

APPROVED MINUTES

VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Village of Antioch, Lake County, Illinois

Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002

Call In # 1-312-626-6799

Public Access Code: 592-598-564

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

February 9, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the February 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:30 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 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, Burman and Dominiak*. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Keim and Clerk Romine.

**indicates attendance via Zoom*

IV. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

No approval is needed for remote participation pursuant to the Governor's order.

V. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented

Trustee Bluthardt moved, seconded by Trustee Burman, to approve the January 26, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call, the vote was:

YES: 6: Pierce, Macek, Pedersen, Bluthardt, Burman and Dominiak.

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VI. Mayoral Report

Mayor Gartner announced the 50th anniversary of Fischer Paper Products.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

Ms. Becky Jacobsen was unable to speak due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Michael Leoni, Lindenhurst resident, thanked the mayor for the awareness regarding iron in Well #5.

VII. Regular Business

1. Lakota Presentation on Downtown Beautification Project – Mr. Kevin Clark and Deb Samyn of the Lakota Group presented their report on recommendations for the beautification of Downtown Antioch. Mr. Clark reviewed the study area and engagement and input processes. Ms. Samyn discussed placemaking recommendations, the interest in public spaces, streetscapes and the intertwined elements of each. She stated that people seemed concerned with pedestrian safety, so bollards and other interventions are recommended near outdoor seating areas. She presented

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wayfinding and signage possibilities as well as directional signage to highlight amenities. She summarized the proposals for the vacant lot at the corner of Main and Depot, and its use as an interactive focal point of the downtown. Mr. Clark discussed how the engagement events helped to develop the beautification plan and recommendations. The public showed interested in key concepts such as a clear, unimpeded pedestrian zone and improved alleys that incorporate seating, lighting and artwork. He discussed the function of Toft Avenue and proposed concepts for that area. Mr. Clark summarized the area near the bandshell and preferred concepts to enhance areas around the bandshell. Finally, he discussed the preferred concept for the vacant property at Main and Depot previously approved by the Village. Mr. Clark presented a guide with estimated costs associated with each concept included in the plan.

Trustee Pierce said he likes the plan, and is excited to move forward with this project, but did confirm that the total cost is approximately \$27 million. Mr. Clark said as an overall number it sounds right. Trustee Macek recommended phasing it out to cut expenses. Trustee Pedersen agreed to be fiscally responsible and phase out the project and try to get funding moving forward. Trustee Bluthardt appreciates all of the work put into the plan, and agrees with other trustees and thinks it's a great start. Trustee Burman agreed with a phased approach and thinks it should be prioritized. Trustee Dominiak agrees, but think timelines and cost should be considered before approval. She said there were some simple recommendations made a couple of years ago that could be implemented sooner than the concepts in this plan, such as garbage enclosures, awnings, and a program to clean the sidewalks on Main, Lake and Toft Streets.

This item will be placed on the next Village Board agenda for consideration and approval.

2. Preliminary Budget Discussions – Administrator Keim presented a brief overview of the preliminary budget numbers and said it is meant to give a glimpse of operational costs with additional initiatives recommended by the Village Board. He said the only capital included in the budget is the obligation of debt payments. He asked the board to look it over and determine how much the board is comfortable spending operationally, and how much capital they would like to see included. He asked the board to focus on the top line; general fund revenues and expenditures without any capital expenses such as road paving or vehicle purchases. He advised that this type of budgeting can only be sustained for a couple of years. Administrator Keim reminded board members that their specific department to which they are liaison is just a part of the overall budget, and that must be considered when supporting requests.

3. Discussion regarding capital projects – Village Board rankings – Administrator Keim discussed the project rankings as submitted by the Village Board and staff. He said he will do his best to draft a realistic capital plan that includes funding opportunities. Financing, timing, and priority should all be taken into consideration when developing a capital plan.

Trustee Pierce thanked Administrator Keim and staff for their input, but said he gives priority to the Village Board's input. He would like to know the cost of each project and possible funding avenues for each as the next step.

Trustee Macek discussed staff's recommendations and thinks public safety should take a priority over other initiatives.

Those present agreed they would like to see estimated costs and potential funding for the projects before moving forward.

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4. Oakwood Knolls Request – Mr. Jerry Bingold, Vice President of the Oakwood Knolls Property Owners Association, presented the request from Oakwood Knolls for an assessment of the culvert under Bridgewood Drive. He presented an overview of the area in question, discussed everything spent to maintain the properties, and said it is maintained by the voluntary association. They have worked with staff to ask for help accessing available funding for the project. They had a dredger provide an estimate of \$44,000, but he would require an assessment of the safety of the culvert. He asked for an assurance from the village that they can proceed, and the association will have the liability and responsibility of maintaining the drainage system. He discussed conversations with St. Benedicts Abbey regarding the drainage of the farm field into the channel. All of the progress done thus far stops if they can't get a safety inspection on the culvert.

Mayor Gartner said he and staff have met with Oakwood Knolls a number of times, and there has been much remediation of outstanding and ongoing items. This is the final item they need help with from the Village.

Trustee Pierce commented on the voluntary association, and thinks the priority is the bridge. He thinks it does need to be inspected by village engineers and advised the board that there is a lot of traffic on the bridge. Administrator Keim commented that the concrete culvert at Orchard cost approximately \$600,000, and estimates this culvert could cost approximately \$300,000-400,000. Trustee Pierce asked the board to agree that this is a priority for safety, and asked the engineers to check all the drainage systems. Mr. Bingold said a very comprehensive drainage study was completed and paid for by the Abbey and shared with Village staff.

Those present agreed that this is a matter of public safety and should move forward. There have been preliminary discussions with HR Green regarding this project.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk