

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Virtual Meeting
October 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees Baldino, Canty, LaBedz, Padovani, Scaletta, Schwingbeck, Rosenberg, and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Village Manager Randy Recklaus

OTHERS PRESENT: Hart Passman, Andrew Fiske

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order and explained that due to COVID 19 restrictions and guidelines, the meeting is being held virtually.

A. Interview of Hart Passman of Elrod Friedman for Village Attorney

Mayor Hayes introduced Hart Passman of Elrod Friedman and also Andrew Fiske who will be assisting and filling in for Mr. Passman on occasion. Robin Ward, the Village inhouse counsel retired after 32 years and the Mayor explained that the Village had had an unusual make-up of the legal representation. Now is the time to explore a more traditional approach and time to explore hiring an outside firm. The Mayor stressed that he feels very comfortable with this as the attorneys from the Elrod Friedman firm come from the firm Holland and Knight which is the firm that long time Village Attorney Jack Siegel was a part of. The Mayor highlighted the approach of Elrod Friedman to service delivery as well as their six guiding principles, all which align with the Village.

Hart Passman and Andrew Fiske each discussed their backgrounds, experiences and approach to local government and municipal law. Mr. Passman graduated from Washington University for undergraduate studies and law school at Northwestern University. He has exclusively practiced municipal law and began at Holland and Knight. He has worked with many municipalities mainly in the north and northwest suburbs.

Andrew Fiske grew up in Evanston, graduated from Earlham College and attended law school at Northwestern University. Mr. Fiske worked as a clerk for the City of Evanston while in law school.

Mr. Passman reviewed the firms team approach, stating that there are 10, soon to be 11 members of the firm, and pointed out that they have seen and worked on many different municipal tasks. He stressed that they have no interest in being the 10th member of the Board, but they see their role as facilitating and implementing the policies that the Board selects.

Discussion ensued. Trustee Tinaglia asked at what level Hart Passman will be attending the Board Meetings and what his availability will be to the Trustees. Randy Recklaus said that Mr. Passman or Mr. Fiske will be at every Board meeting. They will both be available to any Board members when needed. Trustee Scaletta asked if the firm will take any private sector clients that submit applications for properties in Arlington Heights. Mr. Passman stressed that it would be a conflict and they will be the Villages Attorney's. Trustee Baldino asked if there was a term limit. Mr. Recklaus stated that the Village Attorney serves at will.

Trustee Canty asked Mr. Passman what the firm's position is on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and how the firm may be able to help. Mr. Passman said that it is very important to the firm and something that they strive for themselves. Mr. Passman highlighted that they have worked with other communities with problems and solutions. Mr. Fiske will be a point person as he has a strong background in Labor and Employment issues.

Trustee Rosenberg inquired about the logistics of Board meetings with Hart Passman joining the meetings. Mr. Passman said that they will help the Board in following requirements of Illinois law and that their role will be to help facilitate meetings and guide the Board. Mr. Passman also mentioned his availability to the Trustees. He said that during the pandemic they plan to roll out virtual office hours.

Trustee Baldino moved to concur in the Mayor's appointment of Hart Passman of Elrod Friedman as Village Attorney. Trustee Schwingbeck seconded the motion.

Mayor Hayes asked if there were any questions from the audience. Keith Moens asked how familiar the attorneys were with Roberts Rule of Order. Hart Passman stated they were very familiar and will assist the Board in correct procedures.

Mayor Hayes asked for a roll call.

The following voice vote was recorded:

9 Ayes

0 Nays

The motion passed.

C. OTHER BUSINESS – There was no further business.

D. ADJOURNMENT – Trustee Scaletta moved, and Trustee LaBedz seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.