

**VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN**  
**PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WORKS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Equipment Maintenance Building 5550 W. 98<sup>th</sup> Street Oak Lawn, IL

MEETING MINUTES #2020-04

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I. ROLL CALL Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman: Alex G. Olejniczak

Members: Trustee Paul Mallo  
Trustee Alex G. Olejniczak  
Trustee William R. Stalker

Staff: William Palmer, Village Manager  
Jeff Sebek, Public Works Director  
William Meyer, Public Works Assistant Director  
Brian Towne, Assistant Village Manager  
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

*Also in attendance:* Mayor Sandra Bury

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES #2020-03 DATED AUGUST 19, 2020:

***A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2020 #2020-3 was made by Member Mallo and seconded by Member Stalker.***

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 Presentation by CBBEL**

***Mr. Lee Fell, Civil Engineering Design, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. 9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600, Rosemont, IL.***

***Mr. Jed Anderson, PWS, Vice President, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. 9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600, Rosemont, IL.***

Mr. Fell summarized the Oak Lawn Lake project and said that they will discuss the plantings and how to deal with potential geese issues.

Mr. Anderson mentioned that the seeding process took place in the spring of 2020. He said the seeding included a goose mix which is a taller growing native grass mix. He explained that the native grass mix is 7' wide and begins at the top of the rip rap and goes 7' up the slope. Mr. Anderson explained that that the tall grass is similar to a fence and is used to try to force the geese up and over rather than go through the plantings. He said geese do not like to go through tall vegetation so the grass mix is a hindrance which is the objective of the native mix. Mr.

Anderson said there has been a lot of goose foraging and the geese are eating a lot of grass. He said the project contractor has done some weed control and will have to do additional weed control next spring. Mr. Anderson mentioned that currently there is only 30% grass coverage and typically it should be higher. He also mentioned the bare patches. Mr. Anderson said the contractor has been told to come out to add supplemental seed this coming spring and to do additional weed control. Mr. Anderson said that there was a question asked about why a fence was not part of the specifications. Mr. Anderson explained that typically fences are not installed right away as they can be problematic for maintenance reasons. He said during flood events the fence will collect a lot of debris which becomes quite unsightly. He said it is not typical to install a fence unless it is a wetland area rather than an area with a side slope. Mr. Anderson reiterated that although fences can be effective, they do require maintenance.

Mr. Anderson said one of the recommendations for the goose problem is to hire a company that specializes in goose harassment. He explained that this company would come out with dogs, noisy pyrotechnics, flashing lights, propane cannons that make sounds, high pitch noises, ribbons, kayaks to chase the geese, swimming dogs, etc. He said they will come up with a plan and that it is a pretty intense program. He said sometimes they will come out several times a week. Mr. Anderson said that the company may also use goose egg addling. He explained the process of addling that involves removing the fertilized eggs from the nest, shaking the egg, and placing the egg back in the nest or soaking the egg in oil so the gosling dies in the egg. He said eventually the geese will give up and not lay additional eggs. Mr. Anderson said ideally the contractor should be hired this fall or winter. He suggested not waiting until the spring as they will become too busy to offer their service.

Member Stalker asked if a contractor is hired what is the probability that we would need them next year and the year after that. Mr. Anderson replied that that is a tough question to answer as there is no perfect solution. He expressed that it takes considerable effort. Mr. Fell said in one discussion with Jeff and Bill the Village considered the option to train someone in house so that the contractor does not have to come back year after year. Mr. Fell said if staff meets with a contractor he would recommend asking them how often the contractor would have to come back and other questions such as is there a charge per occurrence or is there a flat fee and whether they guarantee that they will take care of the problem.

Member Mallo asked if Christopher Burke has been in this situation before with another municipality. Mr. Anderson responded yes but said they typically do not manage the issue. Member Mallo expressed that the Oak Lawn Lake area is not like a large golf course. He asked if the geese would be on the slope *now* and if they would lay eggs at the edge of the lake. Mr. Anderson said typically in a setting like this they will look for mulch piles or planting beds. Member Mallo said there is not a lot of property around our lake. Mr. Anderson said geese will not traverse on rip rap and commented that it is a very steep slope and he cannot imagine that the geese will go in and out of the water. He said the only access would be by the ramp at the north end. Member Mallo said it is possible that the geese will not return because of the work done at Oak Lawn Lake.

Mr. Fell said it would not be the worst thing to bring 1 or 2 experts in to get pricing, information, and ideas. He said the Village does not have to sign an agreement per se but can use the visit for

information and their expertise. Mr. Fell said that they have to review the area from 95<sup>th</sup> to the South and then the complete area that encompasses Oak Lawn Lake. Mr. Fell said that they can make a recommendation to the geese problems but no matter what it will not stop geese from coming out rather it will prevent them from going on the slopes. Mr. Fell said the bigger issue is that the geese are everywhere in the vicinity of the lake including the playground, tennis courts, and resident's yards. He said we are focusing on Oak Lawn Lake and the construction limits. Member Olejniczak said if we can educate residents about the issue it would be helpful. Mr. Fell said he did a presentation a few years back and half the residents loved the geese and the other half did not. Mr. Meyer said part of the problem is that residents feed the geese. Member Olejniczak said the geese will come back every year. Member Olejniczak said we can get an expert in here but they will tell us a lot of the same thing. Member Olejniczak expressed that the residents cannot expect the Village of Oak Lawn to do 100% of the job when you have 50% of the residents not abiding by the process.

Member Stalker asked about adding signage reading "Do not feed geese". Mr. Meyer said the signage is already up. Mr. Fell said fake coyote decoys were also added but people were removing the signs and the coyote decoys. Member Olejniczak said residents expect the Village to take care of the problem and that they must be part of the solution. He said you are still going to have 50% of residents that do not have an issue with the geese and the other half that do care and he feels with always having that mix the problem will never go away. Member Olejniczak expressed that the work at Oak Lawn Lake has been phenomenal and he feels that eradicating the geese is a not a reasonable request for the Village. Member Olejniczak said this is not a one year resolution. He said the only way to eliminate their habitat is to eliminate the lineage of the geese. He said they come back every year unless they die. Member Stalker said that we can listen to the expert's recommendations and we can try it. Mr. Meyer said that he and Jeff will call and get estimates and techniques and bring information back to the next PW meeting. Member Stalker said with good shoreline management and limiting the places that the geese nest is a good start. Member Olejniczak commented that with the mentioned solutions that include shaking eggs, loud noises, and any other type of harassment, it will draw negative feedback. He said it is a no win situation. Member Stalker suggested cutting out access to the water. Member Mallo said that has already been done. Member Olejniczak reiterated that he knows of at least 4 residents in that area that "take care" of the geese and their goslings each and every year. Mr. Fell asked that as this moves forward they will need to know how to handle the contractor with reseeding and whether they should be adding some type of fencing to keep the geese out. He said that they have to give the seed mix a chance to grow. Member Olejniczak said he feels someone on staff can learn the process. He expressed the budget concerns that the Village has and he feels that we have to task an employee with the process. Mr. Fell agreed and said that he believes that staff should understand some of the techniques. Mr. Meyer said he and Jeff had an idea of tasking the Animal Control officer with this if it meets Randy's approval. He said once they meet with the companies they can engage the animal control officer to be the "guy" and then eventually he can do a daily check or go out to the site a few times a week. Mr. Meyer said we may be able to combat the issue internally.

Member Mallo said there were at least 80 geese on the property. Member Olejniczak said hopefully that number will come down since the work has been done.

Mr. Anderson said that they did look into the cost of fencing. He said if the fencing were installed at the top of the rip rap it would extend 2,000 feet around the lake to the pedestrian bridge. He said the cost would be \$8,200.

Member Mallo asked if the islands were added. Mr. Fell responded yes. Member Olejniczak asked if the aerators are out there. Mr. Fell replied yes. Member Olejniczak asked about the lake freezing over if we have a very cold winter. Mr. Meyer said he normally turns off the aerators. He explained that a few years back the residents wanted the lake to freeze over and Steve Barrett did not have any concerns so he turned off the aerators. He said he does not have to turn them off. Mr. Anderson said that the only reason you keep the aerators on is to ensure that fish life survive. Member Stalker said he feels it would not be a safe place to ice skate. Mr. Palmer commented that the Village paid to stock that lake. Mr. Meyer responded yes. Mr. Anderson said with the required dimensions, that lake can function without aeration and the majority of the fish will survive.

## **B.) 2021 E-Waste Program**

Mr. Meyer said this is a follow up to the last meeting. He said, as requested, that he began to scale the program back. He said the new schedule has been posted on our cable access channel as well as the Village website. Mr. Meyer added that he also informed residents at the last few drop-offs. Mr. Meyer mentioned the informational handouts and said he is looking for feedback. He said the handouts include the alternative options with the big box companies i.e., Staples, Home Depot, Best Buy, etc. He said he called each company and all of the stores confirmed that they will take an electronic item with a purchase. Mr. Meyer said he also reached out to our current haulers. Mr. Meyer said that the handout also lists other sites that offer electronic recycling. Mr. Meyer said his one concern is the cost for television drop offs. He said he is proposing a \$25 fee for diagonal screens under 21 inches and \$35 for diagonal screens above 21 inches. He said based on his research with other communities, the proposed fees are at the very low end. Mr. Meyer said if this proposal is acceptable he will put the pricing on Channel 4 and our Village website.

Mr. Meyer said one other issue is the payment option. He said that in order to accept fees there has to be some type of payment portal. Mr. Meyer discussed the options including prepaying online at the village website or at the Village cashier window or pay on site with an electronic debit/credit card reader. Mr. Meyer said he prefers not to deal with cash on site. Member Olejniczak agreed that cash on site is not a good practice. Member Olejniczak asked Brian for feedback. Mr. Hanigan said he assumes that residents have to show their ID. Mr. Palmer commented that we do not want to chase residents for electronic recycling fees. Mr. Meyer replied that the residents will have to prepay. There was brief discussion about how the credit card payments will be processed and whether staff or volunteers would be trained to process credit/debit card payments.

Member Stalker said if the waste hauler is picking up televisions why would residents need to use the electronic recycling program. Member Stalker said that the residents have to have this information. Member Olejniczak said that having the electronic debit/credit reader on site is the best option. He also suggested going with one fee. Member Mallo asked if there is a possibility

of not accepting televisions. Mr. Meyer said that can be an option. Member Stalker said if the residents have access to the handout there will not be an issue as most residents will utilize the waste hauler rather than paying the fee. Member Mallo said there is a possible scenario that Republic may ask for a surcharge to pick up electronic waste. Mr. Meyer said so far it has worked out well as there is not too much e-waste and he has not heard any comments from our vendor. Member Olejniczak commented that the Village has done their part with electronic recycling and disposing electronics in a proper manner. He said when the program first started it did not cost the Village money but now it is costing the Village money. He said we have to be responsible and we are giving our residents various opportunities to recycle and are also providing additional e-waste options. Mr. Meyer said he will update the handout to include only one fee for the diagonal screens and then list the payment option as “pay on site with a debit or credit card”. Member Olejniczak said the schedule seems perfect and he suggests that we go with it and see how things go.

### **C.) 2020 Road Program Update**

Mr. Meyer expressed that we have made tremendous progress on Phase 1. He commented that 70% on all aspects of the program are finished. Mr. Meyer said Phase II (2020 Rebuild Illinois list) is almost complete. He mentioned the alley from 49<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> Ct. and indicated that the topcoat will be finished tomorrow or the following week.

Mr. Meyer referenced the longer list on Phase I and pointed out that a majority of the list is finished except some striping items and basic milling. Mr. Meyer said other than punch list items he expects the list to be complete in the next few weeks.

### **D.) 2020 Sewer Rehabilitation Program Update**

Mr. Meyer said it is hard to put all of the program detail on a map. He referenced the summary of work table to show where they are with the program and pointed out that each color coded item shows a status, i.e., manhole lining, cleaning and inspection, sewer lining, and sewer replacement. Mr. Meyer outlined the summary of work as far as what has been finished in each category as of October 2020 and what is left to complete for November 2020.

Member Olejniczak asked staff how much of Oak Lawn has been accomplished since the Village implemented the Sewer Master Plan many years ago. Mr. Meyer said he has a good map of the progress that he updates yearly; he said there are “a ways to go” as it takes time but he feels we are making a dent and hitting the hottest areas. Member Olejniczak asked if the Village has finished at least 50% of the program since the plan was implemented. Mr. Meyer responded no and said it is more like 15%. Mr. Meyer said it is a big system and it will take a long time. He reminded the Committee that the Sewer Master Plan is a hundred year program. Mr. Meyer said it comes down to funding and expressed that we are hitting a lot of areas with I & I and areas with the most rehab.

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Member Stalker asked for an update on the collections in Bridgeview. Member Olejniczak said he knows that a letter was sent to Bridgeview. Mr. Palmer said he sent a letter to Bridgeview’s

Finance Director as they do not have a Village Manager. He said that since they did not receive anything back from the two invoices that were mailed he then reached out to Mayor Landek and within a day or so he received an email saying that there was an agreement in place back when Larry was still at the Village. Mr. Palmer said he asked Mr. Landek for the documentation showing said agreement. Member Olejniczak suggested that Randy send a follow up letter saying we are waiting and to express that he is getting heavy pressure from the Village Board.

Member Olejniczak said he knows we talked about doing the hot in place on some of our streets and asked staff how it looks to implement that program for next year. Mr. Meyer responded that it looks very good. Mr. Meyer said he and Jeff are excited to implement a pilot program. He said at tonight's Village Board meeting there will be a proposal from Christopher Burke on street assessment that covers a maintenance plan that includes the hot in place patch program. Mr. Meyer said the hot in place program is something we will do on streets that are in better condition. Mr. Sebek said the scope of work for next year's program will designate streets based on a street study and they will find areas most suitable for the pilot program. Member Olejniczak said his concern is that there are streets that were rebuilt when he first became a trustee that are being replaced right now and then there are other streets that were rebuilt at the same that are doing completely fine. He mentioned Alexander Street that deteriorated quickly and he wonders if it was because of a tree root system. Mr. Meyer replied that Alexander Street was not a full depth restoration rather the first two inches were grinded. He said depending on the sub base of the road material, if it is thick enough they will grind off the surface and reinstall a surface coat. He said that is why it will fail quicker because it does not have a life span like a brand new fully restored street. Mr. Meyer said it will be the same way with a hot in place. He expressed that it is a middle ground and said that when you have a street that is beginning to break down that is why you want to use the hot in place. He explained that the process will rejuvenate the sub base binder and then they will add a fresh topcoat and you will get a good adhesion. He said the only caveat to that program is the thickness of the asphalt. He said some of our streets are not thick enough to do that. Member Olejniczak mentioned Lynwood Drive and said he knows it was a complete rebuild but if you take a look at it you will see that the street is deteriorating. Mr. Meyer said he will take a look. Member Olejniczak commented that he noticed that streets that are deteriorating seem to have a lot of trees and he does not know if it is because of the root system. Mr. Meyer said Burke has been doing our road program and they have never brought up the issue related to tree roots that affect the asphalt. He said they have mentioned the variables that affect the life of the street that include winter elements and the amount of salt thrown on the roadways.

Member Olejniczak asked if we plan to do any crack filling. Mr. Meyer commented that he is a huge fan of crack filling. He said both he and Jeff discussed crack filling earlier today and are concerned that Steve B. may have auctioned off that piece of equipment. He said either way they will look at crack filling as part of Burke's maintenance program that will include crack filling.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

Member Olejniczak asked about snow removal and if the planned snow removal schedule will continue by area. Mr. Meyer said both he and Jeff also discussed this earlier today. He expressed that they are challenged in this area. He mentioned as far as salt there is plenty in

stock. He said there is approximately 280,000 tons of salt in stock right now which will be good for quite a few storms. He said staff is already prepared with the liquid deicers which will help augment the cost of salt and hopefully our streets will look cleaner. Mr. Meyer said the focus this year is to do a lot more plowing and use a lot less salt as we tend to waste a lot of salt. He said he will work with staff to conserve salt. He said this will be more effective and our streets will be safer to drive on; he said both he and Jeff will work on technique and training. He said they are also going to work on how the system starts and operates. Mr. Meyer said we are short staffed so they are discussing options of how this will lay out. Mr. Meyer said we are ready for winter and that 75% of all street equipment vehicles have been switched over for plow work. He mentioned the Equipment Maintenance Division is working hard on getting all blades replaced and the plows serviced. He added that the Sewer division is 100% ready with their vehicles for plowing and salting. Member Olejniczak expressed concern with being short staffed and asked how many pieces of equipment will be placed out in the streets on any given day. Mr. Meyer responded that currently he can place roughly 25 pieces of equipment per run. He explained that 15 pieces are used for streets and that is an increase of two more than what was used in the past. He expressed that he hopes this will improve our response and improve our quality of plowing and salting in all districts and areas. He explained that the smaller lots, sidewalks, and cul de sacs will use the remainder of vehicles. He explained that there is a load operator who will load the trucks with salt; he expressed that that person has a very important job as he will track the salt usage. He mentioned as an example, if one person is using 100 tons of salt and another person is using 200 tons of salt in a big storm and the streets look the same someone is over salting. He said we have not used a load operator in 20 years and he feels that it will be more efficient and that is why they implemented that change for this year's program. Mr. Meyer said basically there are 25 pieces of equipment per 12 hour runs. He said that is why he needs 50 people to flip flop and run a 24 hour shift. He expressed the problem is staffing. He said they will do their best to be creative and move staff around to fill spots. He said both he and Jeff will meet with staff and go over how to make that happen. Mr. Palmer said with the new contract there is a double shift program that includes Shift A and Shift B which should reduce overtime. Member Olejniczak said his concern is if we get hit with a big 12 hour snowfall we should be okay but it is the second half of the storm that comes in or lingers over 2 days; he asked how is that handled. Mr. Meyer said what they will try to do is retask one or other divisions that have not been involved with plowing. He said those employees have always been a back-up but they will make it part of their daily routine to be engaged in snow plowing and salting. He expressed that we should have enough staff to fill the trucks and perform the duties safely. Mr. Meyer said he and Jeff are working on using the Water Division to supplement. Member Olejniczak said the employees are being cross trained. Mr. Meyer replied that is correct. He said those employees already have the required CDL licenses and training on plowing and salting. He said they have always been used but over the years when the Street Division had a higher staff level they could handle the runs separately. He said currently we do not have enough staff so we have to take *all* of Streets, *all* of Sewer, and *all* of Water to fill the trucks. Mr. Meyer said this is what we have to do during these tough times. Member Olejniczak asked if the guys understand that. Mr. Meyer responded yes and said he already met with staff briefly and he and Jeff will spend time over the next month educating staff on how this will operate. Mr. Meyer said he believes we can perform the operation and do a great job for our residents but it will be tough this year. Member Olejniczak asked in the event that there is a mass sickness due to the flu, pandemic, or something

else whether we have recourse to contract with private parties to assist and do we have anyone on retainer. Mr. Palmer said we usually reach out to our landscape company to fill the gap. Mr. Hanigan added that we also reach out to H&D Maintenance for parking lot areas such as Museum Drive. Member Olejniczak said it might need to go out for bid and now is the time to have a plan in place. Mr. Meyer said there is no contract in place; he said he and Jeff talked about reaching out to a number of contractors that have plow equipment to use as a backup/precaution.

Member Olejniczak mentioned the Reich Plant as a potential area for the call center. He mentioned that when he was at that location recently he noticed the courtyard area that can possibly be utilized for our call center. He said he feels that would be a very good location especially with the security on site and he thinks that option should be considered. Mr. Sebek responded that Member Olejniczak is talking about expanding the headquarters *out* and putting the call center where the U-shape parking is near the front of the doorway. Mr. Sebek commented that his initial cautionary concern are the utilities. He said there are several transmission lines related to water and a lot of sub surface area with large piping so they have to consider what type of foundation they will use for any type of building. Mr. Meyer agreed and said there are a ton of large inlets from the City of Chicago and we have to be careful and consider the pumps and water supply because if those pipes would ever have to be repaired, the building would have to be torn down. Member Olejniczak said he understands and asked that staff just take a look. Member Stalker asked if there is standby power there. Mr. Palmer said a communications tower would also have to be built. Mr. Meyer said he will get a copy of the utilities mapping plan. He expressed that it is quite intricate and commented that there are some very high power lines for the pumps. Mr. Palmer told Mr. Meyer that before he does that he would like to meet with Diana and bring in the consultant who looked at the other 4 locations and ask the consultant if the Reich area will be viable or not.

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 7:20 p.m.