

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002
Call In (312)626-6799 Access Code: 592-598-564
June 23, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the June 23, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 pm in the Antioch Village Hall: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

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: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt and Burman. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine. Absent: Trustee Dominiak.

IV. Approval of the May 26, 2021 Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented

- Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee Bluthardt, to approve the May 26, 2021 Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 5: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt and Burman.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 1: Dominiak.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Dominiak arrived via Zoom at 6:32 pm.

V. Oath of Office – Officer Richard Herdus

Chief Gutschow introduced other recent hires that did not have the opportunity to have their oath of office at a board meeting due to Covid. They are Officer Geryol as a later transfer and Officer Recendiz as a new recruit having gone through academy. Chief Gutschow introduced new lateral hire Richard Herdus coming from the Village of Gurnee. Clerk Romine Administered the Oath of Office to Officer Herdus, and his wife pinned on his badge.

VI. Recognition of former Trustee Ted Poulos

Finance Director Joy McCarthy presented a plaque to former Trustee Poulos for his service on the Village Board. Former Trustee Poulos said he was honored to serve the residents of Antioch, and hopes the new board realizes that honor. He said he always voted based on what he believed was best for the community. He thanked his wife for her support during his service on the Board, and current and former board members and staff. He commented on the good financial position of the Village, and wished the new board members luck in their new role.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

There were no citizens wishing to address the board at this time.

VII. Regular Business

1. Tattoo License Request – Salt Spa – Clerk Romine provided an overview of the request from the applicant in order to provide microblading and the distance of the salon with the 480 foot requirement from an athletic field or playground. There were no objections from the board to issuing the license for the purpose of microblading.

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2. Liquor License Requests – General Discussion – Mayor Gartner discussed the direction of the previous Village Board to staff advising potential liquor license applicants that the Village Board is not interested in issuing pouring licenses for the purpose of video gaming. Trustee Pierce likes the policy the way it exists, and discussed the original reason for the allowing video gaming licenses to help existing business owners. He does not want to increase the number of gaming facilities in town. Trustee Macek discussed the loss of revenue from the cost of gasoline in Illinois and Lake County, and thinks pouring licenses should be expanded for those uses. Trustee Pedersen is all for helping businesses, and expressed concern with the potential of future requests coming from small retail businesses in town to add to their revenue. She said we need to look at this and the requirement of having a restaurant and a pouring license and have to do what's best for Antioch. Trustee Bluthardt is torn on the issue and would like to be cautious as to how we proceed with the licenses. Trustee Burman agrees this is going down the wrong avenue and may cause issues for police. Trustee Dominiak is adamantly opposed to issuing these licenses and changing the strategy they have been following. She discussed the rationale for the previous practice and said she doesn't want to be known as gaming capital of Lake County and is not supportive of expanding and giving licenses to anyone who has not demonstrated that they are a full-fledged restaurant. She appreciates the fact that there are businesses that are struggling, but is also concerned with setting a precedent. Trustee Macek discussed the MFT revenues and the funding of annual road programs. Administrator Keim clarified that MFT distributions are based on population per capita. Mayor Gartner agrees that the gas stations are suffering and said some have already reached out to him. He recommended they talk with the State about getting relief. Mayor Gartner asked the board if they would like the current policy to continue. A majority of those present agreed to proceed with the current practice. Trustee Dominiak added that adding video gaming at gas stations will not suddenly increase gas revenues.

3. Discussion regarding solicitor license regulations – Administrator Keim provided a background on the item saying the public is leery of solicitors. Attorney Vasselli commented that the fee schedule had not been changed since 1976, and this is an attempt to bring those fees up to date. Trustee Pierce asked about the fine for those violating the ordinance and soliciting without a permit. Chief Guttschow said the current fine is \$75, and staff would support a heftier fine, and recommended double the license fee. Trustee Macek asked if it would make more sense to charge \$50 and issue a \$500 fine. Attorney Vasselli said this brings the fee up to the cost for staff time and matches some other communities. Trustee Macek asked that we require a certificate of insurance from applicants. Trustees Pierce and Pedersen agree with the proposed cost. Trustee Bluthardt asked about how many are issued and how many are cited. Clerk Romine responded that there may be about 10 licenses issued per month during the summertime. Chief Guttschow said they have not issued many citations, and most are issued warnings. Chief Guttschow discussed victims of home repair fraud due to some bad actors, and the increased cost of staff time to investigate those occurrences. Those present agreed to increase the fee to cover the cost of staff and resources, and remind residents to ask solicitors to see their license. Trustee Macek commented that the Village is lacking in the requirement of license and permit bonds. Mayor Gartner asked the board if they would agree to raising the cost of the license, increase the fine to \$500 and requiring a valid certificate of insurance with their application. Those present agreed to those requirements and this item will be placed on the next village board agenda for consideration.

4. Discussion regarding vegetation abatement – Administrator Keim discussed the poor maintenance of some properties in the Village, and discussed current practice of the Village mowing properties in violation of the vegetation ordinance. He said there are many repeat offenders year after year and all summer long, and staff doesn't view the lien as a strong enough deterrent for compliance. Staff is looking for a stronger basis for enforcement of habitual offenders who don't mow their lawns. Attorney Vasselli discussed the enforcement of liens against property and discussed the proposed changes in the ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to address the recidivist and one who is taking advantage of the process. Administrator Keim asked if one notice would suffice for the entire

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season rather than providing a notice for each occurrence for habitual offenders. Attorney Vasselli will look into incorporating that into the ordinance but feels providing notice is more prudent, and also a policy decision the board should make. A majority of those present agreed to the ordinance amendments.

Trustee Macek left at 7:16pm and returned at 7:21.

5. Discussion regarding Appropriation Ordinance – Finance Director McCarthy discussed the appropriation ordinance and the legal requirements associated with appropriation ordinance vs. a budget ordinance. The Village of Antioch uses a budget as a tool or working document to track expenses and build reserves. Legally the Village operates under an appropriation ordinance which provides the legal spending authority for the Village. She discussed the inflated numbers in the ordinance, and the appropriation for the first 3 months of the next fiscal year. She further discussed the possibility unforeseen large expenses. An amendment can be made if needed, and just because the money is appropriated doesn't mean it needs to be spent.

6. Discussion regarding the refinancing of the IEPA Loan – Finance Director McCarthy explained the current IEPA loan from 2007 which can be refinanced in order to save money. She included a hypothetical in the report that show a savings of approximately \$370,000. She also included a schedule, and introduced Mr. Stephen Roberts, bond counsel, to address any questions the board may have. She asked the board if they were interested in moving forward with refinancing the bonds.

Trustee Pierce asked if there were fees involved, and if they would balance the savings. Mr. Roberts said the fees were built into the savings. Trustee Pierce asked if this would extend the life of the loan to which Finance Director McCarthy replied no. Trustee Pierce asked if we're confident rates are going down. Mr. Roberts responded the board is under no obligation to issue the bonds if the savings aren't realized.

Trustee Macek said interest rates will increase and said it is our fiduciary responsibility to save money if possible. Mayor Gartner asked if the \$150,000 fees are incurred if the bonds don't go through. Director McCarthy replied that they are only if bonds are issued. Those present agreed to move forward with the refinance process.

7. Discussion regarding the use of Lauterbach & Amen for Accounting Services – Finance Director McCarthy said her assistant retired last year, and a replacement was selected but resigned in December. Because of the timing, it was difficult for Director McCarthy to continue to do her job as well as the assistant position. She did not budget to fill the position with a hire for this fiscal year, and asked the board to consider approval of the contract. Mayor Gartner asked that the 30 day cancellation be added in the contract.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

No report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk