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**NOTICE OF MEETING  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILMETTE  
Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM  
Village Hall Training Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
1200 Wilmette Ave, Wilmette, Illinois 60091**

***AGENDA***

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of Minutes- August 22, 2017**
- III. **Resident Comments and Questions Concerning the Village's Response to High-Rise Life Safety Questions**
- IV. **Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)**
- V. **Adjournment**

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**MEETING MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017  
6:00 P.M.  
TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL**

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Members Present: Trustee Joel Kurzman, Chair  
Trustee Senta Plunkett  
Trustee Kathy Dodd

Staff Present: Michael Braiman, Assistant Village Manager  
Ben Wozney, Fire Chief  
Rob Brill, Deputy Fire Chief

**I. CALL TO ORDER.**

Trustee Kurzman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Committee Members Trustees Plunkett and Dodd were present. Residents and Property Managers from 1500, 1616 and 1630 Sheridan Road were also present.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Kurzman directed the Committee's attention to the draft minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of August 7, 2017. Trustee Plunkett moved that the Committee approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Dodd. All voted aye. The motion carried.

**III. DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS TO HIGH RISE ORDINANCE #2010-O-10**

Trustee Kurzman introduced the Trustees and Fire Officials and expressed his appreciation to all for attending this meeting for discussion of the timeline related to High Rise Life Safety Ordinance 2010-O-10.

Trustee Kurzman stated that on August 7, 2017 the Public Safety Committee met to discuss amendments to the high-rise life safety timeline. At this meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Village Board that the life safety ordinance be amended to identify milestone dates for implementation, and to extend the completion

deadline by one additional year. The Committee held the meeting under the impression that the impacted condo buildings were informed of the meeting date and invited to attend. Due to a miscommunication between the Village and the buildings' management company, the condo board representatives were not properly informed of the meeting. To ensure a transparent and open process, the Public Safety Committee scheduled a second meeting for August 22, 2017 at 6:00pm to reconsider their recommendation and provide an opportunity for the impacted parties to address the Committee.

Trustee Kurzman stated that the intention of tonight's meeting was not to re-legislate whether or not to have a life safety ordinance. This meeting is to discuss whether the implementation timeline should be extended by one year.

Chief Wozney summarized the current ordinance approved in 2010 which requires the buildings at 1500, 1616, and 1630 Sheridan Road, which are all over 75' at the highest occupied floor, to install sprinkler systems or comply with an approved life safety plan by December 31, 2020. Each of the buildings has elected to pursue the life safety plan which requires sprinklers in the common and hazard areas as well as audible fire alarms in each dwelling unit. To date, none of the three buildings have complied with the requirements. The Fire Department has worked closely with the impacted buildings since 2010 in an effort to reach compliance within a reasonable timeframe given the cost and logistics involved. Given the lack of progress to date, the Village is recommending an extension of the implementation deadline in order to achieve full compliance by the end of 2021. The revised timeline, with specific milestone dates, is as follows:

- January 1, 2018: Begin installing fire alarm speakers and sprinkler systems
- December 31, 2018: Each unit shall have at least one speaker installed in a common area (living room) of the unit
- December 31, 2019: Units for which the common area speaker does not provide sufficient decibels in the bedrooms will be required to install an additional speaker(s) in the bedroom(s)
- December 31, 2021: Complete installation of all fire alarm speakers, sprinklers and other applicable life safety work

Trustee Kurzman opened the floor to comment from the public.

Lynn Seebocker, 1630 Sheridan #4M (Board President), thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Seebocker stated that the building has been planning for compliance (upwards of \$50,000 in study and consultant fees). The building recently selected a vendor to replace the alarm panel and other alarm work will begin in 2018. The estimated cost will be \$500,000 - \$600,000 for two alarm portions of the ordinance. Ms. Seebocker stated she is not aware of any buildings built prior to 1975 in the State or Country which have been required to retrofit their buildings. The cost for the sprinkler

work is estimated to be \$1-1.5 million plus an additional \$300,000 for soffits (\$15,000 per homeowner). The building is requesting the Committee reconsider and review the necessity of the installation of sprinklers in the common areas.

John Jansson, 1630 Sheridan #6D, asked what is the source of the requirements at the State level and what is the enforcement process? Mr. Jansson also asked what is the legal penalty if the Code is not strictly followed?

Gayle Shorr, 1500 Sheridan #1B, asked if sprinklers are necessary in the common areas if there are fire alarms and notifications installed. Chief Wozney answered yes the sprinklers would be necessary in the common areas. Ms. Shore asked if the buildings have the authority to decide where the alarms will be installed in the units. Chief Wozney responded that the units can install the alarms wherever they like as long as the decibel level at pillow height reaches 70 decibels. Ms. Shorr asked in the history of where fires have started, are they more likely to start in an apartment or common area? Is it easier or more economical to tie in unit smoke detectors to the alarm system?

Susie Shaw Hammesfahr, 1616 Sheridan Rd., asked how the Village chose this requirement at this height level since Chicago is at 80 feet. What risk analysis was done on this?

Andy MacLeod, 1630 Sheridan #4K, stated that the problem for the building relates to the sprinklers and based on his research he believes there are exceptions that can be made. Mr. MacLeod stated that if everything is OK for buildings nine stories or below, can you install a sprinkler system that only covers the 10<sup>th</sup> floor?

Rob Hammesfahr, 1616 Sheridan, stated that if the units are not sprinkled, does it matter if there are sprinklers in the hallways? Mr. Hammesfahr asked the Board to reconsider the sprinkler requirement.

Richard Schroeder, 1630 Sheridan, asked the Fire Chief to characterize the nature of the buildings that complied in Park Ridge and why certain components of the life safety plans are required if they are not specifically in the Code?

Linda Pedian, 1500 Sheridan, stated that she did not realize that a fire truck is too heavy to drive on the driveway at 1500 Sheridan Road. Ms. Pedian stated there is concern whether they are spending dollars to be safer and is this the right solution, or is the biggest safety issue not being able to drive a fire truck onto the driveway? Ms. Pedian stated that a one year extension does provide more dialogue, investigation and improvements on wireless alarms

The Committee requested that Village Staff review the questions submitted by residents and provide written responses. The Committee also invited residents to submit additional questions to the Staff.

The Committee discussed the proposed ordinance to extend the implementation deadline by one year to December 31, 2021. There was consensus that such an extension was appropriate.

Trustee Dodd moved to extend the current timeline for implementation of the high rise life safety requirements by one year, seconded by Trustee Plunkett. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Trustee Kurzman stated that another Public Safety Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Village Staff's response to resident questions. The ordinance extending the implementation timeline will be placed on a future Village Board agenda for formal approval.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no additional public comment.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Plunkett moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm, seconded by Trustee Dodd. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Braiman  
Assistant Village Manager