

**Minutes  
Committee of the Whole  
February 11, 2019  
7:30 p.m. Board Room  
33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005**

**I. Call to Order**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

President Hayes and the following Trustees responded to roll: Rosenberg, Blackwood, LaBedz, Baldino, Sidor, Padovani, Tinaglia and Scaletta.

Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Scott Shirley, Cris Papierniak, Jeff Musinksi, Steve Mullany, Mike Pagones, Charles Perkins, Nancy Kluz, Nancy Julius and Becky Hume.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Downtown Construction**

Mr. Recklaus explained that NICOR has planned to replace the gas mains in much of the central Downtown this summer. In addition, IDOT will be resurfacing part of Northwest Highway and the Village is beginning the Downtown Sewer Project. This presentation is to inform the Board of what is coming and keep them abreast of staff's efforts to manage the scheduling and trouble shoot these major projects. Also on deck is brick paver maintenance.

Mr. Shirley presented the map showing the projects. The NICOR project is necessitated as there have been failures in the lining of the gas lines and subsequent leaks as a result.

**NICOR Gas Main Replacement**

Mr. Mullany said they will begin on Sigwalt and move west to Vail Street. The 4" mains need to be replaced and pressurized then the 2" feeder lines will be replaced. Restoration will come behind the replacement of the lines. Weekly meetings with NICOR will occur so that our projects and theirs can be coordinated. The project will begin in March. Mr. Papierniak said the pits will have plates and be pedestrian friendly. He explained the replacement and tie-in process the crews will be performing. Mr. Recklaus said there will be pits where the work be performed and might impact outdoor seating and it will be disruptive for business owners.

Trustee Rosenberg asked how far down they will go. Answer 4-5 feet. Trustee Rosenberg expressed concern about special events this summer. Mr. Papierniak said they have meet with NICOR and they are aware of our calendar and our events. They are supposed to be working around them. There will be

cones and plates on the sidewalks. The materials will be stored off site. Crews will be parking in the area. We have a dedicated staff member to coordinate with NICOR.

Trustee Baldino asked if the sidewalks will be blocked off. Mr. Papierniak said they will not be closed, but they will have signs and plates, there will be tripping hazards.

Trustee LaBedz asked how long it takes to connect each business. Mr. Papierniak said the pit digging, connection and testing should be within a 3-4 hour time frame for each business. Some businesses might be impacted more than others depending on the location of the meters.

Trustee Scaletta asked who is responsible for trip/fall hazards. Mr. Papierniak said the contractor and NICOR. These are partners of NICOR, not just subs. Trustee Scaletta asked about the brick paver work. Mr. Papierniak said NICOR will do the restoration, but on the north side of town, the Village will do it so it is to our new standard. The restoration will be done after the entire project is complete. There is not a specific weekly schedule yet. The money is budgeted by NICOR. Trustee Scaletta said he has concerns with NICOR completing a large project as they seem to struggle with small ones.

Trustee Tinaglia asked how old the pipes are. Answer 20-25 years. Mr. Papierniak said it is beneficial to NICOR to get ahead of this. Trustee Tinaglia said this stinks, because their equipment is failing and our community is paying the price. It is going to be a mess. His experience with NICOR is not good. Mr. Recklaus said we are going to do our best to manage this, but there is a lot going on, and there will be unforeseen problems. This is not all the Village's doing. Trustee Tinaglia said people will blame the Village even though it is not our doing.

Trustee Padovani asked when construction would occur. Answer: Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 p.m. They are allowed to work on Saturdays. Typically crews finish by 4:00 p.m. each day. Gas line restoration cannot occur after the ground freezes. It's possible this could go to spring and the sidewalks would still be messed up. Mr. Mullany said where the connections from 4" to 2" occur, those areas will have plates longer.

Trustee Rosenberg asked why the material is failing all at once and if it could be occurring other places in the Village. Mr. Papierniak said a lot of new construction occurred at the same time 30 years ago, so NICOR probably came in to connect new service to the new construction with this new material all at the same time. It has not asked to replace this material any other place in the village.

Resident Melissa Cayer asked if the meters were going to be electronic or read by readers. Answer: readers.

### **Downtown Sewer Project**

Mr. Pagones said project came from the storm water flood studies and is intended to alleviate the downtown sewer backups and surface flooding. It is a 3-4 month project and construction will begin in April. There will be sections on Sigwalt where there will be a big trench and some road closures. Staff is coordinating this project with some of the midblock crosswalks. Mr. Recklaus reiterated that this project is very impactful and one of the most needed.

Trustee Scaletta asked if the improved sewer line designs took into account the development of block 425. Mr. Papierniak said yes, the model in the flood study included highest potential residents in this

space. Mr. Recklaus said some modifications from the initial proposal were made to limit the disruptions to the downtown.

Mr. Papierniak said they have carefully planned the implementation to mitigate conflicts with the special events.

Trustee Padovani asked where the sewers are being placed. Mr. Papierniak said mostly down the middle of the streets. Weather permitting, the Mane Event should not be impacted. Sometimes an entire street will be closed, sometimes, just half. They plan to backfill sites the same day, but they will be plated or covered with equipment if they remain open overnight. Trustee Padovani asked about the street in front of Metropolis. Mr. Pagones said it may be under construction more than a few days as it is complex. It will be available for pedestrian traffic, but not vehicle traffic. They are working with NICOR to make sure the sidewalks are available when the sewer project occurs. Mr. Recklaus said the daytime businesses will experience more impact than nighttime ones. Things should be buttoned up each evening for nighttime customers.

Trustee Sidor asked how it can start in April if the bid is in March. Mr. Pagones said they can start a couple of weeks after the bid award, only man hole materials would need to be made.

Trustee Rosenberg asked what happens if there is a significant rainfall during construction. Mr. Pagones said construction starts at the low end, so rain will go through the sewer already constructed. There could also be a pumping operation to handle a significant rainfall. The contractor would handle that.

Trustee Scaletta asked how open pits would be handled. Mr. Pagones said there will be full barricading and equipment over the pit.

#### **Resurfacing Route 14**

Ms. Julius said IDOT is resurfacing Northwest Highway from Dunton Avenue to Des Plaines. The project includes sidewalk work at intersections and is projected to begin May 1<sup>st</sup> with completion in October. It will work similarly to how Central Road was recently redone on the east side of Arlington Heights Road. Mr. Papierniak said staff will have a direct contact with IDOT. The exact schedule is still forthcoming. The Village will see construction will come and go, the crew works each day, but the work could be in another town on any given day. Typically, they work on one side at a time, but until the contractor is identified, we won't know how they intend to do the project. IDOT and the contractor will have the Village's special events schedule and concerns.

#### **Paver Brick Maintenance**

Ms. Julius explained which sections will be complete this fall. The project is going in after the NICOR work is complete. It will include curb work in the area too. President Hayes and Trustee LaBedz said the curbs are bad in that area especially on the west side of Vail north of the tracks. The pavers do not cross Northwest Highway, but do cover the area near the commuter lots. The gas station work on Northwest Highway will be taken into consideration from a timing/execution standpoint. The construction work next to the gas station should be complete by the time this project moves forward, but it will also be taken into consideration. As NICOR will be digging in some of these areas, those sections will be saved for last to allow for settling. Staff will coordinate to have these sections done by NICOR early in the season. There will compaction and testing prior to the pavers being installed.

Ms. Cayer asked how weeds are controlled under the pavers. Mr. Papierniak said there is landscape fabric underneath, the Village power washes them and seals them to prevent weeds. Epoxy sand prevents weeds and sometimes there is chemical mitigation.

### **Timeline & Downtown Projects/Smaller Scale**

Summary attached to these minutes.

### **Manhole Rehabilitation**

Mr. Musinski said the old brick fabricated manholes need rebuilding. He explained the process to reconstruct them. A structural epoxy is used to coat the manhole structures. The benches need to be rebuilt inside them. Traffic is moved through the intersections with flaggers. This stops potholes around the structures and is very beneficial.

### **Reasons for Timing**

Mr. Recklaus said delaying any of these only extends the negative impacts to the businesses over multiple summers. Residents have waited long enough for storm water mitigation. Also, it is best not to have any construction conflicts with the potential development of Block 425. Some of the special events were modified, but the reason they exist is to encourage people to come downtown and support the businesses. Eliminating them, would put a larger burden on the business community. The signal needs to be that we are open for business. There will be a later start to the concert series and the Promenade of Art was moved to nearby streets.

### **Communication**

Multiple communication outlets will be used and the Village will solicit feedback from residents. The communication methods list is attached to these minutes. Mr. Recklaus said staff will have especially close communications with the Metropolis Ballroom and Metropolis. All of these projects are necessary, important and will leave the downtown better than before. President Hayes agreed that it was important to limit the long term impact. Trustee LaBedz asked for Email blasts to be sent to the Board so they know what is going on. Trustee Scaletta suggested that property managers will also be kept in the loop. When parking permits are issued, communication can be given then. For those new to the Village, it will be important to communicate to them too. Mr. Recklaus said signage will be important, especially in relation to parking. Trustee Tinaglia asked for the Village Manager's report at Village Board meetings include schedule updates at the Village Board meetings. Trustee Sidor said the water bill should include construction information. There is not a cell phone emergency alert system, but it is being actively worked on with Northwest Central Dispatch as it runs in concert with them. It is not ready yet. Trustee Sidor said the Village should push information out is important. The website information should be very obvious. The electronic parking system implementation in the Vail garage should not be impacted.

Resident Jim Elgas asked if there was a study done on the old sewer system before the original downtown construction. Mr. Papierniak, said for gas, each new customer that comes in requests service from NICOR. When those new customers came in, he thinks that NICOR came in and put in a lot of new material at that time. For the NICOR system, it is 20-30 years old. They have been doing a lot of work recently which is why they are replacing it. There have been several emergencies lately, so that is how NICOR learned of their material failure. Mr. Elgas said when they built the downtown there was a lot of

flooding, and it appears it was not planned well on what to do with all the water. Mr. Papierniak said there have been many design changes in the downtown over the years. Originally the deep tunnel was supposed to handle all the water, that didn't work. The impervious area has stayed the same, what was asphalt is still asphalt. The weather patterns have changed, 20 year storms seem to occur more frequently. Mr. Elgas said this will be very disruptive to businesses. Mr. Papierniak said each business won't be impacted the entire time.

## **B. Economic Alliance Intent and Purpose Discussion**

Mr. Recklaus explained that the Economic Alliance was created in 1992 as an appointive, advisory body whose purpose was to promote existing businesses, attract new businesses, develop and support programs in order to foster and support Village-wide initiatives toward promoting quality economic development. Since then, additional representatives have been added as voting members, such as the Chamber and CVB. Representatives from the Park District and Library (taxing bodies) were included as non-voting members. The scope of work changed to 'advising' the Village on the implementation of programs versus the previous 'developing and implementing'.

Mr. Recklaus said some commissions like the Plan Commission and Design Commission are regulatory, but others are more program based like the Special Events Commission or the Arts Commission. The Code in 1992 reflected that the Alliance was originally more of a programming commission. Recently, the Alliance has made policy recommendations on the minimum wage/sick leave ordinance, the Village's water policy and the Hancock Square Parking agreement. These changes mark a notable shift in role, which brings forward the following questions:

- On what basis would the Alliance decide to take on an issue?
- On what basis would the Alliance base its recommendations?
- What if the Alliance takes on an issue which the Village Board has no interest in?
- What would prevent multiple commissions from reviewing the same topic and making conflicting recommendations?
- Does the Board want the Alliance's input on a matter before discussing it themselves?

Staff believes that adding another layer to the policy making process adds time to important discussions and creates the possibility that the Alliance will take on issues/make recommendations that run counter to the Village Board's views. It is important to note that the Village Board is charged with leading policy discussions, not Commissions. Conflicts between the Board and its own advisory commissions could occur. Staff recommends the Board give the Alliance additional guidance on what types of policy discussions it should or shouldn't initiate prior to Board direction and that the Board retain the right to refer policy items to the Alliance if/when it chooses to do so. This direction will help prevent situations where the Alliance takes on an issue the Village Board is not interested in pursuing or that another Commissions may be discussing.

The Economic Alliance is a creature of the Village Board and should operate within a framework that reflects the Board's vision and values. The Alliance membership is looking for Board direction on what the role should be moving forward. They have put forth a motion for Board consideration.

President Hayes said all the Boards and Commissions serve as advisory bodies to the Village Board based on the time and expertise they can devote. The Village Board does not have the time or expertise to

devote to all of the issues that come forward. The Alliance is a very valuable tool, perhaps recently, the Board has not used the Alliance as much as it could have. He said the Board can continue to think of ways to get the Alliance involved.

Scott Whisler of the Alliance said this is coming from a good place, the group is good and wants to make a difference. The agreement with the Chamber and the staff's work on marketing has evolved over time, and has taken away some of the things the Alliance did in the past. Mr. Whisler read the Alliance motion:

*To provide for an appointive, advisory body which shall, after due deliberation, make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on matters relating to new ordinances or changes to existing ordinances that will have an impact on the business community of Arlington Heights.*

*The Arlington Economic Alliance may review business related ordinances, programs and regulations that are being presented new or updated prior to submittal to the Village Board. Village Staff will present information to the Arlington Economic Alliance needed for discussion and recommendations for changes or approval of support. The Alliance may research any existing ordinances, programs or regulations relating to the business community.*

Mr. Whisler said there have been issues that went to the Board that he believes the Alliance could have made a difference; like outdoor seating. He said he did not want to slow things down in the process. He said some of the issues they have taken up, like the water supply on Rand Road, come up because people ask them and they wanted to know why. It's somewhat organic.

President Hayes said he thinks the Board needs to be careful about creating another approval process.

Trustee Rosenberg asked if staff could give more information for their agenda, like an overview of the Planning Department's issues or what is coming up. Mr. Whisler said that occurs, but more information could be better. He said for example, the Alliance would be interested in some of the building code revisions that would affect businesses. Mr. Recklaus said a lot of the projects that staff is working on are Board directed, and are already in the business plan. At what point should the Alliance get involved? There is not an easy/automatic check-in point.

Alliance member Andi Ruhl said the intention is to discover the best way they can work for the Board. She mentioned the parking issue, and that is one where the Alliance could weigh in. They don't intend to step on toes, but want to add value.

Trustee Scaletta said the Board weighs making rules and regulations from many perspectives. The Alliance could make a recommendation, but it might not work because of another factor. He said he was trying to figure out what would go to the Alliance, and the exchange of information. They only meet once a month, whereas the Board meets twice a month, how would this not slow down the process? The idea is to reduce the number of days to get things through. He said he doesn't like polls, he likes to hear his fellow Trustee ideas. He said he is searching for an answer.

Trustee Tinaglia said he wants to hear what the Alliance is talking about. He would love to hear their laundry list. The Board has an annual strategy session. They boil it down to a dozen items that staff gets assigned for the next year. Maybe this information could be shared? He wouldn't want the Alliance

weighing in on every different topic. If the Alliance could be on the same page as staff and offer more, it would be helpful. He can't vote in favor of the motion as the breadth is too wide.

Trustee LaBedz said the motion seemed to cede some of the policy making decisions from the Board. The Village Board is the policy making body of the Village and they are accountable to the citizens. As a Board member, they have to consider issues from many perspectives. Tonight, it sounds like the Alliance was trying to make recommendations versus policy. Mr. Whisler said they are not trying to set policy.

Trustee Blackwood said this is a strategic group. The idea is to bring the business community together in a strategic fashion and have an impact in certain areas. The Board didn't want to tackle the minimum wage issue as it saw it as a State initiative. This should be a collective effort the Alliance drives home, like Rand Road development or Southtown. It should be the voice for strategic business development.

Trustee Sidor said the planning session is a public meeting, perhaps the Alliance could come? It saddened him that this problem hasn't been solved as it was raised a few years ago. He said he agreed with Trustee LaBedz regarding the motion. He is also trying to discern the sweet spot. There are three entities, the Chamber, the Alliance and the Small Business Agreement which are business related that need some coordination. Mr. Whisler said they used to overlap, but do so less now.

Trustee Baldino said he was open to sharing Board objectives with the Alliance. What prohibits the Alliance from sharing their views with the Board at a Board meeting? Mr. Whisler said they do, with a motion, that is communicated. Trustee Baldino said if the Board allowed the Alliance to give recommendations, it might look like the Board is skewed as pro-business. Do they create a citizen's advisory commission to go along with it?

Trustee Tinaglia said he is interested in hearing what some of the topics might consider, but they don't have to be the same as the Board's. After hearing the Alliance list, the Board could direct the Alliance on what to pursue. He also does not want barriers to communication.

Trustee Padovani said based on his background, it might be of value that in June, having something from the Alliance on what the Board should consider would be helpful. Mr. Whisler agreed.

President Hayes said the June session is an internal working board session, the Alliance could attend, but would not be a participating member. What needs to be determined is what and when. There needs to be a process.

Mr. Recklaus said one challenge is of overlap. For example, the Building Code is being reviewed by the Building Code Review Board, which will take several meetings over many months. To what extent do we want to duplicate this process with another commission? One idea would be to add Commissions to the existing strategic priorities process. The Code calls for the Alliance to annually submit to the village Board a statement of its goals and objectives. We could have each Commission come up with what is important. These lists could be submitted to the Board along with staff's list. The Board can decide which items to make priorities for a given two year cycle. Then after Board review at its planning session, staff can develop the business plan with these items included, determining how commissions will be woven in to each project. It's a two year process. For other one-off issues that come up unexpectedly, the Commission can always come to a board meeting to weigh in. There is precedent for that. They can also ask the Board if they would like the Alliance to look into a particular issue that bubbles up. The Board can then give direction.

Peg Lane of Reclaim NW Chicago Progressive Political Meetup said she agreed with not creating another level. She would not want any more distance between officials and the public. She said she wanted public comments on the Committee of the Whole Agenda and said she had been shuttled off to talk to staff versus elected officials. She asked the difference between the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Alliance. She said the Village doesn't need another business alliance, but one for citizens or working families. She said it seems that mostly white males are appointed to commissions, it is clear what kind of recommendations you want. The democratic process is affected by the Board refusal to use the mandated Roberts Rules.

President Hayes explained the Alliance is an appointed Board that advises the Village Board. They are members of the public and citizens, it is anything but shutting the public out. They provide input from the public, it is a Village entity and follows the Village rules and regulations. It reports to the Village Board. The Chamber is not part of the Village but a separate organization. It is a very valuable part of the team to enhance the business climate in the Village.

Keith Moens agreed with Mr. Recklaus. He would not want the Alliance to set policy. If the Board wants their opinion, that is why they are there, and their opinion could be solicited. He would be worried for the Alliance to have input without a balance on the other side, and would like an objective view point coming forward. He suggested the creation of a working family commission that could put forward ideas upon Board request.

President Hayes thanked everyone for the discussion and asked for Mr. Recklaus' suggestions to be moved forward. Trustee LaBedz said every Board and Commission should have the same opportunity as the Alliance. Mr. Recklaus said this desired by a lot of commissions and this is a first step.

## **VI. Adjourn**

Trustee Tinaglia moved to Adjourn at 10:03. Trustee Scaletta seconded the motion. The motion carried.