

**VILLAGE OF MIDLOTHIAN
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2019**

Village Clerk Moskal and the Board of Trustees met in the Council Chambers at the Village of Midlothian on June 12, 2019. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor L'Heureux, Village Clerk Moskal, Trustees Caveney, Crowley, Gillis, Ivan and Kreis, Attorney Valadez, Chief Delaney, Chief Hotwagner, Superintendent Weinert, Superintendent Sparrey, Treasurer Britton, Engineer Nagle and Deputy Clerk Kolacki. Trustee Killelea arrived at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR FALLEN VETERANS

Trustee Kreis was saddened to advise that Midlothian has lost a World War II Veteran this week. Bob Bell passed away on June 6, 2019 at the age of 94 years old. He served in the US Army Air Corps. He was part of our honor flight to Washington DC in 2010. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

PRESENTATION

Police Award Presentation - Officer Zach Blanchard – Chief Delaney presented the Life Saving Award for Officer Blanchard's heroic actions. On May 31, 2019 Officer Blanchard was on routine patrol and was flagged down by a citizen to assist an elderly man that was choking. Officer Blanchard performed the Heimlich maneuver and was able to save his life.

Veteran's Committee Volunteer Award - John Wodarski - Dave Twombly presented to John Wodarski an award for his years of service as our volunteer photographer. He was also presented with Don Dalton's book of our Veterans of World War II.

Keep Midlothian Beautiful Award - Debra Latham – Helen Lekavich presented to Debra Latham the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Award for her random acts of beautification and in beautifying our community.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONS & LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

- **Jean Bartecki** – Keep Midlothian Beautiful, Beautification Committee, Safety Committee, Friends of the Library
- **Dave Twombly** – Veteran's Committee and American Legion 691
- **George Doeden** – Veterans' Committee, American Legion 691, VFW Post 2580
- **Helmut Lipp** – Technology Committee
- **Helen Lekavich** – Keep Midlothian Beautiful, Natalie Creek Steering Committee
- **Theda Reed** – Keep Midlothian Beautiful, Natalie Creek Steering Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Bartecki – The Beautification Committee's goal was to continue the Flower Box Program throughout the business district. She was pleased with business participation and advised that there were 15 new boxes

made this year. She thanked Public Works for their assistance in dropping off the materials and then relocating the finished boxes to new locations, Joe Sparrey and Carl Ivan for contacting Roy's Landscaping to provide flowers, dirt and watering of the flowers, Kathy Caveney for sending out the letters to the businesses for their participation, to individuals and businesses that made monetary donations, to Maggie for her services in keeping records and providing forms which allowed the Committee to balance their budget, Don Killelea for his donation of the plaques that will be displayed on all flower boxes, to Mike, the Flowerbox King, for spending time building and repairing the flower boxes and getting them out and also Bob for helping in the placement and monitoring of the flower boxes. There is now a total of 34 flower boxes throughout the business district. The Garden Walk will be on July 14th and they are looking for local gardeners that would like to participate. Forms are available for participants at the Village Hall and the cost will be \$8. With regard to the Safety Committee, she asked for the status of the bus stop on 147th and Lawndale. Mayor L'Heureux advised that he spoke with Bruce, who works with the company that takes care of the bus shelters, and he advised that he heard from the electrician and the power has been disconnected. He is hoping to have the bus shelter removed by the end of the week.

Theda Reed – She questioned why she has to pay a garbage fee for an empty apartment and noted that she does not use the garbage. Mayor L'Heureux explained that the garbage fee is a lump sum that the Village pays for from the carrier, Republic, and the fee covers everyone's garbage. The contract is based on a certain number of households and the Village pays the fee whether they use it or not. The garbage fee is also part of the water bill.

Dave Twombly – He commented on the lack of participation on the Veterans Committee and that they do not have enough members to even have a meeting. They are asking individuals to consider being a member of this committee for the Veterans. The members do not have to be residents or even a veteran. He has requested participation on social media and word of mouth. The Veterans Committee meets on Tuesdays once a month. We need to honor our veterans.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor L'Heureux read the items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Ordinance #2029 Authorizing Disposal of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Midlothian
2. Approval to Award the Contract for the 2019 Roadway Resurfacing Program to the Lowest Bidder, Iroquois Paving Corp. in the Amount of \$444,770.15.
- ~~3. Approval of Non-Union Benefits Policy~~
4. Approval to Extend Offer of Employment to a Part-Time Firefighter/Paramedic Candidate
5. Approval to Create a \$500 Independence Day Parade Budget
6. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2019
7. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2019
8. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2019
9. Approval of Special Board Meeting for April 23, 2019
10. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2019
11. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2019
12. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2019
13. Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2019
14. Approval of List of Bills

Trustee Killelea asked that Item #3 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Trustee Kreis asked that the annual dues check for Keep America Beautiful of \$110 be removed from the List of Bills since it is an annual fee and is not due until 2020.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda without Item #3 and amending the List of Bills to remove the Keep America Beautiful check in the amount of \$110 was made by Trustee Ivan and seconded by Trustee Gillis.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Ivan, Gillis, Crowley, Killelea and Kreis. Nays: Trustee Caveney. Motion carried.

- Motion to approve the Non-Union Benefits Policy was made by Trustee Caveney and seconded by Trustee Ivan.

Discussion: Trustee Gillis did not agree with 6B. He believed that Qualified Retirees hired on or after 6-1-2019, and not yet eligible for Medicare, may not participate in the same Medical and Dental Plans identified in paragraph 2 and we should remove 6B(1) and 6B(2) and keep 6B(3). Trustee Caveney commented that it was suggested a year ago at the Finance Committee by Trustees Kreis and Killelea that we needed to do cost containment and should limit current employee's medical insurance. The Village would pay the 80/20 split but would be limited to the HMO plan. If they wanted a higher plan, they could choose the plan but would have to pay the difference. Trustee Caveney then drafted a Policy in February. Trustee Crowley was concerned about employees in Police and Fire that were promoted and would then come out of the union to take on command positions and would not be eligible to have retiree insurance. Trustee Gillis thought this could be something they would negotiate. Trustee Caveney believed that if Police and Fire could negotiate, it was not fair for the Village to eliminate retiree insurance for employees and that is why she drafted Paragraph 6B. This paragraph is for retiree insurance for new employees hired after June 1st under age 65 years and do not qualify for Medicare, and instead of having an 80/20 split like current retirees would receive, their split would be 60/40 and would be the same for the dental plan. Trustee Kreis had reviewed our Audits. The Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) annual cost to the Village in 2015 was \$856,821 which included contributions of \$315,714 and the balance that the Village pays of \$541,107. In 2017 the annual OPEB cost to the Village was \$932,539, contributions from the retirees were \$362,623 and the balance that the Village paid was \$569,916. The net OPEB obligation at the end of 2017 is over \$4.4 million and the OPEB obligations grow each year. Trustee Caveney noted that it affects new employees who are non-union employees and there is a very small amount of our employees not under union contracts. Trustee Killelea thought we were not doing a good job if we pass the Plan in its current form since we are writing a blank check for the benefits and will not know what they will be. We will be adding potential costs and in twenty years when they would start collecting benefits, our costs could be over \$1 million per year. Although attracting employees is a concern, we could increase their wages to attract quality employees or we can revise our retiree employee benefit policy. Trustee Caveney commented that we can pass the Policy now and if it changes in the next five years, it can be revised again and could be revised to do further cost containment that is effective five years down the road. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Caveney, Ivan, Crowley, Killelea, Kreis and Mayor L'Heureux. Nays: Trustee Gillis, Killelea and Kreis. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Trustee Kreis reported on the following:

- The Natalie Creek Steering Committee Meeting is on Thursday, June 20th at 11:00 a.m.

- The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Board/Steering Committee Meeting is on Thursday, June 20th at 12:00 p.m. The July meeting will be later in the day to attract more stakeholders.
- The Village will be hosting the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at the Rain Ready Community Garden tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. She thanked all volunteers and Public Works for their efforts in the cleanup of the Rain Ready Garden.
- Trustee Caveney asked if Trustee Kreis had a status on the vendor contract for the Rain Ready parking lot. Trustee Kreis advised that Superintendent Sparrey is attending a preconstruction meeting next week. The contract was fully executed, and a bond was also included.

FINANCE

Trustee Ivan reported on the following:

- He thanked the Beautification Committee for their team effort with the flower boxes, which are growing beautifully.
- Regarding the Village sticker renewals, the Post Office has not found the missing renewals that were not delivered. We will be ordering post cards to be delivered to every resident informing them to purchase the vehicle stickers and pet stickers. We will also be posting the message outside the Village Hall, Grills Hardware, church bulletins at St. Chris and St. Stephens, the library and we will be purchasing signs for the high traffic intersections. Trustee Caveney asked if the Post Office would be reimbursing the Village for the mail that was lost. Treasurer Britton advised that the Postmaster still believes they will find the renewals. Trustee Caveney noted that this was time sensitive data and they should be doing something for the Village. It was suggested that a letter be written to the Postmaster and possibly our Senator or Congressmen. Unfortunately, we are unsure how many households did not receive the renewals. Attorney Valadez suggested getting a plan together regarding citations issued and address any relief through the administrative process since the Hearing Officer will not accept it as an excuse unless the Board has a policy in place. Mayor L'Heureux advised that Chief Delaney has been notified of the problem and the officers will be notified not to write the tickets. The residents will receive an extension to the middle of July. Trustee Crowley commented that the database definitely needs to be cleaned up since much of the information in the database is incorrect, which she found out about when purchasing her vehicle stickers.
- The possible issue date of the Bonds is scheduled for late July and will be discussed with the underwriter, the bond counsel and the Village Treasurer. The Treasurer will be working with Ice Miller to update the Village's official statement.
- Treasurer Britton has received revisions to the Budget and will decrease projected expenditures. We will also be receiving some additional revenue sources per the IML. This will be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting on June 18th.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Gillis reported on the following:

- He reminded the Board of the urgency to hire a Fire and Police Commission secretary. Trustee Crowley advised that Chief Delaney is reviewing the applications and our projection to begin the interviews will be the end of July. She suggested to get assistance by the Fire Department secretary since she knows how to do the fire testing for the interim as everything will take time. He reminded the Board that the Firefighter/Paramedic List will expire on Monday and the testing for Lieutenants and Engineers are also behind.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Trustee Caveney reported on the following:

- The American Tower Lease Amendment was attached to the Agenda, as well as the string of emails sent to the American Tower Rep. She will review the document and work with Attorney Valadez and will then send to American Tower for their review. The final Lease Amendment will be forwarded to the Board at a later time.
- She visited the South Suburban Land Bank website and was distressed to see a list of properties that we had no idea were owned by them. She asked Trustee Killelea and Trustee Kreis to contact the Land Bank to update their list and their website. There was then a long discussion on the various properties.
- Trustee Gillis asked for an update on the Keystone Condominium grass problems. Superintendent Weinert advised that they were put on a list for Roy's Landscaping to cut. They have already been given notice and have been cited. There is also a meeting with the Condo Association, the residents and the property maintenance company regarding assessments and what is necessary to have the property properly maintained.
- Discussion and status of the RFQ and the Public Works Building. Trustee Killelea had advised that Oliveri would be providing a report. Superintendent Sparrey commented that he reached out to Oliveri today and they have a meeting tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. and will see about getting a cost to make the building safe temporarily until we obtain the RFQ.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Trustee Killelea reported on the following:

- The June 20th water workshop will be cancelled since we were having difficulties finding a venue. He will work on another date later in the year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Crowley reported on the following:

- The Tax Seminar was a huge success. There were about 60 residents that attended, as well as the Assessor's Office, the Board of Review and Treasurer Britton. She received a lot of positive feedback and believed that they have a clearer understanding of how property taxes work in the Village, appeals and what estimated values are. She thanked everyone that attended and assisted.
- The Police Department hosted on Saturday the annual Kids ID Program and was also a huge success. If anyone could not make it last weekend, please contact the Police Department and they will set them up to obtain the ID and will assist in completing the packet.
- There is still time to donate to Sergeant Thibo's 50 Car for the Special Olympics Race.
- We are officially down two police officers. The Police Department is working on background checks and the Police and Fire Commission will be sending out the approval letters to the officers on the list. The candidates will be presented to the Board for approval.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Chief Hotwagner reported on the following:

- The IDPH came out to complete the inspections of the three ambulances and they all passed.

- He received a check in the mail from State Farm for reimbursement of education expenses in the amount of \$402.48 and was forwarded to the Treasurer.

Chief Delaney reported on the following:

- He read a letter he wrote regarding a special foundation and scholarship that one of our officers created. On May 29, 2019 a student at St. Christopher School was presented with the Erik Bohne-Pace Award. The Erik-Bohne-Pace Foundation was created by Midlothian Police Officer John Pace and his wife, Christy Pace. Their son, Erik Bohne-Pace was a student at St. Christopher School and was scheduled to graduate eighth grade in 2001 but suddenly died on December 13, 2000 from an undiagnosed brain tumor and never had any of the symptoms. The Erik Bohne-Pace Award recognizes students who demonstrate the spirit of fairness, compassion, respect for themselves and others, genuine love and kindness and behave and act like a great person even when they think no one is looking. These were the attributes Erik possessed. The 2019 award and a \$1,000 scholarship was given to Tymothy Flournoy, who was in 8th grade at St. Christopher School. Chief Delaney thanked Officer Pace and Christy Pace for creating the foundation and recognizing other great kids. They also created the CORE Matters Program which is being taught in elementary schools throughout Illinois. It teaches the kids respect and dealing with adversity in positive methods. John and Christy's thoughtfulness and huge heart was reflected in the amazing young man they were raising.

Superintendent Weinert reported on the following:

- He will be at Markham Court tomorrow and testifying about the Public Aid Building testifying.
- He requested bids for the property on Waverly for the demolition and has received a few of the bids. They will hopefully proceed on June 24th with the demolition/cleanup of the property.

Superintendent Sparrey reported on the following:

- He provided an update on the Natalie Creek Project. They have begun the excavating of the pond between Kostner and Kilbourne. They have also started lowering the watermain on Kilbourne and will follow-up with lowering the watermain on Kostner. They are still feuding with ComEd and Nicor about getting their lines relocated.

Engineer Nagle reported on the following:

- We are about 14-21 days out to begin the sanitary sewer cleaning project and he is asking the Board to allow them to advertise in the Bremen Messenger. Robinson Engineering will then provide their recommendation to award the project and will be signed off by Superintendent Sparrey. Superintendent Sparrey advised that the project is a budgeted item.
- Today the Board awarded the contract to Iroquois Paving for the Roadway Resurfacing Program. It will take about a month to execute all contracts, received bonds and insurance and the project will begin in July and completed before school begins.
- On July 1st the Gas Tax will begin. Engineer Nagle believed that they will double the MFT gas tax and the Village could receive double amount of MFT funds but no one knows for sure how they will be distributing the doubling of the MFT funds. They were told by IDOT that 20% will be going to transit. If we do get 80% more, we may receive \$170,000 more per year in MFT funds. Mayor L'Heureux advised that he read it differently and said that we were not receiving any increase from the state but if the Village wanted to, we could put in another \$.03 to get money for ourselves. Engineer Nagle advised that the Village MFT funds are based on the population of the community and would receive \$23-\$24 per person and that is why the census is very important.

Treasurer Britton had nothing to report.

Deputy Clerk Kolacki had nothing to report.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Attorney Nick Valadez reported on the following:

- We were named in a lawsuit involving a federal regulation, and also named in a lawsuit involving administrative review. He will keep the Board updated as they come in

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

Mayor L'Heureux reported on the following:

- The Relay for Life for Central Cook County will be held on Saturday, June 22nd at the Oak Lawn Park District. The opening ceremony will be at 3;00 p.m. The Relay for Life is celebrating our cancer survivors.

CLERK'S BUSINESS


Clerk Moskal reported on the following:

- He received a request for a Block Party on July 4th from 146th to 147th Block of Sawyer. The application has been completed and the deposit for the barricades have been paid. If there were no objections, the Block Party will be granted. There was none. An approval letter will be sent to the requestor.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business, Mayor L'Heureux asked for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. Motion made by Trustee Kreis and seconded by Trustee Caveney. Voice Vote: Ayes: Trustees Kreis, Crowley, Caveney, Gillis, Ivan and Killelea. Nays: None. Motion carried. The Board Meeting adjourned 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maria Kolacki, Deputy Clerk



Allen Moskal, Village Clerk