours of video on 8 cameras could take 20-30 minutes or less, and the camera would remain on the docking station to charge. Trustee Macek asked about compatibility with future facial or license plate recognition. Mr. Gottlieb said that is more of a software upgrade, and is a planned feature by Panasonic. Trustee Macek complimented Chief Guttschow and his staff on getting the cameras.

Trustee Yost thanked staff and said this is long overdue. He asked if there were any deficiencies that Chief Guttschow hoped to have that weren't able to be included. Chief Guttschow said this is a very robust system that should do what they expect. Trustee Yost asked if storage was sufficient. Chief Guttschow replied that IT Manager Amy Pisciotto has been involved throughout the process and is currently comfortable with the amount of data available, which could be expandable.

Trustee Dominiak asked if there will be issues with integration when the expected life of body worn cameras ends before the expected life of in-squad cameras which would expire 4-6 years later. Mr. Gottlieb responded that it is unlikely there would be future issues with integration in order to retain existing clientele.

This item will be placed on the next village board agenda for consideration.

**3. Discussion of EMB Signs** – Mayor Hanson said this has been going on for the past few months, and the board finally has the opportunity to present the signs to the board.

Director Garrigan said the Planning and Zoning Board is looking for input from the Village Board before the text amendment is made. He discussed signs allowed and prohibited in the downtown district, and best practices in other communities. He presented the results of a comprehensive survey completed by neighboring communities, which shows that a majority do not allow electronic message boards in their downtown.

Trustee Macek said 50% of the businesses are vacant in the downtown. Director Garrigan does not believe that is accurate and discussed vacancies in town being approximately 20%. He also said there is a fair amount of continued interest along Main Street. Trustee Macek understands the challenge with allowing EMB signs in downtown, but disagrees with the suggestion made by Trustee Pierce for black and white signs only. He offered opinions on how these signs could be informational as well, and thinks that may help with parking and general information. Director Garrigan added that a sign could be incorporated into a Planned Unit Development if the board sees the need.

Trustee Yost asked if the survey showed absolute prohibitions on the signs. Director Garrigan said they would only be allowed with a variance.

Trustee Dominiak discussed the original feedback from residents on allowing these signs in the downtown and the long hours and deliberations put into the current sign code. She said the Planning and Zoning Board is trying to enforce the code, and now there is a change being proposed. She believes if our goal is to enhance the downtown district, EMB signs don't fit. She is not in support of altering the goal for the

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historic downtown and is not in favor of allowing these signs because they clash with what they are trying to achieve.

Trustee Johnson discussed struggling businesses and changing circumstances and said businesses may decide to go elsewhere if there are too many restrictions on signage.

Mayor Hanson commented that there is a place for EMB signs, and the biggest question on his mind is if the Village has a standard. Some areas could have messaging type signs, but he is not in favor of signs that show videos which would not fit into the downtown. He believes the bigger question is if it should be allowed for institutions such as the school, church and library. Director Garrigan said the proposed amendment would be to allow defined civic groups to approach the Village Board for EMB sign approval.

Those presented agreed to allow absent trustees to weigh-in, and place this item on a future Committee of the Whole meeting to include discussion by all of the board.

**4. Annual Meeting Calendar** – Clerk Romine asked if there were any comments to the annual meeting calendar before it is presented for approval on the November 9, 2020 consent agenda. Those present agreed to place this item on the next consent agenda for approval.

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mayor Hanson said a member of the audience wanted to comment on body cams and asked if the board would allow her to speak.

Ms. Crystal Kunkel, Village resident, commended the board and staff on getting body cams. She provided a statement on the importance of the cameras today and is passionate about the need to protect our officers. She discussed recent events and the potential for conflict in our town and the chance that body cams will help protect our officers and community.

Trustee Dominiak asked for the status of the wayfinding signage. Director Garrigan said the signs were completed and installed in the summer, but there were some concerns about placement and final design. They were modified and are currently in the garage waiting to be installed by the public works department once posts have been decided upon and installed.

Trustee Dominiak asked for an update on the Village of Antioch Facebook page following her political page. Administrator Keim said it was investigated, but not determined who may have liked or followed that page. He discussed steps taken since that time to help avoid or mitigate future occurrences.

Mayor Hanson asked about potential hacks. IT Manager Pisciotto responded that the emails board members and staff receive are not a hack, but are from gmail accounts and cannot be blocked. She said the best way to help mitigate future emails is to forward them to her, and she can block specific users. She offered other solutions, but said those may block other emails to staff that will be needed. It's a common scam with a public entity, and at this time there is no way to prevent its occurrence.

### **VIII. Executive Session**

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

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC  
Village Clerk