



## MINUTES

President and Board of Trustees  
Village of Arlington Heights  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
Virtual Meeting  
Arlington Heights Village Hall  
33 S. Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
June 1, 2021  
7:00 PM

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held virtually, which permits the public to fully participate via their computers or by using their phones.

To participate in the virtual meeting, please review these instructions.

If members of the public prefer, they can comment or ask a question pertaining to the meeting by emailing [rhume@vah.com](mailto:rhume@vah.com) by 3 p.m. on June 1. Please limit your email to 200 words and if your question relates to a specific Agenda item, please note that in the email. Emails will be read at the meeting.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. ROLL CALL**

President Hayes and the following Trustees were present: Grasse, LaBedz, Schwingbeck, Baldino, Bertucci, Scaletta and Tinaglia. Trustee Canty was not present at the start of the meeting but joined while it was in progress.

Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Tom Kuehne, Mary Ellen Juarez, Jorge Torres, Nick Pecora and Becky Hume.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Departmental Status Report - Finance

Mr. Kuehne described the scope of services the Finance Department provides to its internal, external and in-person customers. He said the Department is

monitoring the collection of internet sales taxes. It is expected that the Village will see a decline in Use taxes, but hopefully an increase in regular sales and Home-Rule sales taxes.

The Village is recovering from the financial affects of Covid-19 more quickly than what was anticipated. Mr. Kuehne is monitoring the revenues and continues to look for ways to reduce costs.

Looking ahead, the implementation of the new ERP system will be an important focus. Mr. Kuehne is also studying a potential Streaming Tax. The Cable Franchise tax number has decreased as more people switch to streaming services. Also up for review is the price of vehicle stickers. Mr. Kuehne intends do develop a long-term financial plan for the American Rescue Plan Act stimulus funds, half of which have been received. The Public Building Fund will be closed and some of the monies will be transferred to the A&E Fund as a bridge to build a firm foundation for that fund.

President Hayes said he heard the legislature is not supporting a cut to LGDF funds in the adopted budget.

Trustee Baldino asked if the ERP implementation will require staff to alter some processes. Mr. Kuehne said anytime there is new software, there are new ways to do the same thing. He is anticipating improvements and hopes the software will be more off-the-shelf to reduce problems with future updates. Right now, our processes are very paper heavy. Ms. Juarez said the changes in process will be welcome as more electronic signatures, approvals and reviews will be available. There will be one data base for all departments to view. The changes will be technical versus strategic.

Trustee Bertucci asked what effect rising interest rates will have. Mr. Kuehne said costs will increase. Interest rates are in the tank and we are not making any interest income which hurts. The stock market is over-valued right now. Mr. Kuehne doesn't want to make up a lack of revenue in pensions with property tax increases. He targets inflation at 3% for planning purposes.

Trustee LaBedz asked how a streaming tax would work. Mr. Kuehne said the fees would have to go through providers like Xfinity. Notices to the streaming providers would be created to alert them to the tax. Chicago and Evanston have implemented it and we are paying attention, as it could mean raising significant revenue that we are losing on the cable side. Mr. Kuehne hopes we don't have to do it this year, but we may need it for next year.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked about fees for credit card payments. Mr. Kuehne said right now, it is the cost of doing business, but we are tracking card fees to understand the impact.

Melissa Cayer said the municipal tax on electricity might cover the streaming use, because the streaming uses electricity. Mr. Kuehne said those are two separate charges, one is a charge on the usage, a streaming tax would be an

Amusement Tax. They are classified differently in municipal accounting.

Mr. Recklaus said the Board has made a lot of good conservative decisions over the years. Mr. Kuehne always has different plans that are ready to go. Last year was scary, and a lot of rabbits were pulled out of hats. Contingencies are always swimming around in Mr. Kuehne's head and he is one of the reasons the Village is successful financially.

B. Departmental Status Report - Building & Life Safety

Mr. Torres summarized the accomplishments of the Department in 2020-2021. Key were adding an electronic permit submittal process, updating the Building Codes, creating a centralized electronic records depository and adding targeted communications for customers. In addition to requiring pre-construction meetings for new projects, the Department also created its first How-to Application Video. Other videos will be created to assist residents with their various application submissions. Quarterly Stakeholder Meetings and project surveys are being conducted to get feedback on the Village's processes and experience.

Mr. Torres reorganized the Department in order to allow for flexibility in deploying staff for inspections. A plan reviewer and summer intern are being added to the Department to address bottlenecks in data entry and project reviews.

Looking forward, Mr. Torres is investigating the use of remote inspections for simple installations. He is also conducting a fee evaluation.

President Hayes acknowledged the challenge of starting during Covid and liked the changes and adaptations.

Trustee Scaletta said he appreciated what has been accomplished in a short amount of time. He liked the future goals, the way Mr. Torres evaluated the Department, and that he is earning the trust of the employees.

Trustee Tinaglia asked how the Board can improve attendance at the town hall meetings. Mr. Torres said he sent 260 invitations. After the session, he responded with the answers to the entire group, not just the attendees, so they can see that results happen in these meetings. He said he will continue to reach out. Inspectors are told to remind users of the stakeholder meeting and carry a flyer with them. Trustee Tinaglia said some users don't know it exists. He said communication is everything. He said the problem with the survey monkey, is the fear of retribution. There is a perception if something negative is said, the inspector will haunt the responder down the road. Trustee Tinaglia told Mr. Torres to speak up if he needs something to make the Department better/stronger, speak up.

Mr. Torres said he hoped to build trust with the contractors and over time it will come.

Trustee Baldino asked how the preconstruction meetings have been perceived. Mr. Torres said there was some initial hesitation, but it is going well. The addition of the meetings doesn't hold up permitting, and they typically take 15-25 minutes. Meetings can be held on the phone from the job site. The meetings help to manage expectations. Many questions are cleared up in the beginning and this staves off future problems.

Melissa Cayer asked if building permits could be viewable to the public without a FOIA request. Mr. Recklaus said we don't want everyone to know what is going on in peoples houses. Some of the materials are proprietary, like architect plans and things like that. The Village needs to protect the privacy of its residents. We provide what we have to according to FOIA.

Mr. Recklaus said Mr. Torres is fearless and has gained the employees' trust. The outreach has been great and he is building strong bridges with other departments already.

### C. Departmental Status Report - Police

Chief Pecora described the reallocation of staff resources which included adding a school resource officer and a job reclassification to create an Administrative Service Officer position. Also changed was adding an analyst/grant writer instead of an administrative assistant. Performance data graphs were presented which showed the lowest number of sworn personnel per 1,000 residents in the Northwest Suburbs. Covid affected the kinds of calls for service, traffic numbers, and arrests. Chief Pecora said he was especially proud of the steady decline of crashes at major intersections.

Improved technologies have been implemented which has drastically improving parking and traffic enforcement. Computer aided dispatch and records management systems were updated and consolidated with the Northwest Dispatch System. DACRA was implemented so squad cars have a driver's license scanner and a thermal printer. Tickets can be produced in 30 seconds, are accurate and legible. Records management is vastly improved under this system.

CARE, the community addiction and recovery program, was launched to tackle the opioid crisis. AHPD works with community partners who identify at risk individuals. This program provides Narcan to the Village along with access to trained professionals for those at risk. State funding for CARE expires June 30<sup>th</sup> and the hope is that funding will be part of the future budget.

CALEA accreditation is being pursued and the results will be announced in November.

The next recruitment exam will occur in November after which a two-year eligibility list will be developed. The Department is trying to connect to minority candidates and is working with Harper College to develop interest in policing. Police recruitment is a challenge because of the current National

climate. The Village plans to cast a net as wide and as far as we can to get the best candidates.

President Hayes credited the Department for keeping the peace in midst of pandemic and unrest. He noted the respect residents have for the community and for the Police Department.

Trustee Canty asked how the Department decided where to place School Resource Officers. Chief Pecora said the schools ask and apply for the officers. They fund the salary; the Village funds the benefits. Trustee Canty asked if the Village will change how it trains officers considering the new legislation. Chief Pecora said de-escalation is at the forefront of training. He said the Department forgoes the tools on belt and uses the brain. That is the benefit of virtual training and why it is so important. We train how to properly engage, and walk hand in hand out of the situation instead of using force. Trustee Canty said this is an opportunity to highlight how the Village is different. She offered to help promote the Department and its philosophy.

Trustee Tinaglia recalled the incident last year on Palatine Road, and how de-escalation worked for Mr. Jasper. What could have been a tragedy, turned into a highlight of best practices. Trustee Tinaglia expressed concern about the reduced applicant pool and supported casting a wide net.

Trustee LaBedz asked if the campaign promoting the locking of cars helped reduce the number of car thefts. Mr. Pecora said there is no way to measure, but there has not been any motor vehicle theft of late. She suggested reinvigorating the "See Something-Say Something Specific" campaign.

Trustee Bertucci asked how Alfresco was going. Chief Pecora said the day-shift walks through at lunch hour. As far as riding bikes and walking dogs, there are signs asking for compliance, but it is not illegal to ride a bike or walk a dog down the street. No tickets can be issued. There have been some juvenile nuisance issues in the parking garage. Patrols have been asked to pay attention to the Alfresco area and the increased nuisances in garages. Officers are present at 10:30 at night and at 2:00 a.m. to make sure it is quiet and cleared out.

Trustee Scaletta suggested conducting a Zoom for Citizens Police Academy graduates to update them on the legislative changes to policing.

Melissa Cayer asked if the Village Board approved grant applications. Mr. Recklaus said no, but the Board is made aware of grants that are awarded. Ms. Cayer hoped the information given away is worth the award.

Keith Moens asked if the budget could be switched to have more Community Services. He asked if there was a way to parse out what part of the budget goes to Community Services. Mr. Recklaus said all of the officers are trained in de-escalation. In the Chief's budget, line items can be moved around. If Chief Pecora felt more funding was needed in the area, he would ask for it.

Chief Pecora said there is roughly \$20,000 linked to Community Services, but this is for giveaways. Most mental illness responses are handled by patrol officers, who are trained to handle these types of situations.

Mr. Recklaus said it has been a difficult time to be in law enforcement. Chief Pecora is always matter of fact and moves forward with a confident and calm demeanor.

## **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Scaletta moved to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Trustee Tinaglia seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Becky Hume  
Village Clerk