

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
September 13, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gartner called the September 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:48 pm at the Antioch Municipal Building located at 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL and via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Burman, Bluthardt, McNeill, Pierce, Macek and Pedersen. Also present were Mayor Gartner, Attorney Vasselli, Administrator Keim* and Clerk Romine.

**indicates attendance via Zoom*

III. Absent Trustees Wishing to Attend Remotely

There were no Trustees attending remotely.

IV. Mayoral Report

None.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Board

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

V. Regular Business

1. Tobacco License application request from R&D#12 to be located at 320 IL Route 173 – Clerk Romine presented the request from R&D#12 for a tobacco license. Mr. Amin Khalid Ali, applicant, discussed the business location. Trustee McNeill asked if the board could include parameters on what can be included, advertised or placed in windows of the business, and if the licenses could be capped. Attorney Vasselli said the code was recently amended so the number adjusts to match the current licensees, and there are no open licenses that need to be filled. The applicant discussed product sales and restricted sales to minors, adding that they scan identification before any sales are done.

Trustee Macek discussed the images provided and has concerns regarding the more graphic displays in those photos. He has a problem with this being near a high school. The applicant said they sell mostly vapes, liquids and CBD, and will not offer the large assortment of products shown in the picture. Trustee Macek asked for a written agreement to not display those products. Attorney and staff will work with applicant on a written agreement.

Trustee Pedersen expressed concern with the proximity to the high school.

Mayor Gartner asked the applicant if they intend to sell THC-A. The applicant responded that yes, they will sell those products.

Trustees discussed the age restriction, and if it's related to access to the store, or just the purchase of products. Before the next meeting, the attorney will do a memo with age limits to tobacco and tobacco adjacent products.

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2. Discussion regarding employee handbook amendments – Clerk Romine outlined the proposed changes to the Employee Handbook, which include more detailed instructions related to on-duty accidents and injuries, including requirements for post-accident drug and alcohol testing. There is also an update allowing an annual vacation payout for employees exceeding the allowable roll-over amount, and an addition of VEBA benefits, which will allow employees to participate in a tax-free medical expense account to be used at retirement.

Trustees discussed the vacation payout, and asked if the cost was determined. Finance Director Torres said an estimate was included in the budget in case the policy was approved. She will provide the board with that data. She added that last year was a higher payout because of a longer accrual time. Chief Guttschow stated that the union employees already have this provision written into their contract. He spoke about the disincentives experienced in moving up the ranks due to the loss of benefits available to union employees not available to command staff. Due to the employee obligations and a sense of responsibility to their job, they have accumulated vacation time that they are unable to take this year.

3. Discussion regarding an ordinance amending Section 1-4-6 of the Antioch Village Code regarding electronic attendance of meetings for the Village of Antioch, Illinois – There was no discussion, and this item will be placed on the next Village Board meeting for consideration.

4. Discussion regarding Commission residency requirements – Mayor Gartner said the current code allows non-village residents to serve on various commissions, and would like the new regulation to be a May 1, 2024 effective date since both affected members have terms expiring at that time.

Trustee Bluthardt said he is in favor of the changes, but doesn't see anything regarding the effective date, and thinks they shouldn't be allowed to serve on a commission now if they aren't a resident.

Trustee McNeill thinks it makes sense to make in effect upon the end of the other terms.

Trustee Pierce agrees they need to be residents of the Village, and is okay with the May 1 effective date. There is one individual that does not fit within the current requirements, and should be asked to be removed immediately.

Mayor Gartner has requested meetings with both affected members.

Trustee Macek asked if someone should be allowed to serve on a commission if they have a vested interest in a business or pays property taxes on a building. Mayor Gartner said he does not think that is permitted by law.

Trustee Pedersen said just like voting you can't vote if you're not a resident. She thinks they should live within the Village, and is okay with the effective date May 2024. She agrees the commissioner outside of the requirement should be addressed immediately.

This item will be placed on the next Village Board agendas with an effective date of May 1, 2024.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel and Pending Litigation, Lease of Village Property, Collective Bargaining – personnel and pending litigation and property acquisition. – Trustee

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Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill to enter into executive session at 9:22pm to discuss personnel. Upon roll call, the vote was:

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

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

Trustee Pedersen moved, seconded by Trustee McNeill to exit executive session at 9:38 with no action taken. Upon roll call, the vote was:

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

NO: 0.

ABSENT: 0.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Romine, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk