

**VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2017**

The Village Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at RedTail Golf Club by President Serwatka. Present were Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Also present were Village Clerk Janice Hansen; Village Attorney Michael Smoron; Chief of Police Michael Roth; Sergeant Todd Richardson; and many members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mike Stich of 381 Hampshire Lane inquired about the proposed landscaping around the control panel on Broadway. He is concerned about traffic and the possibility of accidents. He suggested that the Village place a guardrail around the structure.

Randy Jenkins of 575 South Shore Drive asked about manhole inspections, jetting, water testing and the placement of a generator by the control panel in case of a power outage. He would also like any information from the Stormwater Task Force to be placed on the Village website.

Sara Ryerson of 415 Hampshire Lane would like the suggestions and possible solutions from the Stormwater Task Force to be passed on to the east side (Gates) residents.

Lisa Sorensen of 1280 Broadway commented that the McHenry County Environmental Health Department has continued to test the seven contaminated private wells on the east side of the Village (Gates). Three have been cleared and four failed. McHenry County Environmental Health Department will continue to pursue the water issue.

President Serwatka commented that during the Stormwater Task Force meeting that essentially there was nothing to report at this time. The Task Force discussed the point, that it could cost the Village an estimated \$25 million to fix all the east side water issues. There is a need to check the laterals. The Task Force is looking for solutions in diverting stormwater from east side homes. Trustee Odom commented that the Task Force needs to relay their findings to the residents.

Marilyn Vogelmann of 594 South Shore Drive, a long time resident, commented that she does not like the idea of the Village merging with the City of Crystal Lake. This concept would bring higher taxes to the Village residents.

Dick Vogelmann of 594 South Shore Drive stated that the merging concept is a hot topic and should have been on the Village website not Facebook.

George Mueller of 7045 Fairway commented that he did a sample cost analysis of the merging concept and it is not beneficial to the Village residents.

John O'Hara of 7619 Dairy commented that he sees nothing wrong in asking questions; but feels strongly against the Village of Lakewood merging with the City of Crystal Lake.

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CONSENT AGENDA: The following were considered and enacted on a single motion by Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Ritchie:

APPROVAL OF BILL LISTS: Accounts Payable Invoices Dated October 11, 2017 in the Amount of \$46,267.14; RedTail Golf Club Accounts Payable for September 30, 2017 in the Amount of \$10,353.59; and Accounts Payable Pre-Paid Invoices for September, 2017 in the Amount of \$505,049.50

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF 2018 VILLAGE BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 26, 2017 Regular Village Board Meeting

Trustee McMahon removed the Minutes from the Consent Agenda to clarify his comments under "Reports" from the previous Board Meeting. Trustee McMahon wants the following added to the Minutes. "Trustee McMahon expressed that he was disappointed that he did not receive a call or an email regarding Ms. Meister's resignation. I was not informed of Julie Heather Meister's departure by President Serwatka. I received neither an email nor a phone call as did the other Trustees. I found out by accident when I called in to speak with Ms. Meister on September 1st. I was informed of Ms. Meister's resignation by Clerk Janice Hansen when I called into the Village. After receiving President Serwatka's informational emails on August 4th, 14th, and 16th, I did not receive an email announcing this resignation. The residents should not be lead to believe I was properly informed. Trustee McMahon also requested an explanation as to why President Serwatka appeared at an employee's home late in the evening."

President Serwatka stated that he will never call Trustee McMahon. He will communicate only via email so there can be no further mischaracterizations or miscommunications.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Davis, to approve the September 26, 2017 Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

INFORMATIONAL DISCUSSION REGARDING CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES AND LIFESAVING AND RESCUE SERVICES WITH THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD FOR THE YEAR 2018: The Village of Lakewood entered into a fire protection service and emergency lifesaving and rescue services agreement on November 24, 2015. Each year after McHenry County releases final property tax information, the City of

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Crystal Lake uses this information to calculate the Village of Lakewood's annual fee for the upcoming year. The calculated annual fee for fire rescue services for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 are \$167,931,035 (EAV) * 0.4764000/100 (Limiting Rate) = \$800,023.45. Monthly billing for the 2018 calendar year is \$66,668.62.

APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH TEXT CASTER FOR A MASS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN THE VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$950: Chief Roth stated that Text Caster is a permission-based messaging system that would allow the Village of Lakewood to communicate to the residents via a text messaging system. Messages will be sent immediately to the residents regarding public safety notifications, community event information, emergency notifications, weather alerts, and other important information. The Village will make public a link on its website or utility bills to inform how to sign up for this program with no cost to the individual residents. The cost to the Village is an initial \$200 implementation fee and an annual fee of \$750.

Chief Roth will be responsible for compiling and sending messages to Text Caster for transmission to Village residents.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee McMahan, moved to approve an Agreement with Text Caster for a mass communication system in the Village of Lakewood in an Amount Not to Exceed \$950. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahan, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-36 – AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 2.14 TO CHAPTER 2 OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ABANDONMENT OF OFFICE: President Serwatka highlighted the purpose of this Ordinance. Failure of elected municipal officers to attend regular meetings of the Board of Trustees creates a failure in representation of the citizens of the Village; this Ordinance is in the best interest of the citizens of the Village to provide a system for the determination of vacancies in the offices of elected municipal officers.

President Serwatka stated that the Board has an ongoing issue with excessive absences by some Trustees. On two separate occasions we almost had to cancel the scheduled Board Meeting due to a lack of quorum. He stated that he or the Village Clerk are typically not notified of absences until the day before, or the day of, the Meeting; this places the Meeting in jeopardy of not establishing a quorum. Some Trustees have already missed 40% of scheduled Meetings within this term. Trustee McMahan recently missed three scheduled consecutive Meetings.

President Serwatka commented that the Board typically has 22 to 23 scheduled Meetings in a year. The proposed Ordinance sets two threshold points for the Board to look at a Trustee's absences; five absences within a year, which is approximately 22%, or absence at three consecutive scheduled Meetings. The Village Board would then conduct a hearing, the Trustee

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in question would have an opportunity to explain his/her absences, and the Board would make a findings of fact to determine if extenuating circumstances warranted excusing the absences or if the position should be declared vacant. Abandonment of an office, under the Illinois Municipal Code, creates a vacancy of an office to be filled, by appointment or election. The Village Clerk, pursuant to the direction of the Village President, will notify the individual, who is the subject of the hearing on possible abandonment of office and the individual shall have an opportunity to explain to the Board why his/her failure to attend meeting shall be considered abandonment of office.

Trustee Stephan believes that the purpose of this Ordinance is to make sure there is a quorum for all meetings.

Trustees Ritchie expressed concern over the purpose of this Ordinance and its accountability. He stated that his employment could cause him to be absent at eight or more meetings in a twelve month period.

President Serwatka asked Trustee Ritchie if he felt eight or more absences in a year was acceptable; if any employer would allow that level of absences. President Serwatka asked Trustee Ritchie for a suggested number of allowable absences in one year. There was no response.

Trustee McMahon commented that this Ordinance is totally subjective.

Trustee Davis commented that he typically misses more than five meeting due to his work. Village residents have voted for each individual Board member; how will residents feel when that particular individual is asked to vacate their position? He always reads the entire Board packet even when he does not attend a Meeting and asks others to relay his comments.

Trustee Odom inquired if the Village had this sort of Ordinance in the past. If not, she does not see a need for this Ordinance.

Trustee Rexroat expressed concern over the number of absences in the proposed Ordinance but believes that attendance is important.

Trustee Stephan, seconded by Trustee Ritchie, moved to approve Ordinance 2017-36. Voting Aye: Trustees Stephan. Voting Nay: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, and Ritchie. Motion failed.

REPORTS: Chief Roth commented that the reconstruction of the Police Department is going well. There are plans for an open house.

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Trustee Ritchie inquired about the open Administrative Officer position. Present Serwatka replied that the process is going well and there should be an interview with the candidate and the Board of Trustees in the very near future.

Trustee Stephan applauded Village Clerk Hansen and Village staff for a job well done during this vacancy.

Trustee Davis commented that in the future, if the Board is going to have a long going discussion on stormwater issues, it should be an Agenda Item.

With nothing further to discuss, Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee McMahon, moved to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Trustees Davis, McMahon, Odom, Rexroat, Ritchie, and Stephan. Voting Nay: None. Motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Janice S. Hansen
Village Clerk

Approved: _____ Dated: October 24, 2017