

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 10, 2025

President Heidi Rudolph, Presiding

Call to Order, 7:00 pm

Ed Tymick, Village Clerk

Board Members Present:

Amy Avakian

Nicole Chen

Alan Fink

Scott Lewis

Philip Nawrocki

James Tyrrell

Michael T. Jurusik, Village Attorney

Anne Skrodzki, Village Attorney

Staff Present:

Ellen Baer, Village Manager

Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager

Sean Gilhooley, Director of Law Enforcement

Taylor Ficke, Sergeant

Heather Valone, Director of Community Development

Jeff Koza, Director of Engineering

Matt Supert, Director of Municipal Services

Daisy Chavez, Asst. to Village Manager

Jill Izzo, Deputy Village Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rudolph led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call as noted above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Tyrrell reported that the General Government Committee reviewed and recommends the updates made to the Personnel Policy & Procedures manual. Trustee Tyrrell stated that there were many changes since the manual was last updated in 2013. Trustee Tyrrell stated that the Village Manager's office worked with their labor attorney, Jill Leka on the updates. Trustee Tyrrell introduced Director Biernacki who stated changes included comprehensive updates to better meet the human resources best management practices. Director Biernacki indicated that the Village follows the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Director Biernacki discussed updated definitions and many State and Federal law changes that also required updates to the manual.

Trustee Tyrrell discussed the proposed ordinance amending the Village Code as it pertains to the Village Manager's authority to execute contracts. Trustee Tyrrell reported that the General Government Committee reviewed and recommends that the Village Manager have additional authority to execute contracts on non-financial matters, provided that the Board of Trustees will review the approvals at their next opportunity. Attorney Jurusik stated that these proposed changes were not for your typical contracts but more for day-to-day operations when, for example, timing may be an issue.

Trustee Tyrrell reported that the Western Springs Business Association has submitted applications for WSBA special event liquor licenses and temporary use permits. Trustee Tyrrell stated that the General Government Committee reviewed and recommends approval of the licenses and permits requested.

Trustee Tyrrell reported that the Village of Western Springs is a part of the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN) where member communities provided disaster relief to public works agencies through the State. IPWMAN has made update to their agreement which provides for assistance in day-to-day operations and training opportunities for its members. Trustee Tyrrell reported the General Government Committee reviewed and recommended the execution of the new IPWMAN intergovernmental agreement.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Nawrocki reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee reviewed and recommends a proposed ordinance amending the sign code as it pertains to the political signs. Trustee Nawrocki stated that the Western Springs Municipal Code regulations currently conflict with Illinois law. Trustee Nawrocki introduced Director Valone who stated that the Village Code amendments are not changing the definition or size of political signs. Director Valone stated that the code amendments remove the restrictions on residential properties for the number and duration of political signs and further, allows political signs on election day near polling places only in designated areas as defined by the election judge or poll watcher.

PUBLIC WORKS & WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Fink reported that the Public Works and Water Committee reviewed and recommends the execution of the State of Illinois Rock Salt Joint Participation Agreement which allows the Village to participate in a joint purchase of rock salt for CY 2025 and 2026.

Trustee Fink reported that the Public Works and Water Committee reviewed and recommends Murphy Construction for an amount not to exceed \$110,000 for the 2025 public sidewalk, curb, and gutter replacement project.

Trustee Fink reported that the Public Works and Water Committee reviewed and recommends Lakeshore Recycling Service, Inc. (LRS) for street sweeping during CY 2025. The projected cost exceeds the budgeted amount as the scope has increased and the contract is recommended pending a budget approval.

Trustee Fink reported that the Public Works and Water Committee recommends waiving the bidding process and approving a contract with Hawkins Chemicals not to exceed \$250,000 for the water treatment plant.

Trustee Fink gave a water system update stating that Municipal Services will be working with McKim & Creed to perform leak detection along Hampton Avenue from Odgen Avenue to Hillgrove Avenue. Also, the plan for hydrant flushing is being finalized and postcards will be going out near the end of the month.

Trustee Fink gave an update on several infrastructure projects. Updates included the following: Springdale Stormwater project is out to bid; the Burlington Avenue resurfacing from Central Avenue to Wolf Road will be starting at the end of the month; the 2025 asphalt resurfacing will be out to bid in March; the Grand Avenue east sidewalks from 51st to 55th Street is going out to bid in March; the Hampton Avenue resurfacing from Odgen Avenue to Hillgrove Avenue will start after the school season ends; and the Ridgewood Drive stormwater improvement project is going out the bid this summer with construction planned to start this fall.

Trustee Fink reported on a pilot program for residents looking to update their lead service line earlier than their scheduled replacement and allowing for cost sharing with the Village. The cost share program will offer residents up to \$5,000 or 50% of the replacement cost, whichever comes first. The Village has budgeted \$50,000 for the program.

Trustee Fink reported that the Public Works and Water Committee recommends Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. for Phase III engineering of the Springdale stormwater improvements project for an amount not to exceed \$579,065

Trustee Fink reported that Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH) was looking for feedback from the Village on a proposed crosswalk with a rapid flashing beacon at Burr Oak Drive and Plainfield Road. The Timber Trails HOA wanted a stop light, however, due to traffic patterns Cook County indicated this was not recommended. Director Koza stated that the CCDOTH would like to know if the Village had any strong objection to looking into the installing the rapid flashing beacon and to be responsible for funding the maintenance of the beacon. The Board did not express any objections.

Trustee Fink also reported that the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways is seeking the Village recommendation as to what pedestrian accommodations should be provided on Plainfield Road within the Village's boundaries of the Plainfield Road corridor. The specific area CCDOTH is asking about is the northern half of Plainfield Road between I-294 and Wolf Road. Generally, CCDOTH's current policy for pedestrian accommodations is to provide at a minimum a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on each side of the street for a newly reconstructed roadway. There is an existing asphalt path that runs along the southern edge of the Timber Trails subdivision. This path runs parallel to and immediately adjacent to Plainfield Road right of way. The CCDOTH developed two alternatives for consideration. Director Koza expanded on the alternative path suggestions.

PROPERTIES & RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Avakian reported that a proposed Proclamation declaring Friday, April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day is in tonight's packet and recommended by the Properties and Recreation Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Lewis reported that the Public Health and Safety Committee reviewed and recommends a proposed ordinance amending the Village Code to add restrictions on e-bikes, electric scooters and other mobility devices. Trustee Fink stated that local businesses were worried about the safety of pedestrians in the business district. Director Gilhooley introduced Sergeant Taylor Ficke who gave a more detailed description of what

would be covered by the ordinance. Sergeant Ficke also reported that the Municipal Services Department is providing sticker signage for downtown sidewalk corners indicating that cyclists should “walk your wheels” in the areas where operation of these devices are prohibited.

Trustee Lewis reported that the Public Health and Safety Committee reviewed and recommends a proposed ordinance amending parking restrictions at Village Hall and the Post Office to allow parking for 15 minutes only on Monday – Friday during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Also, an addition of three 30-minute parking spaces adjacent to BMO, Kirschbaum's Bakery, and Village Hardware. Trustee Fink mentioned that after the Burlington Avenue resurfacing project is completed a handicap parking space will be added in front of Oberweis.

Trustee Lewis reported that the Public Health and Safety Committee reviewed and recommends an ordinance amending the Village Code to remove the parking restrictions on the southside of Chestnut Street outside the former Masonic Lodge. The restriction is no longer need as the lodge is being demolished and a single-family home is being constructed.

NEW BUSINESS

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

REPORTS

Monthly Financial Report (Trustee Chen)

No report.

Village President Rudolph

President Rudolph discussed the Special Edition Tower Topics which has information intended to help residents make a decision on the referendum. President Rudolph reminded residents to visit the referendum page on the Village website. President Rudolph also reminded residents that a referendum open house will be held Thursday, March 13 at Forest Hills school and to remember the election is April 1, 2025 and to check the website for early voting information.

Village Manager Baer

Manager Baer reported that we are currently resuming the parkway tree replace program and the information can be found on the Village website. The website has information related to the opportunity for residents to request a tree at a discounted rate and see the species of tree available.

Village Attorney Jurusik

No report.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

Trustee Tyrrell made a motion to adjourn to closed meeting for the purpose and discussion of pending litigation pursuant to (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)); and probable and imminent litigation pursuant to (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)), seconded by Trustee Nawrocki. Motion passed on a roll call vote.

Voting Aye: Trustees Avakian, Chen, Fink, Lewis, Nawrocki, and Tyrrell

Voting Nay: None.

The regular meeting of the President and Board of Trustees was adjourned to closed meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Izzo

Deputy Village Clerk