

**VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN**  
**9446 Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn Illinois**  
**Lower Level Conference Room**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, April 20, 2021  
Meeting Minutes #2021-4

**I. ROLL CALL:** Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- A. Chairman: Alex J. Olejniczak
- B. Members: Trustee Paul Mallo  
Trustee Alex G. Olejniczak  
Trustee William R. Stalker
- C. Staff: Brian Towne, Assistant Village Manager/Finance Director  
Jeff Sebek, Public Works Director  
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

*Also present: Trustee Terry Vorderer*

**II. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes #2021-3 – March 25, 2021 was made by Member Mallo and seconded by Member Stalker.

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

Motion to approve passes: 3-0-0.

**III. DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

A.) Street Resurfacing Update

Mr. Sebek updated the Committee and reported that the core testing is in process and that the engineer is half-way through the scope of work to determine the hot-in-place areas. Member Mallo asked if staff has any preliminary numbers. Mr. Sebek responded that he does not have any coring results and does not want to speculate. Member Olejniczak asked for the timeline. Mr. Sebek responded that the numbers should come out in three weeks which is good timing for the Bid Opening at the end of May. He said the recommendation will then go to the Village Board of Trustees at the first June meeting and construction will begin at the end of June and finish November 1. Member Mallo asked if staff anticipates any other hot-in-place contractors. Mr. Sebek replied that he hopes we will see more than one contractor that specializes in hot-in-place. Member Olejniczak expressed that he hopes the core studies come back the way we hope. Member Olejniczak said we should plan for a meeting in May to push this along.

B) Public Works Division Staffing Update

Mr. Sebek said we have made headway in spite of the budget constraints that we have; Member Olejniczak commented that he keeps hearing budget constraints but feels that we have budgeted for additional staffing. Mr. Sebek explained that what we have available is to recommend three promotional positions and bolster our Equipment Operators and then put out a posting for Maintenance Workers. He said there are specific positions vacant for three Maintenance Workers.

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Mr. Sebek added that there are three interviews scheduled next week for three Maintenance Workers. He also mentioned that there are a few retirements opening up which will allow for a shift in the budget for 2-3 additional hirings. Member Olejniczak commented that there was a discussion of hiring a total of six additional Public Works employees. Mr. Sebek responded that we did not have the budget for six new positions. He said before he pulled the trigger he had a discussion with our Budget Director. Member Olejniczak asked if that has been done. Mr. Sebek responded yes. Member Mallo asked the timeline on new hires. Mr. Sebek replied that interviews are scheduled next week and then the new hires will get on-boarded. Member Olejniczak replied that if interviews are scheduled for next week the offer letters will probably happen around the first week of May and the new hires will likely start at the end of May. Member Olejniczak expressed concern with the winter cycle. He expressed that we do not want to be in a lurch in a heavy snow event. He expressed that we need to focus on getting this taken care of; Mr. Sebek responded that we are maximizing everywhere we can.

C) Flood Control Update

Mr. Sebek mentioned the presentation by Chris LaVoie at last week's Board meeting. He said the importance of the discussion is the Army Corps of Engineer study laid out in the top section. He referenced the recommendations that were part of that study. Mr. Sebek said the list on the spreadsheet represents all the projects completed since 2001 related to flooding issues. He referenced Project numbers 11 through 13 which are current/finished projects. He said #11 is related to Melvina Ditch and is a current MWRD project. Mr. Towne said the bottom 6-7 projects listed were recommended by the latest MWRD study. Mr. Sebek said this illustrates the work that has been done and is helpful to know some of the more substantial recommendations. He said we will go back to MWRD to emphasize to them to consider this study and look at specific areas on our behalf.

*Mr. Chris Lavoie, P.E., CM Lavoie, 825 N. Cass Avenue, Suite 106, Westmont, Illinois*

Mr. Sebek referenced #5, a recommendation by Chris Lavoie, which includes a removal of 55 cubic yards. Mr. Towne asked Chris the estimated cost. Mr. Lavoie said he does not have an estimate yet knows it will cost millions of dollars to do this. Member Olejniczak asked about a prioritization schedule and whether we can get recommendation on what the top priority project would be to make a significant impact. Mr. Sebek said we are looking at the volume of retention and he feels it would be Project #4 that includes 33,000 cubic yards of excavation for ground water storage. He said we would let that become a temporary retention base. Mr. Sebek summarized potential projects for flood control.

Member Olejniczak said looking at Stony Creek would be a big impact but we have to look at the areas where water stacks up; he said the area between 87<sup>th</sup> St. and 91<sup>st</sup> and between 51<sup>st</sup> to Central is consistently flooding. He said the Stony Creek impact is immediate in Trustee Stalker's area. Member Olejniczak mentioned the impact from Melvina Ditch and explained that when water gets to Stony Creek to the west, it is at an angle and you can see that it creates a stacking of water; he said MWRD once looked at that area as less of a priority but since they started doing the embankment in that area perhaps they will take another look.

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Mr. Lavoie said one of the things he looked at is reducing the tailwater effect by increasing volume of the flood plain. He explained that reducing the tailwater effect creates and solves the problem. Mr. Sebek referenced the report from Michael Baker International and said we looked at the basic representation on how the storm sewers would be relieved. He said relief would also come from the relief of the tailwater. He said he would be concerned to spend that kind of money on a Bio-swale to get 1.6 acres filled of water; He recommends moving a pipe to increase it to an 8-acre field instead of spending money on a Bio-swale. Mr. Lavoie suggested a discussion with MWRD about the park and ask what are we protected to or in other words how often can the field be used; is the field protected to a 10, 20, 30, or 50-year event. He suggested we also ask if the field will be wet all the time and if we are taking away the use of that facility. He said we will be faced with those questions and we need those answers. Mr. Lavoie also mentioned providing storage for an 80-year to 100-year event by excavation as long as the property is usable a “lion share” of the time. He stated reducing the tailwater effect and storing that volume is a virtually low cost. Member Olejniczak said we all agree on that. Mr. Sebek said the Bio-swales and some of the other recommendations are minimal.

Member Olejniczak said we must get this green lighted as soon as we can; he also reminded staff if there is federal stimulus money that we have plans ready to go. Member Stalker asked how does MWRD buy into this concept. Mr. Lavoie responded that we have write our formal response collectively with staff which gets conveyed to MWRD that we want to redirect the focus on what is really important. He said we do it in a way that we are not being critical of what they have done so far but rather we are going to focus on specific areas to get a better bang for our buck. Mr. Lavoie said let us modify the cross sections to see what we are going to get. Member Olejniczak said we should get the model because we know they have the model built.

Mr. Lavoie said 25 years ago we were using Technical Paper No. 40 for rainfall intensity. He explained that rainfall is the key figure in a flood study. Mr. Lavoie said at that time the number for this area was 5.6 inches of rain and so the size of pipes was based on those type of numbers. He expressed now it is over 9 inches of rainfall.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

A.) Traffic Control Beta Test – Temporary Devices Update:

Mr. Sebek said staff went to look at the inventory of the traffic control devices but they are not worth putting out in the street. He said the thought would be to purchase plastic jersey barrier type of devices to test on a certain intersection to see how traffic responds to it. Member Olejniczak mentioned the street that Bill Meyer took a look at; he explained traffic coming off of Ridgeland then goes to a fairly wide street into residential area which would be perfect for a jersey barrier. Member Olejniczak said the street Billy looked at was Crescent Ct. He said that is the area he recommends to test; he said he does not know of any other street with that type of traffic getting in and out. He said he would like to get an update at least getting a beta test to see how it works. Mr. Sebek asked if this is something that would be discussed at the Traffic Committee meeting. Member Olejniczak said it would be something they would discuss but since it was discussed at this Committee before he feels we need a beta test to move this forward. He said the Traffic Committee could do a traffic study before the beta test and then do a beta test after the beta test but

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that this is coming directly from Public Works. Mr. Sebek asked if we will have to add signage. Trustee Vorderer said Trustee Desmond should probably do a Community meeting. Member Olejniczak mentioned that this is a safety concern; he said he is sure there should be some type of signage. Trustee Vorderer said it should be presented to the Traffic Committee. Trustee Vorderer asked if anyone feels any concerns of creating a problem for the future with other residents asking for jersey barriers. Trustee Vorderer mentioned the issue with speed bumps and the many requests for speed bumps. Trustee Olejniczak said if we start this and achieve the desired results then maybe we see how we can use the barriers in other areas. Trustee Vorderer said it will be expensive.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

A.) Chairman:

Trustee Olejniczak said he has heard positive feedback that there is a major difference at Oak Lawn Lake as far as the geese population. Mr. Sebek said the goose contractor was concerned about nesting on the islands. He said he did not see any nesting. Member Mallo asked if the fish have been stocked in the lake. Mr. Sebek responded yes.

B.) Members:

C.) Staff:

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Voice vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned 7:24 p.m.