

VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WORKS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 19, 2020
2nd Floor, Village Hall Auditorium
MEETING MINUTES #2020-03

- I. ROLL CALL Meeting called to order at 6:16 p.m.
- Chairman: Alex G. Olejniczak
- Members: Trustee Paul Mallo
Trustee Alex G. Olejniczak
Trustee William R. Stalker
- Staff: William Palmer, Acting Village Manager
Jeff Sebek, Public Works Director
William Meyer, Public Works Assistant Director
Adam Metz, Budget Director
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

Also in attendance: Mayor Sandra Bury

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES #2020-02 DATED MAY 26, 2020:

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020 #2020-2 was made by Member Stalker and seconded by Member Mallo.

Roll call: Stalker, yes; Olejniczak, yes; Mallo, yes.

Motion to approve passes: 3-0-0.

III. DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

A.) E-Waste Collection

Village Manager Randy Palmer indicated that staff's recommendation is to eliminate the E-Waste Collection program. Mr. Palmer commented that he understands that a lot of our residents may use this program but that staff has also found that there are also people outside our community that have taken advantage of this program. He explained that people bring their electronics to family and friends that live in Oak Lawn because Oak Lawn is one of the only communities that still offer this program. Mr. Palmer expressed that this program has become expensive and that the Village should consider our waste provider as an alternative since they offer this type of service.

Member Mallo mentioned that he has had conversations with some of the volunteers that work for this program. He said that they agree that at some point in time there was misuse by outside communities. Member Mallo said he would hope that the program could be "tweaked" instead of a total elimination. He mentioned that he knows the older, bigger televisions are an issue as it costs \$75.00 per skid to send those TVs out. Member Mallo said the flat screens are typically not an issue and that he has also heard that a lot less

people are taking advantage of this program. Mr. Meyer commented that the cost of the skids for the bigger TVs has increased to up to \$150 per skid.

Mr. Meyer mentioned that he received an email from COM2 Recycling, our electronic waste hauler. He said that COM2 has raised our rates six (6) times in 2020. He said we are now being told each pallet will be \$100 each. Mr. Meyer said he also received a call this morning from COM2 and was told that the \$100 pallet cost will only be good for the next e-waste event. Mr. Meyer said this is a costly item for the Village. Mr. Meyer expressed that in this program's infancy, he used to run the program; he said the program was only offered once each season. Mr. Meyer said Jack Lopez sent an email to the Board recently supporting the cancellation of the program. Mr. Meyer said that not only is cost an issue but it is also hard to find people to work the program. He mentioned he is also paying full time Public Works' employees to operate the equipment.

Mr. Meyer referenced the 2018-20 budgetary numbers for E-Waste. He reminded the Board that 2020 numbers appear low but that is because of Covid-19 when the program was temporarily suspended. Mr. Meyer said the last two loads cost the Village \$5,000 each load. He expressed that this year's project will cost over \$40-45,000 just to haul away the inventory and that cost does not include the labor hours. Mr. Meyer expressed to Member Mallo that he understands that he does not want to suspend the program indefinitely but that he felt it is important to point out the costs of the program to this Board. He reiterated that the costs are rising dramatically.

Mr. Meyer said Republic Services will work with the Village. He mentioned that the rep from Republic Services agreed to continue to pick up electronic waste. He said he was told that the amount that they are currently picking up is a low number but that if Republic starts to see an increase in volume for electronic pick-ups, the cost will have to be negotiated as part of our contract. He said Republic Services is currently not charging us for the current electronic waste pick up. Mr. Meyer said another option is to scale back and offer the program only twice a year.

Member Stalker said he understands that initially this program was a money maker. He said it was a great idea to keep the electronics out of the landfills but now the service has become a problem. He mentioned some of the stores that take back electronic items. Member Stalker said he does not see the value in keeping the program. Mr. Meyer mentioned that when you purchase a TV or an electronic device from Best Buy or Costco they will take back one electronic item; he said he did call Costco, Best Buy, and one other electronic store and they confirmed that they will take one electronic item back when purchasing an electronic product from their stores.

Member Olejniczak said in doing his own research he found that other towns do offer this program but that they charge a fee. He said some of these towns use an iPad to collect the fees which range from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Member Olejniczak said he would support scaling the program back to 4 times a year and for the Village to charge a nominal fee. He said we can also remind the residents of what the stores do when a consumer purchases an electronic product. The Board briefly discussed the language in Republic's contract related to e-waste.

Mr. Palmer said based on the direction from the Committee, the Village will start a heavy education program and start communicating that we are scaling back on our E-Waste program due to cost. Member Olejniczak reiterated the importance of reminding the residents to call for special pick-ups through Republic and to promote what stores offer as far as electronic returns. He said we can also announce that the program will be offered 4 times a year and then forecast that in 2021 due to the high cost there will be a “pass through” fee in using the program.

B.) 2021 Tree & Landscape Project

Mr. Meyer said this is a “hot topic”. He reminded the Board that we had to rebid the contract. He said staff is looking for direction; he expressed that staff is pleased with Semmer (landscape) and Smitty’s (trees). Mr. Meyer gave a brief update and said that we are back at cyclical pruning and getting things accomplished since the pandemic. Mr. Meyer said he is looking for direction to see if he can extend out the current contracts with Semmer and Smitty’s for another season. Member Olejniczak asked if this is the recommendation from staff. Mr. Meyer responded that is the direction we would like to go based on performance of the two contractors. He said he would like to get the contracts extended and keep up our cyclical pruning. He said if he could tie in the extension based on the schedule for the 2020 season he could get 2020 finished and part of 2021 finished in the same calendar year which would put us ahead. Mr. Meyer said Heather is far behind; he said it is not her fault but there are trees that have to come down. He said he could see the “hang up” that she is going through; he said we are making progress but he still sees a lot of trees that make him nervous. He stated some trees need to come down within the next month. Mr. Meyer said he is trying to prioritize the removals that are built into the contract; he said we will not be spending additional funds and that Smitty’s has a removal schedule in their contract. He said it is staff’s recommendation to renew the current contracts through 2021. Member Mallo asked what the downside would be if we went out to bid. Mr. Meyer responded it is really just a delay due to paperwork and timing. He said he has no issue with going out to bid but he feels that it is important to start the process now. Mayor Bury asked Mr. Meyer what the likelihood would be for a contract to come back higher. Mr. Meyer responded that it is staff’s recommendation to renew at the current price. Mr. Meyer said he spoke to both vendors and they seem to be on board with the extension. He said both contractors are willing to honor their contracts through 2021 with no increase. Bill expressed that he feels that the contractors are doing very well and seem to take great pride in their work.

Mayor Bury expressed that she supports the extension. Member Olejniczak said based on what he is hearing he feels that staff has this Board’s support to move this request to the Village Board level. Member Olejniczak said from a legal standpoint he asked staff to make sure there are no issues in moving forward with the extension. Mr. Palmer said he will make sure to discuss with our Village Attorney.

C.) 2020 Street Repaving Project

Mr. Meyer gave an update on the streets that will be resurfaced this year. He said although the work only started last month, there has been a lot of progress and the project is moving smoothly. He commented that Christopher Burke is the engineer for the project

and staff has been pleased. Mr. Meyer said Phase II went out to bid last night and hopefully Phase II will start in the next month.

Member Olejniczak asked how long a street is supposed to last. Mr. Meyer replied that typically a street design lasts 20 years. He reminded the Board that the winter elements can affect and reduce the lifetime of streets. He said there is no guarantee on streets.

Member Olejniczak mentioned Alexander Place from 55th Ave to 55th Ct. He said this is the second time we are doing that street since he has been a Trustee. He said he is not sure if initially it was because of bad asphalt. He commented that he noticed that streets begin to deteriorate when there are big tree root systems. Member Olejniczak commented that it amazes him that some streets that were resurfaced 8-10 years ago are in disrepair and that some streets are in great shape. Mr. Meyer said that ideally it is best to pave in May and finish in August; he said the hotter and drier it is, the better it is for asphalt. Mr. Meyer said a lot streets were top coated in October and that some were done in November. Member Olejniczak said he recalls that the streets on 55th and Alexander were done early.

Member Olejniczak commented that the list provided in the packet is for Phase I and then it will flow into Phase II; he asked staff if we will be finished before snow hits the ground. Mr. Meyer responded that is the goal. Mr. Sebek commented that the bid opening for the alleys is on September 1st and it will be a push to get things done.

Member Mallo asked if any streets have been removed from the original list. Mr. Meyer replied not to his knowledge. Member Olejniczak commented that this is the original list.

D.) “Hot-in-Place” Asphalt Resurfacing

Mr. Meyer said that he and Mr. Sebek took a ride out to Tinley Park one afternoon to observe the hot-in-place asphalt. He referenced the photos and pointed out how close he and Jeff were to the grinder that sets off heat. He commented that the pictures show that they were right up against a concrete curb and that they were standing close to the grinder that was at full temperature. He added that they walked along with the grinder and that they both were very impressed. Mr. Meyer said if they tie this product into our streets it would be a very cost effective. He said this product would work on a street aged between 7-12 years.

Mr. Meyer said this is an update and that staff is looking for Board’s direction to make this a pilot program for 2020. Member Olejniczak said staff should select a few streets and to run a pilot. Member Olejniczak asked staff to explain the cost difference. Mr. Meyer replied that it is 1/3 of the cost to repave a street. He mentioned that the Tinley Park street was in decent condition. Mr. Meyer said this program is something we have to use on a street in its “newer” years to make it effective. Mr. Meyer pointed out that the Tinley Park street was at least a city block in length. Jeff agreed that the stretch of street that they saw was larger than a normal city block. He said it could be close to a ¼ mile. Jeff commented on the process. Member Olejniczak suggested looking into beginning the pilot program. He commented that some of our streets do not need curb replacement only asphalt replacement. Mr. Palmer asked how deep they grind the street. Mr. Meyer responded that the street is ground off the surface – approximately an inch and a half. Mr.

Meyer said after they mill, they bring the product in and reinvigorate the chemicals and then literally they roll it for a finished surface.

Member Mallo and Member Stalker expressed that they both support this product. Member Olejniczak said if we can beta test it would be great to plan for 2021. Mr. Palmer asked Mr. Meyer how long the product will last. Mr. Meyer commented that the product works very well. Mr. Sebek commented that this system some years ago had valid problems but that it is not up to par. He mentioned that all the heat is projected down the street. Member Olejniczak said he believes the product lasts 10 -15 years.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Member Mallo asked staff about the status of the geese at Oak Lawn Lake. Mr. Mallo said the geese are gone but he wondered what plan is in place as far as preventative measures for the spring. Mr. Sebek said the plan is to install a short vertical fence barrier to allow for regular vegetation growth. He said ideally they want to put a product down to keep the geese from getting to the water. He mentioned an invisible nylon mesh mounted horizontally that creates a barrier so that the geese cannot walk or land across it. Mr. Sebek said the question is do we want residents and pets in the area or do we want to keep it as non-travel area until we get the vegetation growth. Member Mallo said he thought our Engineer mentioned that putting up a fence would create some debris issues. Member Mallo asked if there are other options. Mr. Meyer mentioned the egg adding process that becomes effective after two seasons. Member Mallo expressed that it is his recommendation not to do any egg shaking but to try other things. He said if we do not want geese to be there we have to do as many effective options as we can because doing one thing will fail over and over unless we have an aggressive plan in place.

Mr. Sebek said the contract requires seeding in late September/early October. Member Mallo asked the timing of when the geese will come back. Mr. Meyer said it may be worthwhile to have another committee meeting and invite Lee back to get a better feel for this issue. Member Olejniczak suggested scheduling another meeting in October / November.

Member Stalker asked if there is an update on Bridgeview. Mr. Palmer commented that they are sending a second letter with "stronger language". Member Stalker suggested sending them a bill or send them to a collection agency. Mr. Palmer commented that they are hoping to make progress and said that Bridgeview has incurred more fees as time keeps moving forward.

Member Olejniczak said he saw that MWRD is working on Melvina Ditch. He asked staff if they saw the specifications and noticed if they changed the entry to Stony Creek. Mr. Meyer replied that they did not change the entry to Stony Creek. Mr. Meyer said this is a very short project. He said they are shoring the banks from 95th to 99th and are adding a junction chamber because of all the erosion. He said it will be a very stable wall system. Mr. Meyer said the area is more of a hole and will not add additional capacity. Member Olejniczak said it looks as if it is wider. Mr. Meyer explained that a lot of trees were removed which is why it looks bigger. Mr. Meyer said it is more of a repair rather than a widening or improvement. He said the District has been more open and that he has great

contacts. Mr. Meyer mentioned that MWRD has been helpful and commented on how they recently turned the pumps down and with the *slower* pumps, the less flooding we have in town.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Member Olejniczak said there was a discussion to schedule a meeting with MWRD regarding the best use of the property acquired at 111th Street (Automotion). Member Olejniczak said that there have been exciting discussions with MWRD and that they are interested in green lighting a project to use that area for water retention. Member Olejniczak said that they have found that that land is a flood zone. He said we cannot develop a vast part of that area because it is in a flood plain. He said they questioned MWRD about a variance but that MWRD was not very responsive. He said they then entertained the discussion of making that area water retention and he said they were very excited. Member Olejniczak mentioned the potential of adding a recreational space with possibly some retail in the front. Member Olejniczak mentioned the adventure park at the Lemont quarries.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Stalker and was seconded by Member Mallo.

Voice vote: All in favor, aye; All opposed, none.

Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.