



1200 WILMETTE AVENUE  
 WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILMETTE, ILLINOIS, BROADCAST ONLY (VILLAGE HALL CLOSED DUE TO THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT’S DELCARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER) ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 7 P.M.**

President Bielinski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**1.0 ROLL CALL**

President: Bob Bielinski

Trustees: Peter Barrow  
 Kathy Dodd  
 Joel Kurzman  
 Gina Kennedy

Absent: Daniel Sullivan  
 Senta Plunkett

Staff Present: Michael Braiman, Village Manager  
 Erik Hallgren, Assistant Village Manager  
 Jeffrey Stein, Assistant Village Manager/Corporation Counsel  
 Melinda Molloy, Finance Director  
 Brigitte Berger-Raish, Engineering & Public Works Director  
 Peter Skiles, Administrative Services Director  
 Lynn Jarog, Assistant Finance Director  
 Alexander Arteaga, Management Analyst

President Bielinski explained the Village Board meeting was being broadcast live via the use of Microsoft Teams in order to comply with the shelter in place order issued by Governor JB Pritzker.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were five public comments received via email. Management Analyst Alex Arteaga read them aloud:

Barbara Szokarski said while she appreciates that masks are useful in indoor

venues; she would like to see some of the restrictions lifted to allow residents to take responsibility for their own safety. She also said she would like the Wilmette Park District to consider re-opening some public parks/spaces and for the Village of Wilmette to allow local businesses to re-open, including restaurants, especially those with outdoor seating.

Dr. Roberto Mazza urged fellow Wilmette residents to dispose of used gloves and masks into the proper waste bins.

Jay Schwartz said he believes that Governor JB Pritzker has usurped his 28-day authority by passing the “Restore Illinois” five-stage plan for re-opening the state. He asked the Village of Wilmette not to abide by the rules set forth in the plan and to let Wilmette residents use their own common sense to conduct their lives.

Jasmine Hauser said it’s heartbreaking to watch businesses die because of the shutdown of the economy. She said Wilmette can re-open safely by maintaining social distancing washing hands and using disinfectant and sanitizer at venues.

Mark Weyermuller requested the Village Board re-open Wilmette May 13 with mitigation, social distancing and masks. He also said he would like the Board to freeze spending, borrowing, capital plans and to lower the tax levy.

There was one comment on YouTube Live which stated the person had emailed the [publiccomment@wilmette.com](mailto:publiccomment@wilmette.com) address, but there was no name to identify which email they were referring to.

### **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Dodd moved approval of items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 3.1** Approval of minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on April 28, 2020.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3.2** Approval of the April 2020 Disbursement Report.

- 3.3** Approval of an engagement with Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP (Katten) for bond and disclosure counsel services for an initial contract term of three (3) years starting in 2020, with an option for two (2) additional one-year terms.

#### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3.4** Adoption of Resolution #2020-R-29 extending the Declaration of Emergency affecting the public health and wellbeing due to the outbreak of COVID-19 Virus.
- 3.5** Approval of Economic Relief Grant Expenditures.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3.6** Approval of a contract in the amount not-to-exceed \$45,263.04 with R. A. Adams Enterprises, Inc., McHenry, Illinois, for outfitting five-pick-up trucks with a snow plow, cab guard and power liftgate.

Trustee Barrow seconded the motion. Voting yes: Trustees Barrow, Dodd, Kurzman, Kennedy and President Bielinski. Voting no: none. The motion carried.

## **4.0 REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

- 4.1** Report from Corporation Counsel regarding remote meetings of the Village Board during the Governor's Executive Order Declaring an Emergency.

Corporation Counsel Jeffrey Stein gave an explanation on conducting remote meetings of the Village Board during the Governor's Executive Order declaring an emergency. He said that the Governor's Executive Orders and the Attorney General's recommendations suspended the requirement to maintain a physical presence at public meetings, which allowed for the Board to conduct their meetings remotely using video software. The use of these remote meetings was also approved in the Village President's emergency declaration.

He said the Village Board is the sole arbiter of what is considered necessary in regard to what meetings need to take place remotely and what agenda items are to be considered. Mr. Stein said agenda items should be things that are necessary and have immediate need. He said that if the majority of the Board did not agree with an item, a motion to table would be warranted.

Trustee Dodd asked if the Zoning Board of Appeals would be considered necessary. Mr. Stein said they are currently working on getting a plan together for the Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Appearance Review Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission to conduct meetings remotely. He said those are delayed because they require public hearings, which are different than public comment in that they are more interactive and there is a cross-examination component. He said staff has just configured a way to technologically accomplish this, and he has been working with Community Development Director John Adler and Assistant Community Development Director Lisa Roberts to establish the applicants that would need a hearing and to review the new public hearing rules. He said the meetings could begin as soon as June or July.

Trustee Barrow asked if the Boards and Commissions have the same degree of discretion for matters coming before them and can they choose to hear or not hear a matter based on the importance. Mr. Stein said that first the resumption of meetings would need to be approved by the Village Board and then each Board or Commission would be responsible for

determining their own agenda. He said there would be a guidance component of what is necessary that would come from the Village Board.

President Bielinski said the Village of Wilmette is a service organization. In addition to the obvious services of police, fire and public works, the administrative work that is done is also a service, including the work of the Boards and Commissions. He said Governor Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan includes social distancing and limiting the size of gatherings for the foreseeable future, so remote meetings may be conducted for some time. He said he believes Village business needs to be conducted and that the agenda is published on the same schedule as always and opportunities for the public to participate have been offered and utilized. He said that the technology to allow for telephone comments is being developed for more interactive participation, especially for the zoning and planning cases. He went on to say that it may be easier for the public to participate in the remote meetings than in person because no physical presence is required. President Bielinski said that if there is an issue that is brand new, may be controversial or of interest to a significant portion of the public, the Board will be very careful with the approach. However, he said he feels that it's important for Village government to continue working and providing service to the extent possible during the crisis. He said staff deserves recognition for persevering through the crisis to provide public safety and public works services amid the pandemic. He said the Village is still accepting permits, and last month's permit activity shows quite a bit of activity. He said if Trustees have concerns about items on future agendas, they may reach out to either himself or Village Manager Mike Braiman. He closed by saying that it's up to the Village Board to determine the validity of agenda items and that there is always the option to table an item in question. He said the Village is following the Executive Orders and will amend its own declaration as necessary to allow for future meetings to be held for Boards and Commissions.

There was no report from Village Manager Mike Braiman.

## **5.0 REPORT OF LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSIONER**

No report.

## **6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **6.1 LAND USE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

### **6.2 FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

All items listed on the Consent Agenda.

### **6.3 ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

All items listed on the Consent Agenda.

**6.4 MUNICIPAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

All items listed on the Consent Agenda.

**6.5 PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

**6.6 JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

**6.7 REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

No reports.

**7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Dodd moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Trustee Kennedy. Voting yes: Trustees Barrow, Dodd, Kurzman, Kennedy and President Bielinski. Voting no: none. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Norwood  
Deputy Village Clerk