

VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN  
PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WORKS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:30 a.m.  
2nd Floor, Village Hall Auditorium  
MEETING MINUTES #2020-02

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I. ROLL CALL

Chairman: Alex G. Olejniczak

Members: Trustee Paul Mallo  
Trustee Alex G. Olejniczak (*via telephone*)  
Trustee William R. Stalker

Staff: William Palmer, Acting Village Manager  
Steve Barrett, Public Works Director  
William Meyer, Sewer Division  
Brian Hanigan, Finance Director  
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

*Also in attendance:* Mayor Sandra Bury

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES #2020-01 DATED APRIL 23, 2020:

***A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2020 #2020-1 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.) Oak Lawn Lake Project**

Member Mallo mentioned the geese concerns at Oak Lawn Lake. Mr. Barrett indicated that both he and Lee Fell (Christopher Burke) have looked at the issues. Mr. Barrett explained some of the solutions that need to be put in place. He commented that the vegetation needs to grow on the site. He also mentioned the placement of animal/predator decoys such as six (6) "wolves" that will spin around and be relocated on the site every six weeks and mentioned also adding flashing lights. He said the next step would be for the Village to hire a company that specializes in getting rid of the geese permanently. Mr. Barrett indicated that the strategy used by an outside companies includes a nesting time and a method called egg addling. He said egg addling consists of killing (shaking/puncturing) the egg and placing it back in the nest. Member Mallo expressed that he is not in favor of egg addling. He said of the choices given he would prefer to start with the flashing lights and the wolf decoys to see how it works. Member Mallo said he would rather see the process work the way it is supposed to before getting to a point of actually killing the geese. Mr. Barrett commented that he will stay on the problem.

***Mr. Lee Fell, Christopher Burke joined the meeting via telephone.***

Mr. Barrett mentioned adding fish to the lake. He explained that the recommendation is to add minnows to help with the maintenance of the lake. He said the minnows will eat the vegetation at the bottom of the lake as well as mosquito larvae. Member Olejniczak asked about adding fish to the lake and the cost factor. Mr. Barrett responded that the fish will be part of the maintenance program at a cost of \$3,000. Member Olejniczak asked the best time of year to stock the lake. Mr. Barrett replied that it was recommended that the fish be added right away because there is currently a shortage of fish. Member Olejniczak asked what type of fish will be stocked in the lake. Mr. Lee replied and said they will be adding Minnows and Sun Fish. Member Olejniczak asked about adding Bluegills. Mr. Fell responded not at this time. Member Olejniczak asked how long the process would be if we placed the order now. Mr. Fell replied he is not sure how long it will take. Mayor Bury said there is no way to know until the order is placed.

### **B.) Rebuild Illinois Regional Economic Development Grant Program**

Member Olejniczak asked about shovel ready projects and what the Village needs to do after grants. Member Olejniczak suggested taking a look at the alleys along the 95<sup>th</sup> Street that have upkeep issues to see if those alleys can be covered under the Rebuild Illinois Grant. He said a couple of businesses have invested a lot of money in their business but that there is quite a bit of infrastructure work needed on 95<sup>th</sup> Street and along the north and south side of Southwest Highway. Mr. Barrett agreed. He expressed the concern is not getting into full construction of an alley because of the timeframe. He suggested grinding and patching some of the alleys and laying down a fresh layer of asphalt. Member Olejniczak asked how quickly we can move on that. Mr. Barrett responded that he would have to engage Christopher Burke. Mr. Barrett mentioned the bid opening for streets is on June 2. He said he is not sure if the alleys would be a separate contract but that he will discuss with Lee.

Member Olejniczak mentioned the alley behind Thompson Kuenster and the alley behind the car wash. He asked if those alleys could be covered under the funding from the Rebuild Illinois Grant. Mr. Fell asked if Member Olejniczak was referring to the Rebuild bond or the Rebuild grant. Mr. Fell said the concern will be meeting the design criteria. Mr. Hanigan briefly mentioned the \$25 million Fast Track Infrastructure grant funding. He said we will apply and see what we get. He commented that he is not sure how long it will take to get the funding.

Mr. Barrett explained that as far as the two residential alleys – the north/south alley between Central Ave. and Parkside *and* the south alley between Central and 55<sup>th</sup> Ct. – the Village will only be able to do one of the two alleys in concrete. He said one of the alleys should be delayed until next year. Member Olejniczak asked which of the two alleys is better to do in concrete. Mr. Barrett said he believes the alley on the east side is in worse shape. Mr. Hanigan commented that both alleys will be resurfaced in concrete but that there is a timing issue so only one will get done this year. Mr. Barrett pointed out that some of the engineering work has been completed so they will save on time.

Member Olejniczak asked about the 87<sup>th</sup> Corridor near Austin Avenue and asked if any of the work in that area will be covered by the Rebuild Illinois Grant. Mr. Barrett responded that that area is not shovel ready but that it could be set for next year's project. Member Olejniczak commented about the number of businesses in that area.

Mayor Bury asked about the protocol in evaluating alleys. She expressed that there are a number of alleys in our community and she asked what makes one more of a priority than another other than that some alleys are in Member Olejniczak's district, some are in Member Mallo's district, etc. She reiterated her question on what the protocol is for evaluating alleys. Member Olejniczak responded that he only knows of the alleys that people have brought to his attention. He expressed that all alleys are a priority but that the alleys he mentioned are the only alleys brought to his attention. Mayor Bury said she understands that our Engineers rate the conditions of our streets and alleys. Mr. Barrett commented that he usually drives through town to rate the conditions of our streets and alleys. Member Stalker asked Steve to make a recommendation. Mr. Barrett said it has been a while since he has been down 87<sup>th</sup> Street. Member Mallo said it comes back to the alleys being shovel ready. Mr. Barrett responded that this work would be for next year. Member Mallo asked Mr. Barrett when he is talking about grinding the alleys down 95<sup>th</sup> Street he asked if those alleys are ready to go. Mr. Barrett said those do not have to be shovel ready as far as grinding. He indicated if the alley is done with concrete, the alley would be out of commission for 6-8 weeks. Mr. Barrett mentioned that the alley behind Deja Brew was grinded last year and he commented that it looks really good. He said when you grind and patch it stretches the dollar. Mr. Barrett mentioned the alley behind Tuzik's and said it is in terrible condition. Member Olejniczak said he understands that there are alleys that cannot be done until next year but he feels the "shovel ready" alleys can be added to the Rebuild Illinois Grant when funded.

Mr. Barrett asked for clarification on what is the direction for this year. Member Mallo said he believes that it would be the alleys from 49<sup>th</sup> to Brandt and the concrete alley on the east side mentioned earlier. Mr. Barrett commented that Bill Meyer and Mandeera are working on the application for the Rebuild Illinois Grant and they strongly feel that we have a good chance on getting funding for 2021. Member Mallo said he feels staff has enough direction to move forward.

### **C.) Discussion of Sanitary Sewer Flow from Bridgeview flowing into Oak Lawn**

Mr. Hanigan said Bill and Steve spent a lot of time on the Village's approach to this item and he said it is consistent with what we did in Chicago Ridge. Mr. Hanigan said basically the Village will bill Bridgeview the same way we do an Oak Lawn resident. Mr. Hanigan said Bridgeview owes the Village about \$180,000 but that he is still working with PJM on how far back we can go in collection. He said he was hoping it is at least 10 years but PJM said it might only be 3 years. Mr. Hanigan said he estimates Bridgeview owes Oak Lawn approximately \$3 million. He said the first step is to mail out the bill. Mr. Barrett said that Bridgeview had sent a letter stating that they would work with us. Member Mallo asked Mr. Barrett if he is referencing a letter from 2016. Mr. Barrett replied yes. Member Olejniczak suggested that staff take the letter and let Bridgeview know that we need to enter into negotiations as soon as possible.

Mr. Hanigan said the collections will be in two phases. He said staff will calculate what they owe us for this year. He expressed that this will stop the bleeding. Mr. Hanigan said we will then calculate what we can collect for the prior years. Member Stalker said he feels that staff has the direction they need to move forward.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.