

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK, ILLINOIS
201 Acacia Drive
Indian Head Park, Illinois 60525

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2022

“Pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2.06(3) minutes of the public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of the votes taken.”

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Hinshaw

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Hinshaw. Due to the restrictions of the State of Illinois regarding gatherings of people during the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: Sharon Allison, Village Clerk (attended via Zoom)

PRESENT (and constituting a quorum):

- Mayor Tom Hinshaw (physically present)
- Trustee Eileen Donnersberger (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Charles Eck (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Farrell-Mayer (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Christian Metz (attended via Zoom)
- Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin (attended via Zoom)

ABSENT: Trustee Shawn Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT:

- John DuRocher, Village Administrator (physically present)
- Andy Ferrini, Assistant Village Administrator (physically present)
- Patrick Brankin, General Counsel, Schain, Banks, Kenny & Schwartz (attended via Zoom)
- Lisa Bujak, Administrative Clerk (physically present)
- Steven Stelter, Police Chief (attended via Zoom)
- Don Lorenzen, Public Works Superintendent (attended via Zoom)
- Justin Fuller, Water Superintendent (attended via Zoom)
- David Karaffa, Cable Station Manager (physically present)

VISITORS: None

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Sidewalks: 4 Main Areas in the Village's Sidewalk Master Plan:

Acacia Drive: The northern half of the Acacia Drive sidewalk project will be done next year. The connections of this new sidewalk to Wolf Road are planned to be done when and if a sidewalk along Wolf Road becomes part of the Cook County Road projects. There will be a new sidewalk connection from Acacia Drive to Blackhawk Park added next summer.

Plainfield Road and Wolf Road: Both are in Phase I study at this time. Both are County roads. We are expecting to have Wolf Road alternatives available for sidewalks and pedestrian paths in early 2022 for resident review and comments.

Joliet Road: No new updates.

Acacia Drive Update: The northern section of Acacia Drive will begin early in 2022. The landscaping and finishing touches will be completed after all the road work is done. This Board has committed to make sure Acacia Drive is looking good when completed.

I-294 Tollway Update: The tollway construction throughout Indian Head Park will last several years. Please note that the southern half of the sound wall between Joliet Road and Plainfield Road will be constructed next summer.

Community Survey: Thank you to everyone who has responded to the survey. We had 280 total responses. A couple of responses that stood out to me were that 93% of our residents feel safe in the Village and 72% supported a sidewalk or bicycle path along Wolf Road. Assistant Administrator Ferrini will have an additional update later in the meeting.

Final Comment: A reminder about the Cook County directive effective January 3rd: When you go to one of our fine restaurants or bars, remember to take proof of your vaccination and wear a mask. Sadly, Covid is still rampant in our Village. Please do what you can to mitigate the spreading of this disease to others.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda as Established moved by Trustee O'Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

- A. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021
- B. Approval of Payables for the Period Ending December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$427,450.79
- C. Approval of Preliminary Financial Report for Month Ending December 31, 2021

In the absence of Treasurer Garcia, the Financial Report was presented by Trustee Metz:

Cash on Hand on November 30, 2021 was \$2,905,642.96
Total Warrants for December 2021 amounted to \$427,450.79
Total Revenues for December 2021 amounted to \$472,734.34
Ending Balance on December 31,2021, was \$2,950,926.51

D. Appointment of John Wittenberg to the Fire and Police Commission for a term expiring January 2023

Motion carried by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 2022-1—ACCEPTING BIDS AND AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR EMERGENCY WATER AND SEWER MAIN REPAIRS

Motion to pass Ordinance 2022-1, an ordinance awarding contracts for emergency water and sewer main repair was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee O’Laughlin.

Administrator DuRocher explained that this bid is brought before the Board every three years. Its purpose is to have a source for water and sewer repairs in an emergency situation. Last year the Village had a 5.17% water loss. The industry loss is about 10% loss. Mayor Hinshaw thanked our Public Works Department, particularly Don Lorenzen and Justin Fuller, for their excellent work in being accountable to our residents regarding water and sewer issues.

Motion approved by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

B. POTENTIAL EMERGENCY PURCHASE—PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE FORD F550

Motion to purchase a replacement snow plow not to exceed \$94,388 from Curry Motors in Frankfort, Illinois, was moved by Trustee Metz; seconded by Trustee Eck.

Administrator DuRocher explained that a Village snow plow was destroyed in a fire during the first week in January. Public Works administrators, Don Lorenzen and Justin Fuller, were commended by the Board for locating a Ford F 550 for purchase, a very difficult task considering the issues related to the pandemic. The truck will be delivered the first week in March.

Motion approved by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

C. RESOLUTION -01-2022—SUPPORTING HB 4176

Motion to pass Resolution 01-2022 to support HB 4176 was moved by Trustee O’Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Farrell-Mayer.

Administrator DuRocher explained that our County Commissioner Sean Morrison has asked that we pass a resolution supporting Representative Durkin’s Bill 4176 that would give our local police department ability to overrule the Cook County States Attorney should she decide to drop felony charges for a crime that’s committed by our police department. Board members feel that, by doing so, a message will be sent to the States Attorney that IHP really wants to be tough on crime.

Motion approved by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

**D. CAMERA PROJECT DISCUSSION--APPROVAL OF BIDS—TRUSTEE O’LAUGHLIN/
POLICE CHIEF STELTER**

Motion to table the camera project discussion/approval of the bids until the February Board Meeting was moved by Trustee O’Laughlin; seconded by Trustee Donnersberger.

Administrator DuRocher explained that Staff needs more time to evaluate bid approval.

Motion approved by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz, and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

E. DISCUSSION: PLAN FOR SMOKE SIGNALS NEWSLETTER IN 2022 AND BEYOND

In October 2021, the Board voted to fund the monthly distribution of the Smoke Signals. After weak results of the number of residents that read the Smoke Signals and/or read the news electronically (based on the recent Village Survey) the Board determined that the best route regarding communication would be to continue a quarterly distribution via mail. This decision will be left open for future discussion by the Board and the Communications Committee.

F. DISCUSSION: HARDSHIP CRITERIA IN THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL USE FOR SHEDS

Mayor Hinshaw requested that Counsel Brankin clarify the term “hardship” to members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Village Board. Counsel noted that any request for “special use” has to abide by certain standards and be within the Ordinance. Actually, there is a section that lists “special use” within the present Ordinance.

Counsel Brankin suggested that he and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission meet together to discuss the implications of each request as every case must be based on its own merit. In other words, one size does not fit all. Trustees Farrell-Mayer and Eck, both Board representatives on the Planning and Zoning Commission, agreed to gather with Counsel Brankin and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Hinshaw requested that this meeting take place before the February Board meeting.

G. VILLAGE WIDE GOALS

Mayor Hinshaw discussed possible goals that would be above and beyond the regular Budget items. These are projects that have been presented by Board Members or from Village residents. They will be discussed further in future months. They are listed alphabetically.

- **Acacia Drive landscaping**
- **Better sound system for Village Hall**
- **Blackhawk Park improvements: sport courts, landscaping, dog run**
- **Investigate the acquisition of a vacant lot for a new neighborhood park**
- **More community events**
- **New electronic sign**
- **New sign—at the corner of Joliet and Wolf Road on the IDOT lot**
- **New sign—at the Village Hall**
- **Sacajawea Park improvements**
- **Saving for potential Wolf Road landscaping**
- **Space utilization of Village properties**
- **Triangle facade improvements**

REPORTS:

TRUSTEES:

- Trustee Metz: There will be a Finance Committee on Monday, January 17, 6:00 P.M., via Zoom. The Heritage Center needs additional docents; if interested, contact Jean Sutherland.
- Trustee O’Laughlin: The Christmas Holiday event was a huge success. Thanks for all the help. The Easter Egg Hunt will be in April.
- Trustee Eck: He was unable to view this meeting on Channel 6.

VILLAGE CLERK: None

VILLAGE ATTORNEY: None

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

Administrator DuRocher announced the Finance Committee would meet on Monday, January 17. In February, the first reading of the 2022 budget will take place. In March, the second reading will take place. In April, the Board will vote on the 2022 budget.

VILLAGE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR:

Assistant Administrator Ferrini announced that the newly-revamped web-site should be up and running by the end of May. The Community Survey was completed by 280 households. Some recommendations will be reported to the Village Board after being discussed by the Communications Committee. Covid has been the most viewed topic on the web-site.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Public Works Superintendent Don Lorenzen thanked the Staff for the go-ahead to get the new truck for snow-plowing and thanks to Willow Springs for loaning a snow plow to use in IHP while waiting for delivery of the new truck. There have been 4 snow events thus far this season. We have used 80 tons of salt (about 1/4 of the amount usually used in a snow season).

Water Superintendent Justin Fuller announced that there have been 3 water main breaks. The water plant improvement project has about 75% in its design completed. Street lights that are out on Acacia Drive are slowly but surely being replaced by ComEd. Mayor Hinshaw asked about the lighting at the entrance to the northern end of Acacia Drive which isn’t very bright. Fuller stated that ComEd has replaced the lightpole, but on Wolf Road. He will keep in touch with ComEd about what can be done for better lighting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

At 8:39 P.M. Trustee O’Laughlin moved to go to Closed Session for the purposes of Personnel per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1 and Collective Bargaining 5 per ILCS 120/2(c) 2 and to adjourn the meeting immediately thereafter; seconded by Trustee Metz.

Motion carried by roll call vote (5-0). Trustees Donnersberger, Eck, Farrell-Mayer, Metz and O’Laughlin voted Yay. No Nay votes. Trustee Kennedy was absent.

Meeting Adjourned

**Sharon Allison
Village Clerk**