

MINUTES
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
21460 Lincoln Highway
Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Nov. 10th, 2020
6:00 P.M.

BOARD MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance

Call To Order

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present on the roll call were Trustees: Curry, Stephens, Dunlap, Sims, Marshall

Absent: Dillingham

Address the Board/ Public Comment

Mr. Randall Blakey addressed the board. He began by thanking the Mayor and Chief Person for having officers and squad cars at the polling locations on election day. Mr. Blakey indicated it showed a great deal of respect for the community, our residents and for the process. Mr. Blakey also stated he wanted to publicly thank Chief Pearson for the personal attention he has given to him and his family for the theft and return of his sons' car out of their driveway.

Mr. Blakey then asked the Mayor who is responsible for the mailing of the water bills? The Mayor responded..."the entire staff". Mr. Blakey asked who was responsible for approving the advertising in the water bill? The Mayor stated that "generally the staff approves the advertising". Mayor Williams asked if there had been a mistake? Mr. Blakey stated there was no mistake, he then held up the flyer and stated that the front was a public service notice and he indicated he had a concern for the advertising which appeared on the back. He indicated that according to the Ordinance (78), there is a protocol that should happen. He stated he was wondering if this protocol happened before the advertising was sent out. The mayor indicated that he is sure it **DID NOT** happen to his knowledge.

Mr. Blakey asked who was the owner of this company? The Mayor responded..."he had no idea". Mr. Blakey asked..."would it surprise you Mayor if you were told that **Anthony Finch** was the owner of the company". The question was then asked of the Mayor... if it seemed normal to him, to have the **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR** advertise to 10,000 people free of charge. The Mayor responded that he would have to figure it out. He said he was glad he was telling him. The Mayor stated he did not know Anthony Finch was the owner prior to sending this advertisement out.

Mr. Blakey then asked me (Clerk) if any applications had come to me as it relates to the advertisements. I answered..."I didn't know anything about it." Mr. Blakey indicated that the Ordinance states the applications are supposed to be given to me(Clerk), I then give the application to the Police Chief , the Chief does a background check and then he comes back to me before I can issue a permit. He asked me... do I have a permit for the advertisement. I responded "no, I do not".

Mr. Blakey then asked the Mayor...when his wife (mayor's wife) advertised in the water bill, did she apply for a permit? At which time the Mayor responded ..."he had no idea". Mr. Blakey then asked...can anybody on staff... particularly the **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR** advertise to 10,000 people free of charge, receive the benefit of that and the Mayor think it is ok?

Mr. Blakey indicated that he wanted to get some documentation, so he handed the Mayor, the Village Attorney, and myself a FOIA request. Mr. Blakey stated again “that for a **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR** to be able to advertise his personal business to 10,000 people free of charge and you not know anything about it as the person in charge is pretty egregious, wouldn’t you say?” Mayor Williams said, “no he wouldn’t, but would like Mr. Blakey to continue”. Mr. Blakey asked the Mayor how he would describe it for a **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR** to advertise free of charge to 10,000 residents and the Mayor not know anything about it, how would he describe it?

Mayor Williams told Mr. Blakey that he knew they were not going to go back and forth.

Attorney Marovich interrupted and reiterated that this is not a question and answer period. He indicated that if he (Mr. Blakey) had a statement to please make it and continue forward, the Mayor has indicated that he wishes to move forward.

Statements and questions began coming from the residents ... trying to determine when will their questions be answered. They wanted to know regarding their FOIA requests, if /when they can expect answers to their questions, either at the next meeting, in a Newsletter something. One resident indicated that the residents have a right to know. She asked the Mayor to please do not disrespect the residents by not answering the questions. The Mayor stated that he would like to just carry on and he would answer the FOIA. Attorney Mike Marovich stated the village does not have the obligation to make documents, and FOIAs are to provide documents, but not to answer questions.

Mr. Blakey mentioned that for the record, Mayor Williams is stating that he had not seen this (advertisement) before. The Mayor indicated that he is stating that he would like to move along.

Another resident (David Lilly) stated he receives a bill from Lincoln/Lansing Drainage District for \$2.00 that keeps coming. He indicated he was going to mail it in again, had his wife call and decided to drop it off. An 84 yr. old guy answered and said he works for nothing and he was ready to quit. Mr. Lilly indicated he had driven up to the address which was a decrepit house with a white piece of paper in the window that says take everything from Lansing Drainage District to the red building in the back. So, he drove around noticed a car with a flat tire, a garage door half broken... and he wanted to know who is he sending his money to? As a municipality, if he is sending checks out... who is looking out for us with this, he wanted to know what he was paying for and why he was sending it out to that house and not a business and why the village doesn’t have any interest in it? He wanted to know if that was something that the mayor could answer. The mayor responded that he could not answer it.

Mike Marovich stated that Lincoln /Lansing Drainage District is a different entity than the village. Mike Marovich stated that the checks should be mailed to them directly. Mr. Lilly stated again that when he drove up it’s a building that looks like Norman Bates was in it. He indicated that the board is our only resource. He indicated that he is paying tax money to the Village to have the Village define and defend the residents. He asked why are we paying our taxes to a house on Lincoln Highway?

Mike stated... “why do you pay the IRS?” The resident mentioned that that was a smart remark, and he was not going to acknowledge that.

Another resident (Denise Lilly) mentioned that if he does not have to answer today, that’s ok, but she feels there should be some accountability to the residents. The people that come to the meetings all the time are well aware there are no answers... no back and forth. She said that she is suggesting that maybe on the website, maybe a letter in the water bill, but please answer the questions that they are asking you, because it’s a matter of disrespect when we stand here and want information and the mayor says...”uhhh I don’t know” or ”uhhh we’ll get back to you” that is not an answer and she expects more accountability than that. She indicated that was all she was asking each one of those in the position to answer the questions.

Another resident (Ms. Adams) mentioned she has dealt with the issue (Lincoln Lansing Drainage District) and has been calling the guy for years and to no avail. She indicated by the same token...if you sell your house this guy is going to put a lien on your property. She stated the same thing he told Mr. Lilly was the same thing he told her. (pertaining to him being 85 yrs. old) She stated when you call the village...nobody knows... You all are in this Village – Village Hall then you must be paying the same thing, is that correct, Marovich???

To which Mike replied...my name is Mike, if you want to refer to me. Then he (Attorney Marovich) stated that every year , every resident assuming it is more than just Lynwood, has an obligation to pay their \$2.00 fee for Lincoln/Lansing to take care of the ditch and we are not them.

Mr. Lilly stated that it is a ghost address, he could see if it was a p.o. box, but it was not a business there. Mike interrupted by saying that he understands what he is saying but it does not negate the obligation to have pay it.

Resident Ron Caldwell spoke... Ron said he has also spoken to the gentleman they were speaking about. Ron indicated he was helpful to him and he stated he had inside information about the Lincoln/Lansing Drainage District. He indicated he knew one of the Trustees who had just joined that Board. He stated what they do is they keep the drainage going along the airport, and if they don't get down there and dig, that water will back up onto Burnham. Ron mentioned for just this \$2.00 they are actually giving us that service. Ron stated he did not know about the parks...but these are real live people, and the younger Trustee that just joined called him up.. he's a friend of his, and asked him to go out and walk the ditch-line with him to help him out. Ron indicated that they tried to get him to join, however, for \$2.00 to keep the grass cut around the ditches, and around Burnham and other places, and dig, and get people to dig so that the water will drain off they are doing great..

David Lilly thanked Mr. Coldwell stated he gave him more information that the Village did, and that he would probably do a better job sitting up there.

Denise Lilly stated she did some research and the payment has been in effect since 1926. The farmers dug the initial ditches, and it's a flood zone, and the ditches are supposed to help, however, what she was asking was there any type of documentation, any records kept because as the resident just said...what if you don't get that bill? You go in to refinance your home, or obtain a home equity loan, and there could be a lien on your property. Where is the accounting? Where/ When do the Trustee meet?

Ron Caldwell stated he wanted to shine some more light on this... He stated you have a real live guy, and he indicated he was going to call him, he stated he "ain't no coward, he ain't no chicken", and he will come down here, stand up and explain it ... if you need some paperwork he'll get it. He stated that he is sure he will exhaust all efforts to satisfy you.

The question was asked if he could ask him to come to the next Board meeting... He would like to meet him. Ron stated that he was going to give him David's phone number. To which David replied...whatever you need to do.

Denise stated she actually spoke to him today, he was a very kind old man, very respectful, but he also asked her how much she thought he was getting paid. She responded ..."sir, I have no idea" He said he's being paid nothing, and he wasn't going to do it much longer, because he wasn't going to be here very long. Denise Lilly mentioned it was a very respectful conversation, but it didn't sound like a business. He seemed very friendly, and she asked him when would he be there so she could come pay her bill and he said when I get there.

Ron Caldwell stated the Lincoln/Lansing guy is very energetic, conscientious, and you will be so pleased when he comes in here. Denise stated that was fine, but it should come from our administration. Ms. Adams, thanked Ron for his offer and stated that it would be more official, and she thought it should come from the powers that be, from the Village of Lynwood to do this, since we are not having a board meeting on the 24th, maybe sometime in Dec. if this person is available.

Hugh Smith spoke and stated that he wanted to say he just wanted to make sure that we get answers to the questions that were asked. He indicated that was important as is accountability. He mentioned let's get answers to what the people are asking. He hopes we get answers.

MINUTES

Trustee Stephens moved, seconded by Trustee Sims to approve the minutes from **10/27/20**.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Curry, Stephens, Dunlap, Sims, Marshall

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: Dillingham Motion: carried

Public Works.....Stephens

Trustee Stephens had no report

Economic Development.....Curry

Trustee Curry shared with the residents that last week was Veterans' Small Business Week, and tomorrow will be Veterans' Day, so she wanted to encourage everyone and their families to get out and support a Veteran owned business, tomorrow even if it's online. Trustee Curry suggested that if you were not familiar with Veteran owned businesses, you can visit the Veteran's Business outreach center or their website to get more information.

Also, on Oct. 28th President Prekwinckle issued a release of about \$4 million for COVID-19 recovery job training/placement funds. Trustee Curry suggested if you know of anyone who has been hit hard, with COVID 19...if they have lost their job, there are 2 centers in the south suburban area where you can get help. Trustee Curry shared that South Suburban Cook County American Job Center, located at Prairie State College was one and the second is the South Suburban Cook County American Job Center in Harvey, IL.

Community Affairs/Parks & Recreation

Trustee Dunlap had no report

Planning & Zoning

Trustee Stephens had no report

Ordinances and Resolutions

Trustee Sims had no report

Finance.....Dillingham

Trustee Dillingham was absent, Trustee Stephens moved, seconded by Trustee Sims to approve payment of BPM#1406 in the amount of \$279,666.24 of which \$116, 766.79 was payroll from 10/18 – 10/31.

Roll Call was taken;

Ayes: Trustees: Curry, Stephens, Dunlap, Sims, Marshall

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: Dillingham Motion: carried

Public Safety.....Marshall
Trustee Marshall had no report.

Reports & Communications

Village Clerk.....Wingfield-Bond

Clerk Bond mentioned that I am collecting gently used and/or new coats for the upcoming winter season. Clerk Bond also updated everyone on the tax appeal forum. Clerk Bond mentioned that we had a Zoom call and it was very informative. She also stated that the forms were available for anyone who wanted/needed to apply and appeal taxes for the upcoming tax yr.

The Clerk mentioned that the next Board meeting is cancelled on Nov. 24th 2020.

Village Attorney

No report

Village Engineer

Was not present

Chief Cobb

Chief John Cobb indicated he had attended a meeting of the South Cook County Emergency Medical System, of which Ingalls is our Medical Control Hospital. They oversee commercial ambulances, fires departments, and the hospitals under the direction of the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. Chief Cobb mentioned he was pleased to see everyone social distancing, and wearing masks. The point of the meeting was to inform the public that the virus is not over, and it's getting worse, and worse and worse. Chief indicated that the Flu season is yet to be upon us, and the hospitals in our district (20) fire departments... the hospitals in Indiana and Olympia Fields are going on bypass more and more since they are getting overloaded again. The difference between now and in March is there was an election and the virus is not getting the publicity it once did, so Chief asked to please continue to do what you are doing, because the masks are the best precaution. Chief mentioned there is no indication about a vaccine coming anytime soon. The "heard community" is not proven to be true and there is still just as many questions about the virus now than we had then, so do not reduce your level of concern. It's there and it is very, very dangerous.

Mayor

The Mayor mentioned in respect to the Lincoln/Lansing Drainage District...since it is another governmental body your request for information can go to them or to the State. The Mayor mentioned the District was authorized by the State. The Mayor stated he does not run them like he does not run the county offices nor the township offices. For information, questions or irregularities you have to do the same thing we do here which are FOIA's or go to the state . The Mayor indicated he can't tell any one how things are being run. Mayor Williams mentioned that we've all been paying that \$2.00 fee every year forever. The mayor stated he agreed with Mr. Coldwell about the ditches that The District is not just in Lynwood, there in Lansing and Sauk Village and their district was established by the State of Illinois. The Mayor again advised to check with the State Of Illinois to determine how they run things which would be fair, but it isn't fair to expect for the Village to know how they run things, all we know is to pay the \$2.00 and that's it. There is no more information the Village has on that. Any oversight will have to come from the State.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Executive Session

Adjournment

Mayor Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Trustee Stephens moved; Trustee Sims seconded.

All Trustees Present Voted "Aye"

Nays: none Abstain: none Absent: Dillingham Motion: carried

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karen Wingfield-Bond

Karen Wingfield-Bond~ Village Clerk