

**VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD**  
**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**July 13, 2021**

The Village Board Meeting was held in-person at RedTail Golf Club along with Zoom viewing. It was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Stavropoulos. Present at RedTail Golf Club were Trustees Babischkin, Fischer and Runge. Absent were Trustees Augustine and Barron. Also present were Village Manager Jean Heckman, Village Attorney Scott Puma, Village Clerk Jeanette LoBosco, Chief of Police Mike Roth, Director of Public Works Gary Zickuhr, RedTail General Manager Kenny Goodwin, and many members of the public. Not in attendance but viewing via Zoom was Trustee Berman.

**PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS.** President Stavropoulos thanked the Lakewood Youth Service, Cathy Grindstaff, Lisle Family, and all those that participated in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Crystal Lake parade. A great time was had by all!

The Village has reached out to the engineers and asphalt company of record for the road project that was completed last year at Beaver Pond and Bard Road. A status for repair to the pitting condition has not been received. Paving is complete on Haligus Road; however the striping has been delayed due to the weather but should be completed soon.

Chief Roth was asked to address the status of the tornado siren located in Turnberry. It is still in the process of repair and can be manually operated should a need arise.

Staff researched the water agreement between the Village and Turnberry Country Club and found the agreement does not expire until 2030.

Current Administration maintains an open door policy and any employee can reach out to have a concern or issue addressed. At this time, none have been brought forward to be addressed.

Attorney Scott Puma confirmed the attendance of the Board present is a quorum and matters being voted on would need four affirmative votes to carry.

President Stavropoulos recapped an email he received from Treasurer Steve Aronson. Mr. Aronson shared that up to this point of his review, finances look fine. Together with a comprehensive audit and a review from the Financial Review Committee will verify his response.

President Stavropoulos would like the Board to start thinking of future planning for the Village of Lakewood. Planning and Zoning Commission, along with participation at Town Hall Meetings will help the direction of plans.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Cal Skinner addressed the Board with concerns and comments regarding the speed hump, crosswalk, and decrease speed proposal for Lake Avenue. Contact information was given regarding a recommendation for seeking grant funding.

**CONSENT AGENDA.** The following were considered and enacted on a single motion by Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Runge:

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**A. Approval of Minutes**

- i. April 29, 2021 Village Board Meeting
- ii. June 8, 2021 Village Board Meeting

**B. Bill Lists:**

- i. Accounts Payable Invoices Dated July 14, 2021 in the Amount of \$307,669.07J
- ii. Accounts Payable Prepaid Invoices Dated June 30, 2021 in the Amount of \$2,382.56

Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman.. Motion declared carried.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:** None.

**PRESENTATION OF TOWN HALL UPDATE.** Trustee Runge reported the Town Hall Meeting currently has a meeting date yet to be determined. Resident Liaison Liz Delzell has been working various HOA's and social media groups to build a broader resident database.

*Public Comment:* None.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POOL COVER VARIANCE.** The variance requested has been withdrawn by the petitioners Ben and Julia Pucci. Attorney Puma summarized the reasoning that led to the decision. Ultimately, the Village does not have authority to vary from the ordinance adopted by McHenry County Building Ordinances to forgo the requirement of a vertical barrier and replace with a automated security cover.

*Public Comment:* None.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONER BRIAN MATTICK.** President Stavropoulos read a letter submitted by Brian Mattick expressing interest regarding the vacancy of Commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Commission. A resume was also provided for review.

Trustee Fischer thanked Mr. Mattick for expressing interest in this voluntary position and he absolutely has the qualifications.

*Public Comment:* None.

Trustee Runge, seconded by Trustee Babischkin moved to appoint Brian Mattick as Commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

Attorney Puma administered the Oath to Brian Mattick.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF SPEED ORDINANCE NO. 2021-19 AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 3 (LAKE AVENUE).** Chief Roth addressed the recurring topic of speed throughout the Village, with special attention to the area of Lake Avenue within the Gates. A traffic study was conducted with the help of the McHenry County Sherriff Department. Results of a survey within the Gates community proved a return in favor of a speed decrease. Chief Roth is trying to take a proactive stance with a

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goal to minimize injury, and is requesting to lower the speed limit Lake Avenue between Sunset Drive and Riverside Drive from 30 mph to 25 mph.

*Public Comment:* Eric Olson spoke of his brother, along with his brother's friend, that were victims in an accident about four years involving a vehicle versus bicyclists on Lake Avenue. He encouraged the Board to add some precautions to the environment on Lake Avenue in effort to help prevent another incident.

Marty Moister, a resident also on the Board of Directors for the Country Club Additions Property Owners Association, reaffirmed that there is a large group of people within the Gates area that are in support of the speed reduction.

Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Fischer moved to approve the Speed Ordinance amending Chapter 15, Section 3 (Lake Avenue) as amended. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

### **PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADDITION OF CROSSWALKS ON LAKE AVENUE.**

Chief Roth continued to address the Board regarding traffic concerns relative to Lake Avenue. In addition to a decrease in posted speed, he requests the installation of crosswalks and movable speed humps.

Village Attorney Scott Puma informed the Board that the installation of crosswalks and speed humps would be a decision that the Police and Public Works Departments may act on without Board approval. Being that the item is coming forth to be presented for discussion, clear direction should be given to staff.

Trustee Fischer requested the items of crosswalk and speed humps be treated separately.

Clarification was given to all regarding lighting, signage, navigation over a speed hump, and material to be used.

*Public Comment:* Resident Cal Skinner inquired if the City of Crystal Lake Fire and Police Departments had been contacted for feedback.

Resident Marty Moister questioned if pedestrian traffic in a crosswalk requires a vehicle to stop per the Illinois State Law.

Resident Brian Mattick expressed concern of traffic possibly being rerouted to circumvent Lake Avenue, therefore creating concern elsewhere.

Trustee Runge, seconded by Trustee Fischer moved to approve the addition of crosswalks on Lake Avenue between Riverside Drive and Sunset Drive. Speed humps will be readdressed at a later time. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2021-18 AMENDING CHAPTER 8 AND CHAPTER 15, RELATIVE TO GOLF CART OPERATION ON VILLAGE STREETS.** Chief Roth reiterated that this topic was discussed in length at a previous meeting. He thanked Trustee Runge and Resident

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Liaison Liz Delzell for their effort conducting a survey and addressed comments and concerns that resulted from it.

Trustee Runge spoke of concerns towards new drivers and parking. With the decreased speed limit on Lake Avenue, addition of crosswalks, and approval of golf cart usage, it may be difficult to determine what has an effect of the neighborhood livability.

Trustee Babischkin requested a clear definition for golf carts.

Trustee Fischer confirmed there will be visible identification should attention be required regarding the golf cart.

Village Manager Jean Heckman clarified the Trail Fee in the current Ordinance is relative to RedTail Golf Club and is not included in the registration of golf carts pertaining to this agenda item.

*Public Comment:* None.

Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Fischer moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-18 – an Ordinance amending Chapter 15, Traffic Regulations, Section 16, Operation of Golf Carts on Village Streets, and Chapter 8, RedTail Golf Club, Section 8.02, Privately Owned Golf Carts. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF AUDIT SERVICES AND PART-TIME CPA.** Village Manager presented her findings after requesting RFP's from three firms for services. In addition to audit services, a CPA, who is not part of the audit team, is available.

Trustee Fischer commended the idea in retaining this service.

*Public Comment:* None.

Trustee Fischer, seconded by Trustee Runge moved to approve the Lauterbach & Amen, LLP for audit and part-time CPA services. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 2021-20 SUSPENDING CERTAIN FEES FOR CONSTRUCTION FOR ONE YEAR.** President Stavropoulos noted previous administration had suspended certain construction fees at various times to various builders. A proposal to establish a suspension of certain fees for one year to encourage and support new construction was presented.

Village Manager Jean Heckman clarified the fees proposed for suspension. Fees that are to be collected are not controlled by the Village and will insure a cost neutral for the Village. She also confirmed this incentive would be made available to all vacant lot property owners and developers.

Trustees Babischkin and Fischer verified the proposal is equivalent to the agreement set by the previous administration.

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*Public Comment:* Developer George Caravelli thanked the Board for offering this incentive. He is encouraged that he and other developers will benefit from this during the current challenges that they are faced with.

Resident Marty Moister question the financial impact the Village would face with this proposal. Director of Public Works Gary Zickuhr agreed the incentive should be fair for all developers. However, he would not propose a long-term program due to the majority of collected impact fees that contribute to the Utility Impact Fund. There is an aging infrastructure and old equipment that will require attention in the future; which these funds help support.

Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Runge moved to approve the suspension of certain construction fees for one year, ending 07/31/22. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION TO RECONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF BAXTER & WOODMAN AS VILLAGE ENGINEERS.** Trustee Babischkin requested the reconsideration of the appointment of Baxter & Woodman as Village Engineers. She brings this request to the Board relative to clarification to be made regarding the separation of engineer position and code enforcement.

*Public Comment:* None.

Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Fischer moved consider a reconsideration of the appointment of Baxter & Woodman as Village Engineers. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF BAXTER & WOODMAN AS VILLAGE ENGINEERS WITH ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE BOARD.** President Stavropoulos discussed the 20+ year history Baxter & Woodman has with the Village. They have been instrumental in various projects that have been beneficial to the community. He then invited representatives from Baxter & Woodman, Jason Fluhr and Shane Firsching, to answer any questions.

Trustee Runge referenced a study performed several years back by Baxter & Woodman and inquired if there is still value in the recommendations. She also inquired as to the possibility of creating a collaborative effort with the City of Crystal Lake.

Trustee Babischkin requested clarification of the recommendations proposed by Baxter & Woodman regarding the flooding issues prevalent to the Gates area.

*Public Comment:* Developer George Caravelli expressed his contact with Baxter & Woodman to be professional, reasonable and knowledgeable.

Trustee Runge, seconded by Trustee Babischkin moved consider the appointment of Baxter & Woodman as Village Engineers with advice and consent of the Board. Voting Aye: Trustees Babischkin, Fischer, Runge and President Stavropoulos. Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried.

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**REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Village Manager Jean Heckman reported with the approved status of CPA services, there is now a forward movement towards preparation of an audit. Also, the Financial Review Committee will be asked to provide analysis of the existing Impact Fund.

Chief Roth expressed his gratitude to those conducting the surveys regarding Lake Avenue.

Public Works Director Gary Zickuhr reported Sunset Tree Services have begun the removal of the proposed trees. Public Works staff will follow-up removing the clippings. With assistance from Janice Hansen, research is underway to assist in providing replacement trees.

With nothing further to discuss, Trustee Babischkin, seconded by Trustee Fischer, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voice Vote: All Ayes: Voting Nay: None. Absent: Trustees Augustine, Barron, and Berman. Motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette LoBosco

Village Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: August 10, 2021