

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
BOARD ROOM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Thomas Hayes, Trustees Baldino, Bertucci, Dunnington, Grasse, LaBedz, Schwingbeck & Shirley

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Recklaus, D. Mikula, T. Kuehne, M. Juarez, K. Baumgartner, M. Mattio, K. Livingston, J. McCalister, J. Torres, N. Pecora and Various Department Support Staff

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Galla & Mike Driskell, from the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and Steve Daday, David Victor, & Branden Ragan, various Metropolis Theater staff and Board Members

SUBJECTS:

- A. Arlington Heights Memorial Library Budget Review
 - B. Performing Arts at Metropolis Theater Budget Review
 - C. Village Budget Overview for 2024 – Randy Recklaus/Tom Kuehne
 - D. Village Budget – Questions from the Village Board
 - E. Review of Department Budgets
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President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Arlington Heights Memorial Library Budget Review

Ms. Sarah Galla, Treasurer of the Library began by stating that in May, 2023 the Library Board approved its 3-year strategic plan focusing on three goals. The first, to strengthen the Library's services outside its walls; second, grow the use of our services and resources; and third, to enhance the library's role in the everyday lives of the Arlington Heights community. These goals were used as guidance to prepare the 2024 budget. Capital projects in 2024 include interior renovations to update restrooms on the 2nd floor and the kid's world, and replacement of the library truck and van. Other expenditures include consulting fees for a new bookmobile, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility training, ADA-compliant furniture, door closures, signage, and a new engineering assessment.

The Library enjoys intergovernmental partnerships with the Arlington Heights Park District and the Village. These partnerships allow residents increased accessibility to the library, enjoyment of many festivals and events to spread awareness and gain access to programs and services, and a potential development of a parking lot between the Makerspace and the Recreation Park Facilities. The Library continues to seek new partnerships with other governmental agencies and organizations within Arlington Heights to maximize efficiency and increase community impact.

Ms. Galla explained that the Library uses two funds to account for its revenues and expenditures. The General Fund accounts for the Library's operations, while the Capital Projects Fund accounts for a variety of capital improvements. She expressed her gratitude to Friends of the Library and the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation for their generous donations. Ms. Galla was happy to report that the Library proposed a 0% increase in the tax levy.

Trustee LaBedz asked how old the bookmobile was, and how far in advance does it have to be ordered with current procurement issues. Mr. Driskell said the book mobile is about 12 years old and is suffering some mechanical issues. They anticipate they will have to order a year in advance and are currently working with a consulting firm to help design the interior and customize options.

Trustee Bertucci reminded the audience that the Library is its own taxing entity and has a Board to oversee its budget. As a prior Library Board member, Trustee Bertucci recalled the bookmobile appearing on the last engineering assessment in regards to its life expectancy. Mr. Driskell said the engineering assessment is done every 5 years to assess the Library's building, grounds and vehicles. He added that they work with a company who maintains and services the bookmobile when needed and can advise on the life expectancy and reliability of the bookmobile.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked how the new bookmobile will be funded. Mr. Driskell said the bookmobile will be funded through the Capital Reserve Fund and they will seek support from the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation to help support the purchase.

Resident Melissa Cayer asked what the Library's relationship is with Amazon. Mr. Driskell said the Library does not have a formal relationship with Amazon, other than purchasing materials through Amazon.

Trustee Bertucci moved, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the Board of Trustees that the Board acknowledge with thanks the proposed budget for the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. The motion passed unanimously.

Performing Arts at Metropolis Theater Budget Review

Mr. Branden Ragan reported that the "Secure Our Future" fundraising campaign is up and running thanks to the support of the Village, large donations from outside supporters, and community and attendee donations. The theater currently has a cash flow of about \$800,000 in both the operational and reserve funds combined. He said that while ticket sales are difficult to project, he was confident the theater would be in a stronger position towards the end of the year based on the trajectory of ticket sales for the remaining events of the year and the ongoing "Secure Our Future" campaign. He mentioned that the Addams Family production was at 84% capacity, and current ticket sale trends for Christmas Carol project about 60-70% capacity. The theater will also try new endeavors by offering Music Man in Concert which has already been casted and will include 65 artists on stage. Mr. Ragan mentioned that the theater offers various ticketing options and pricing to make the theater accessible to all.

Mr. David Victor said the theater retained a consulting firm to provide feedback on their development practices. They initiated the "Secure Our Future" campaign and will suggest new ways to engage and connect with donors in 2024. Mr. Victor was happy to report that subscriptions are up 35% compared to last year, and the School of Performing Arts has seen a

positive trajectory in terms of enrollments. He added that 35,000 tickets were sold last year, and those patrons support local restaurants and shops in the downtown area. While the theater is not where they would like to be, he said they are on the right path to being where they need to be.

President Hayes, Trustee LaBedz, and Trustee Bertucci thanked the Metropolis for all they do and their continued dedication to the arts.

Resident Keith Moens said our public schools utilize tax payer dollars to offer a lot of support to students interested in the performing arts. He requested that the Metropolis Board meetings be open for public attendance and allow residents to give input on how to direct some of the programs.

Village Budget Overview for 2024 – Randy Recklaus/Tom Kuehne

Mr. Recklaus said the proposed 2024 budget being presented is a culmination of a long planning process both operationally and financially. On the operational side, there was a major focus on the implementation of the new ERP software. It has required the review of every process within the Village and has taken staff away from other projects. The redevelopment of the Arlington Park Racetrack site was another major area of focus in 2023. Reassessment of the property by the Cook County Assessor's Office increased the tax burden by 500% creating some hurdles for the initial redevelopment plan. Village staff continue to work with the Chicago Bears, representatives of the local school districts, and Cook County on possible resolutions. The Village engaged in discussion and will continue to monitor the legislative environment as it relates to the project. It is important that the redevelopment of the site is the right fit for the community and that it has a positive financial impact on the Village. The Village has also seen renewed interest in new projects and the redevelopment of vacant sites throughout the community.

As it pertains to the finances, Metra ridership remains low affecting the Parking Fund. Supply chain issues continue to be problematic in the procurement of fire engines and police vehicles, and the Village has forgone the bidding process for opportunistic shopping to fulfill these needs.

Despite the challenges, Mr. Recklaus said that the Village has maintained a strong financial positions and proposed for the fifth year in a row a 0% increase in the tax levy. He attributed that to an unexpected large surplus which provided tax payers with a \$1.6M tax abatement. In addition, the Village eliminated the sale and use of vehicle stickers and dog tags.

In 2024 the Village will focus on maintaining its robust Capital Improvement plan and core services, optimize the ERP software, focus on staff recovery and reassessment, continue to work with all stakeholders on the redevelopment of the Arlington Park Racetrack site, begin a 3-year plan to increase ambulance services due to elevated EMS demands, and work towards seeing the realization of some long-sought after redevelopment projects. Mr. Recklaus added that the Village will continue to invest in the watermain replacement program, street rehabilitation program, stormwater control program, and the final implementation of the ERP software.

Mr. Kuehne elaborated on the property tax levy. He said the Village has been able to propose a 0% increase because of its good financial planning, established long-range bond debt schedule, contribution into its pensions, and the significant increase in sales and income taxes. In addition, this year the Village had a \$1.6M tax abatement. The 2022 tax bill payable in 2023, showed the Village accounting for 11% of the tax bill. He added that technically the 2023 levy is higher than the actual extended 2022 levy, due to the one-time \$1.6 million tax abatement.

Mr. Kuehne noted a few changes in the 2024 budget book. Last year Trustee Dunnington inquired about the 25% minimum fund balance and asked what the official maximum was. Mr. Kuehne said the Village has been using 40% on an informal basis. Going forward, the maximum General Fund reserve amount will be reflected in the budget book with a disclosure that reads that the Board can transfer any unassigned General Fund balance exceeding 40% to other funds depending on need. In addition, staff reallocated some larger expenditures from "Other Services" line items to new or existing accounts throughout the individual fund budgets.

In regards to revenues, Mr. Kuehne said there was a large decrease in intergovernmental funds due to not being approved for a \$1.9M state grant to help fund the lead service line replacement program, which was previously budgeted. There was also a decrease in the Licenses & Permits revenue due to the elimination of vehicle stickers and dog tags. In regards to transfers-in, the large increase pertains to the upcoming bond issue which will be distributed into the Water & Sewer fund to fund the watermain replacement project, Lead Service Line Replacement which currently does not have a fund source, and the Municipal Parking Fund for capital improvements over the next few years. On the expenditure side, there is a planned distribution of surplus TIF Funds from the Arlington Heights Road & Rand Road TIF. Capital items expenditures decrease in 2024 due to a large encumbrance rollover in 2023 pertaining to supply chain issues. The transfers-out reflect the distribution of the bond issue money to other funds. As it related to General Fund expenditures, Mr. Kuehne noted the significant decrease in "Other Charges." He explained that there was a decrease in the personal property replacement tax the Village received from the state. He also noted that Police and Fire account for 65% of the General Fund expenditures.

In regards to personnel changes, Mr. Recklaus proposed an increase to Village staffing by 1.25 full-time equivalents. This increase would include converting a part-time HR Generalist to full-time, adding a temporary part-time Records Clerk in the Police Department, a new part-time Administrative Assistant in the Building Department, and a new full-time Engineering Inspector in Public Works. In 2023, the Legal Department was eliminated. He mentioned that in 2024, 26% of employees are eligible for retirement and 29% in 2025. In 2023 the Village filled 38 full-time positions.

Mr. Kuehne went on to discuss the different tax revenues. Sales tax increased significantly since the pandemic, however he predicted that any future increases will not be as large as in the prior couple of years. Local Use Tax, which is an internet tax paid to the State and allocated to the Village has remained high. Income tax saw a large increase after the pandemic but has started to level off as has the telecommunications tax.

Mr. Recklaus provided an overview of the Capital Funds. The Water & Sewer Fund will continue its annual investment in the water main replacement program, replace commercial and residential water meters, rehabilitate sewer infrastructure along S. Arlington Heights Road, upgrade and/or replace emergency generators, and invest in the risk and resiliency plan.

In regards to the lead service line replacement project, Mr. Recklaus said the Village is required to remove and replace the public portion of every lead water service line by 2044. The Village's goal is to replace about 100 lead service lines per year. He proposed a \$1.8M investment into the lead service line replacement fund in 2024.

The Capital Projects Fund will continue to provide funding for ongoing street rehabilitation programs, roof replacement at Public Works, and the combined paver brick maintenance and downtown ADA compliance project. Staff will continue to work on the \$18M planned bond issue.

Revenues into the Municipal Parking Fund continue to be a challenge. In 2024 it is projected that revenues are 70% of pre-pandemic levels. In an effort to support the fund for ongoing maintenance expenditures, it received surplus money from the General Fund in 2022, and in 2024 it will receive a \$2M contribution from the Capital Projects Fund, and the internal service charge will be eliminated.

Mr. Recklaus concluded by highlighting a few notable budget changes in 2024, including the complete implementation and optimization of the new ERP software, the start of a 3-year process to provide more EMS services, the addition of 1.25 full-time equivalent employees, continued work on all major redevelopment projects, and the 0% proposed increase in the property tax levy.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked Mr. Kuehne to explain why some residents may experience an increase in their property tax bill regardless of the 0% increase in the property tax levy proposed by the Village and Library. Mr. Kuehne said the Village accounts for 11-12% of the total property tax bill. The remainder is allocated to schools, the county and other taxing bodies with schools receiving the largest portion of property taxes. Other factors that can increase a resident's property tax bill include an addition to their home, property sales in their area which affect property values, and lower commercial property taxes leave homeowners with a larger burden.

Trustee Bertucci asked if the upcoming bond issue can be refinanced as current interest rates are high. Mr. Kuehne said that the bond issue can be refinanced if interest rates decrease. Trustee Bertucci mentioned that the Metra schedule changed during the pandemic and may revert back in 2024. He asked if the Municipal Parking Fund could experience higher revenues once the schedule begins to offer more express trains. Mr. Recklaus anticipated a positive impact to the Parking Fund if the Metra schedule changes to better serve the community's needs. President Hayes said the train schedule will not change much and added that Arlington Heights lost some express train services into the city due to re-zoning. Trustee LaBedz mentioned that the monthly commuter pass is decreasing from \$195 to \$110 making commuting more attractive and hopefully resulting in increased ridership and commuter lot usage.

Trustee Shirley asked for clarification on how the school tax-cap works. His understanding is that school's tax the highest amount allowed, regardless of their needs to build up their reserves. Mr. Kuehne said his understanding was correct and they do so to offset years when inflation is higher than the amount they are allowed to tax.

Review of Department Budgets – Department Representatives

Board of Trustees

Ms. Mikula said 2023 was a year of many accomplishments despite some staff turnover. The July goal setting session resulted in nine strategic priorities. The top three goals are the redevelopment of the Arlington Racetrack site, continued effort to maintain good financial stewardship of Village resources, and pursue environmentally sustainable programs and business practices within the Village including alternative transportation options such as pedestrian and bicycle access. In terms of the budget, there is a 3.6% decrease due to not utilizing the dedicated budgeted funds.

Integrated Services

Ms. Mikula said that in 2024 Integrated Services will focus their efforts on the Arlington Racetrack redevelopment project, integration and optimization of the ERP software, research vendors and implement a new agenda management software, and review of community events management. She went on to say that staff is exploring the idea of expanding community events due to their popularity and suggested restructuring the Sounds of Summer concert series. Staff will return to the Board with a proposal to continue to offer 12 concerts, however only offer them on Thursday nights versus the current schedule of Thursday and Friday nights. This would extend the concert series into August. She mentioned that the change would increase the budget by \$3,000 over two years as there would be additional stage delivery, setup, and takedown fees. Staff will also conduct an audit of Village parking lots and garages for best use in a post-pandemic commuter environment and improve the paid parking system.

As it relates to the budget, Ms. Mikula said the 2024 budget is status quo. She mentioned the Legal Division has been decommissioned and the budget was divided amongst other departments.

President Hayes suggested that Village staff consult with the Economic Alliance in regards to the Sounds of Summer Concert Series.

Trustee Bertucci asked about the contractual services in the budget and if they would decrease after the implementation of the ERP software. Mr. Recklaus clarified that the line item pertains to expenditures for the Village Attorney.

Trustee Schwingbeck mentioned that typically the downtown area is very vibrant Thursday to Saturday and recalled the proposal of offering the concerts on Wednesday's and Thursday's to draw people into the downtown on less busy days. Mr. Recklaus said that would be a good discussion point for when Village staff present it to the Board.

Trustee Shirley asked for explanation on in-house communication teams. Ms. Mikula said there has to be better communication and collaboration amongst all Village departments. We are looking to identify a lead from each department and have them serve on a communication internal team. We are looking to create more specific content that the department can showcase to the community. One of the things the Board talked about at the goal-setting session is how do we communicate what we are doing better.

IT

Ms. Mikula highlighted that the IT Division has been very busy with the implementation of the ERP software. They will be conducting the final implementation phase across all departments, migrate data from the Legacy ERP into the new cloud-based system, and will continue to provide support as staff begins to utilize the software. In 2022, the IT helpdesk received 3,246 requests. Upcoming projects include the evaluation and implementation of a new IT security system, enhance the usage of Office 365, and collaborate with other departments on specific IT projects.

The budget is status quo with a small decrease from the prior year primarily due to the ERP drawdown and going live in the first quarter.

Trustee Shirley asked if the camera enhancements in the downtown area is part of the initiative to develop new and creative ways to enhance public safety. Ms. Mikula said it was a bit different and the Police Department would be elaborating on the project.

Human Resources

Ms. Livingston said that in 2024, the HR Department will focus on the well-being of Village employees by prioritizing their safety through specialized training and the launch of a risk reduction program. In addition, results obtained from a Village-wide employee survey will reassess current services and programs in an effort to better serve employees. There will be a continued effort to enhance recruitment outreach, explore training topics for employee career development and professional growth, and increase employee events to boost engagement within the organization.

In regards to the budget, Ms. Livingston proposed an increase of a .5 full-time equivalent to her staff to convert the part-time HR Generalist position to a full-time role. The cost of medical and dental insurance increased by 9.7% in 2024. In an effort to offset a portion of the increase, the Village discontinued the HMO IL Plan and replaced it with Blue Advantage HMO effective January 1, 2024. This change is estimated to save the Village \$266,000. Lastly, the HR budget will absorb legal costs that pertain to personnel legal issues.

President Hayes asked why the number of employees contributing to Mission Square is calculated as a performance measure. Ms. Livingston said that Mission Square is a voluntary option for employees and the Benefits Coordinator uses the open enrollment period to better explain the benefit and encourage employees to participate.

Trustee Shirley asked if the Village required mandatory yearly DEI training and expressed his disagreement with some of the training material as it is controversial and not accurate. Ms. Livingston said that a recording of a prior training session is viewed by all new-hires and current employees on an annual basis. She added that they are researching additional training events to provide for employees.

Trustee LaBedz asked if the purpose of converting the part-time HR Generalist position to full-time was to eliminate the intern position, and inquired about the higher number of days lost due to Worker's Compensation injuries. Ms. Livingston said that was in part the reason, however it was also due to the upcoming retirement of the full-time Administrative Assistant. She attributed the higher number of days lost due to a Worker's Compensation injury to two Public Works employees who suffered more severe injuries. Trustee LaBedz also asked about how the Village is charged for Worker's Compensation claims. Mr. Kuehne said the Village is a member of IRMA and premiums are calculated based on annual revenues. However, he added that the Village is self-insured for the first \$100,000 in expenses.

Trustee Bertucci inquired about the "Other Charges" line item in the budget as it represented over 50% of the budget and increase by 16% from the prior year. He asked if these items can be more detailed in the future. Mr. Baumgartner said it pertained to insurance claims which are classified in the ERP software as other type charges. Most of the charge is for medical insurance and worker's compensation.

Trustee Grasse asked if the Village offered employees an EAP program and expressed her support for continued DEI training. Ms. Livingston said EAP was available to all employees and often offer seminars and webinars.

Trustee Dunnington thanked Ms. Livingston for providing DEI training to all staff as it was one of the Board's strategic priorities for 2024-2025.

Health & Human Services

Mr. McCalister stated that the 2024 Health & Human Services budget is a standard maintenance budget with a 1.7% overall increase in expenditures. He requested an expanded budget in Senior Services for the Senior Center's strategic planning project. In regards to the Solid Waste Fund, he said there was a \$500,000 assessment charge for roof repairs at the SWANCC transfer stations. He mentioned that new accounts were added to reflect expenditures previously classified as "Other Services," and there was an internal transfer of the Taxi Services Subsidy program from Health Services to Senior Services.

Mr. McCalister went on to say that the overall numbers for programs and services have increased post pandemic. In 2024, the department will evaluate a new 501(c)(3) or foundation to replace Arlington Cares and explore the opportunity of expanding the Senior Center café.

President Hayes highlighted the reported number of residents who sought mental health services, and asked what specific mental health services the Village offers. Mr. McCalister said

the Village can pair resident with counseling subsidy programs and Nicole Espinoza who is a licensed clinical social worker can provide an individual with short-term mental health discussion.

Trustee Shirley applauded the initiation and implementation of the Matter of Balance Program and asked for explanation of the mother/baby fourth trimester support group. Mr. McCalister said Michelle Finn, Community Health Nurse provided similar services at her previous employer and suggested the Village begin the program. The program consists of monthly classes offered at the senior center to cover an array of topics related to those first few months as a new mother. The program in collaboration with the Police Department provided a car seat installation event and a future class will focus on music for baby.

Trustee Schwingbeck inquired about the increase in day care and swimming pool and spa inspections. Mr. McCalister said the increase in inspections was related to the pandemic as daycares and pools were closed and they have since started to reopen. The pool and spa inspections include those in condominiums, apartment complexes, hotels, and the Park District.

Trustee Dunnington asked if the contribution provided by Arlington Cares went entirely into the Emergency Assistance Fund or was it distributed amongst other projects, and what other sources contribute towards the Emergency Assistance Fund. Mr. McCalister said that contributions received from Arlington Cares always went into the Emergency Assistance Fund. The fund is also supported by Village contributions and donations.

Trustee Grasse asked what types of requests and assistance is provided by the Emergency Assistance Fund. Mr. McCalister said the number one request is for rent assistance and utilities.

Finance

Ms. Juarez presented on the Finance Department's 2024 key projects. First, the planned \$18M capital bond sale would replace retiring debt and fund the sidewalk and street rehabilitation projects, watermain replacement program, lead service line replacement program, and a transfer into the Municipal Parking Fund. There will also be a 5-year water and sewer rate study which will likely result in increased water rates. The increase would provide funding for scheduled watermain replacements, water tank repainting, and meter replacements. Further, staff will review the credit card policy as it pertains to fee absorption and conduct a survey of comparable municipalities in the surrounding area. Finally, there will be a continued effort to broaden the reach for potential DEI vendors.

In regards to the budget, Ms. Juarez highlighted new accounts were created to recategorize expenditures grouped into "Other Services." She mentioned that while there will be a \$1.4M decrease in revenue due to the elimination of vehicle stickers, there will also be a decrease in expenses related to managing the program. The Finance portion of the Water & Sewer Fund budget will increase by 4.8% to reflect bank service charges and postage for water bill mailings.

Mr. Kuehne highlighted the Arts & Entertainment Fund. He said this fund is more complex as it funds future roof and elevator repairs at the Metropolis. In regards to Arlington Alfresco, he said the revenues received from the Alfresco Food & Beverage Tax were almost equivalent with the

expenditures to host the event. The Village also reinstated the reserve for restricted contribution to Metropolis in the amount of \$50,000 per year.

Trustee Grasse thanked Ms. Juarez for taking the initiative of reviewing the credit card policy as the Village absorbs over \$224,000 per year in fees. Mr. Kuehne said staff looked into it last year and at the time not many communities were passing on the service fee to users. However, the trend in restaurants and other commercial enterprises appears to be shifting to pass the fees onto consumers.

Building & Life Safety

Mr. Torres proposed a 2.5% increase to the Building & Life Safety budget to accommodate a part-time staff member to replace the intern position. In 2024, the department will focus on optimization of their ERP module, EnerGov which allow public to view their permitting process and request inspections online rather than calling to schedule one. Mr. Torres mentioned he is exploring the possibility of initiating a rental housing inspection program and will report to the Board at a later time.

Police

Deputy Chief Czernecki began by highlighting a few decreases in expenditures. He mentioned that the Police Department's contribution to the Northwest Central Dispatch decreased about 9% from \$625,000 to \$570,000 as a result of a budget surplus and the addition of the Village of Barrington. Petroleum products for Police fleet also decreased by 28%. The recategorization of expenditures listed under "Other Services" resulted in the creation of new accounts. As it pertains to grant funding, Deputy Chief Czernecki predicted a decrease in salary for the Victim Services Coordinator position related to employee turnover and longevity changes. In contrast, The Police Department absorbed the Legal Department's fiscal obligation for Village Prosecutor Services, will experience an increase in contractual dues associated with the Northeaster IL Crime Lab, and will have to accommodate a new unfunded mandate which will require agencies to provide annual mental health screening for sworn officer by 3rd party providers. He predicted an increase in annual costs related to technology and software licenses.

In 2024, staff will focus on researching grant opportunities and the fiscal management of grant awards and expenditures, reevaluate law enforcement staffing at special events, and review parking and local ordinance violation fees and fines. There was a minor personnel change with the addition of .5 full-time equivalent, by converting a part-time Records Clerk to full-time. In addition, the grant funding a full-time Crisis Counselor is set to expire in August, 2024. Deputy Chief Czernecki said recruitment continued to be a significant concern and provided that in 2014 the department had a total 589 applicants for the entry level test compared to 2023 which only had 30 applicants that passed the written exam.

President Hayes thanked Deputy Chief Czernecki for clarifying that ordinance violation and parking fees and fines are not revenue producers, rather they are used to deter people from recommitting offense. He went on to say that he recently attended a Counsel of Mayors meeting and several Mayor's from other communities expressed concerns over the increase in traffic

driving through their town and the carelessness of their driving. He asked how the Village can resolve the problem. Deputy Chief Czernecki said it's a combination of education by posting speed limits and other appropriate signage, and enforcement by the Police Department.

Trustee Bertucci mentioned he has seen an increase number of drivers driving on a suspended or revoked license through reports provided to the Board. He inquired why so many fail to appear in court and the reason behind it. Chief Pecora said the accountability has changed over the years. Failure to appear in court has resulted in increased suspended drivers licenses and failure to appear warrants are non-existent as new law states there has to be a detention of eligible offense.

Trustee Schwingbeck asked if the Police Department has done research on speeding cameras, and mentioned the warning sign of a camera placement deters him from speeding in an effort to avoid a citation. Chief Pecora said he looked into it in 2004 when red-light camera became prevalent, however at the time the Board and the Village were not a proponent for them. He went on to say that there is no concrete evidence that red-light cameras prevent accidents and believed that deploying Officers to the streets is more effective. The department can look into it again.

Trustee Dunnington asked if the Crisis Counselor will remain on staff despite not receiving grant funding. Deputy Chief Czernecki said they will reassess the program. Officers have reported that having the Crisis Counselor on staff has been beneficial in deescalating situations and providing services to the community.

Trustee Shirley recalled a discussion had about a grant program funding the installation of license plate readers at the entrance off of I-90 and Arlington Heights Road and asked if they had been installed. Chief Pecora said there are a number of license plate readers strategically placed in gateways throughout the community. However, the Village is waiting for IDOT to grant FLOCK Security with permission to install the ones overlooking IDOT roadways. When they are installed, they will be synced with the real-time information center.

In regards to the unfunded mental health screening mandate for sworn officers, Trustee LaBedz asked if there have been difficulties in finding counselors. Deputy Chief Czernecki said they haven't had difficulties in finding counselors, however they are screening vendors to determine who is the best fit and has an understanding of the unique aspects of law enforcement.

Other Business

Resident Michelle Schoot mentioned she emailed the Board with a list of concerns over the HUD-funded Full Circle Community project. She requested that when the project is presented to the Board, they take into consideration the families residing in the nearby single-family homes. Many residents have expressed safety concerns that should be heard.

Resident Celina Micko expressed concern over safety and property values as it relates to the Full Circle Community project and asked where to find updated information about the project.

President Hayes acknowledge receipt of her email and thanked her for her thought and concerns. He said resident input is heard and factored into any decisions.

Mr. Recklaus said meetings are always posted on the Village website and information is also shared via social media platforms. After meetings, the minutes can also be viewed for detailed information. The Planning Department also has the ability to set up an email blast for updates on high-interest projects.

TRUSTEE BALDINO MOVED, SECONDED BY TRUSTEE LABEDZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:03 P.M.