



# Village of Fox River Grove

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Village President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center. Present at roll call were Trustees Knar, Migdal, Schladt, and Sepeczi. Also, present were Administrator Soderholm, Assistant Administrator Bechler, Chief Waitrovich, and Village Clerk Caesar. Trustee Wall joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Raviolo, 205 Grove Avenue – Mr. Raviolo asked for a status update on Block B and the apartment building on Algonquin Rd. Mr. Raviolo asked if it was considered a conflict of interest for the Village to enter into a real estate marketing agreement with another company while in a 9-month memorandum of understanding with American Construction Services for the redevelopment of downtown parcels (Block B – Between Illinois Street & Lincoln Avenue).

President McLaughlin instructed Mr. Raviolo or anyone else who may have questions regarding the Village, to reach out to staff and they would be happy to answer any question they may have.

Trustee Knar mentioned that Grove Residences involves a private business and so the Village is limited in what they can and cannot do. Speaking on behalf of the Board, Trustee Knar said that they are all greatly concerned about the status of the project and that they have already moved forward with advising staff to take necessary actions to protect the Villages interest.

Paige Lord, 313 Old Hunt Rd. – Mrs. Lord reminded everyone that early voting is open and for everyone to please get out and vote.

Glenn Winikates, 713 Hunters Way – Mr. Winikates addressed the Board with his concerns of an Airbnb being run out of his new neighbors home located at 709 Hunters Way. The home is advertising as an Airbnb with three bedrooms for short-term stays and food service is being offered to its guests. Mr. Winikates stated he moved into a residential neighborhood and its disturbing to him that this type of business is being allowed without any type of business license, food service license etc. Mr. Winikates would like the Board to take action that would regulate short-term leases in residential areas and provided a copy of the Barrington ordinance as an example.

Administrator Soderholm stated that allowed home occupations in the Village do not currently require a business license. He also stated that Airbnb / short-term rentals are not addressed in the ordinance and

**Village President** Marc McLaughlin

**Trustees** Jennifer Curtiss / Steve Knar / Andrew Migdal / Melissa Schladt / Sheri Sepeczi / Patrick Wall

as a non-home ruled municipality, there could be limits as to what the Village can require.

Trustee Schladt asked if there was anything in the zoning codes that addressed Airbnb / short-term rentals. Assistant Administrator Bechler said there was not.

Administrator Soderholm said that Staff would investigate the situation further.

#### **VILLAGE PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Schladt, speaking on behalf of Trustee Curtiss said the Fall Fest on Saturday was flawlessly executed, and wanted to give a shout out to the Special Events Committee. Trustee Schladt said hundreds of people showed up and of the three hundred and fifty (350) pumpkins donated for kid's crafts, only about five (5) pumpkins were left.

Trustee Knar stated that Geske and sons doing the roadwork in front of his house did a great job. He added that Baxter & Woodman had an engineer driving around that even stopped and responded to resident's questions. Trustee Knar mentioned that public works operations manager Reese, didn't let Geske take any short-cuts and worked extra hard to address the many requests from residents flooding in for driveway curb-cuts. Trustee Knar wanted to know if cross striping was going to be added. Administrator Soderholm answered that it would not be, unless it was there before.

Trustee Wall stated that he had some safety concerns with the company doing the paving. He said he witnessed almost three (3) accidents in the early stages of the project and the issues improved as the project progressed.

#### **1. APPROVAL: CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL VIA ONE VOTE FOR ALL**

- A. Village Board and Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2022
- B. Accounts Payable – November 1, 2022

**Trustee Knar made a motion to approve consent agenda items A – B. Trustee Wall seconded.** Roll Call: Trustee Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall—all “yes.” MOTION PASSED.

#### **2. APPROVAL: PROPERTY TAX LEVY DETERMINATION**

Administrator Soderholm stated that with the closing of TIF District #1, that there would be new property in the amount of \$35,024, which equates to 42% of the proposed 8.63% increase. The remainder or \$48,956 is the maximum allowed CPI increase of 5% over the previous year. Administrator Soderholm said this is the highest CPI adjustment allowed in several years, but inflation was at 7%, and has started showing up across the Village's budget. As presented, a home worth \$250,000 would see an increase of about \$25. **Trustee Wall made a motion to approve the property tax levy determination of \$1,074,494. Trustee Migdal seconded.** A discussion was held.

President McLaughlin stated that he feels strongly that the Board should Levy for what they can being the Village is Non Home Ruled and does not have flexibility in adjusting their levy amount from year to year. President McLaughlin supports the Board offsetting the increase by reducing elsewhere, as long as it is done in an area that can be adjusted at a later date should the need arise.

Trustee Knar is not in favor of approving the Tax Levy unless the Board can agree to reduce in some other area that will offset the same amount the levy would affect resident's taxes.

Trustee Wall stated that he has never had a resident complain to him about the amount of money they pay in taxes to the Village for the services that they get. Trustee Wall believes taxpayers need to look deeper into their tax bill and identify the taxing bodies and the tax dollars they receive. Trustee Migdal agrees that the increase to the Village is not where the problem lies.

Trustee Schladt and Knar both feel taxpayers will only see the percentage increase and not understand the rationale behind it. Both Trustee Schladt and Knar, along with Trustee Sepeczi stated that with the already high tax bills, the increases in the water bills, and inflation, they did not support the tax levy as proposed. Roll Call: Trustees Knar, Schladt, and Sepeczi – "No." Trustee's Migdal and Wall— "yes." MOTION DID NOT PASS.

Trustee Knar stated he would be more likely to vote yes if there was something concrete that the Board could agree on to offset the tax increase.

Trustee Schladt asked if there were any alternative motions that could be presented to the Board to consider.

President McLaughlin and Administrator Soderholm both responded that alternative decisions are made at the Budget meeting, which takes place after the Levy determination.

**Trustee Wall made a motion to table the approval of the property tax levy determination until next Tuesday's Capital meeting on November 8. Seconded by Trustee Knar.** Roll Call: Trustee Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall—all "yes." MOTION PASSED.

### **3. APPROVAL: CONTRACT – FOX RIVER BANK STABILIZATION**

**Trustee Wall made a motion to approve the authorization for the Village Administrator to enter into a contract with Landworks Ltd for shoreline stabilization at Picnic Grove Park. Trustee Migdal seconded.** Trustee Sepeczi asked if the rocks were going to go just short of where the trees are leaving an open space at the end. Administrator Soderholm said that a small area northeast of the project area would remain free of any riprap.

### **4. DISCUSSION: YARDWASTE COLLECTION FEES**

Administrator Soderholm stated that as directed by the Board staff looked into what the fee would be to include year round yardwaste collection to all homes in the Village. For a \$1.25 per month or \$15.00 a year per household, the \$3.00 per bag required sticker program would be eliminated.

Trustee Knar was in favor of the program as he stated he pays approximately \$30 with the current sticker program.

Trustee Schladt was interested in doing a residential survey to ensure their decision aligned with what the residents want.

Trustee Wall would like to see a free week in early May, versus the current two in April and nine in October and November.

The general consensus of the Board was to keep the two free weeks of yardwaste pick-up in April, move one week from October / November into May and keep the remaining eight weeks in October / November. This way resident that do not utilize the sticker program for various reasons would not be affected by an additional fee added to their garbage and recycling service bill.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Trustee Wall made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting at 7:53 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Migdal.** Roll Call: Trustees Knar, Migdal, Schladt, Sepeczi, and Wall – all “yes”. MOTION PASSED.

  
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Marc McLaughlin, Village President

12-6-2022  
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Date

  
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Shelley J. Caesar, Village Clerk