

Village of Dolton Board of Trustees
Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Meeting Via Zoom – Livestream on YouTube
February 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL The following trustees were present: Deborah Denton, Tiffany Henyard, Andrew Holmes, Jason House and Edward Steave. Trustee Tammie Brown was absent.

Also, present: Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan, Village Attorney John B. Murphey, Village Administrator Elizabeth Scott, Cris Miroballi of John Kasperek Co., and department heads.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE/s
PRAYER

Prayer was led by Trustee Henyard.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Cornell Darden of the Southland Journal presented its Mayor of the Year award to Mayor Rogers for his work in government transparency, and also recognizing Edward Steave for his work in creating the village's website before he became a trustee.

Mayor Rogers announced that the Dolton Walgreen's will be among the first of Walgreen's stores offering the covid vaccine(s).

Mayor Rogers further announced that ComEd will install up to 40-50 light poles on the west side of the village. It will replace village poles and lights with high wattage lighting. Residents may be required to sign waivers for air space.

At the request of Mayor Rogers, Village Clerk Duggan asked for a motion for mayor pro tem to chair the rest of the meeting.

MOTION TO APPOINT TRUSTEE HOUSE MAYOR PRO TEM.

Motion by Trustee. Second by Trustee.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Trustee Brown

Motion passed.

Trustee Henyard announced that South Suburban College is offering vaccines through Cook County. Residents may telephone 833-308-1988 or go online at cookcountyil.gov for appointments.

Trustee Henyard further announced early voting ongoing at the Calumet City Public Library for the February 23rd consolidated primary election.

Trustee Holmes reminded residents not to park in snow routes. He is sponsoring a food giveaway and covid testing from 11-3 this coming Saturday outside at 14200 Martin Luther King Drive.

Trustee Steave reported that two trucks went down during the recent storm but public works is working very hard to catch up.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Village Administrator Elizabeth Scott announced another round of water bill relief through New Community Church. Residents at least two billing cycles (six months) behind are eligible for a \$100 payment to their bills. Applications are available at the village hall and on the village website, or they may contact Ms. Scott and she will email the application.

CITIZENS ADDRESS (Limited to discussion of agenda items)

None

ORDER OF BUSINESS (*Discussion Only*)

1. Police Radios

Chief Ernest Mobley reported that the police department is no longer considering the "6000" radios, which it has learned do not work in certain "dead zones" in the village. Administrator Scott outlined the new proposal to lease to own "8000" radios at five payments of \$32,000 each year for five years with 3.91 percent interest by ETSB on the village's behalf. There was a consensus of the board to move forward at the March 1st regular meeting.

2. Fire Department Protective Gear

Deputy Chief Don Rush explained that the fire department is seeking to purchase 20 sets of fire protective gear so each department member may have a new set immediately. This would begin a three-year process to outfit each member with a second set to reduce the exposure to carcinogens. The approximate cost of the first set is \$49,980, which would be paid out of the CARES funds. There was a consensus to move forward at the March 1st regular meeting.

3. Roof Repair: Public Works Salt Building

Supt. Matt Stacey reported that he had asked for quotes from additional companies to repair last year's roof damage. Legacy Building's proposal was \$300,000. The other quote was from Bulk Storage at \$123,000, minus an insurance deductible of \$89,993.58. He would like to get started to minimize further water damage to the salt. There was a consensus to move forward to the March 1st meeting.

4. Forensic Audit and Controls Proposals

Administrator Scott explained that on February 5th, she and the village clerk opened two proposals as per notice. The proposal submitted by Sikich was for a total of \$29,000 at \$135-360 per hour. BKD was for a total of \$120,000. Baker Tilly asked for a two-week extension.

Trustee Henyard suggested waiting for the third proposal. Trustee Holmes agreed. Trustee House agreed and said that \$29,000 was not realistic. At this point the audit can be included in the FY22 budget.

5. Personnel Retirement/Insurance Status

Trustee House said that this item would be discussed in Executive Session after Citizens Address.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Rogers gave his report at the beginning of the meeting.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Giavonni Nickson, Communications Director, reported the following posts:

Has award-giver watched Village of Dolton meetings?

Ms. Nickson responded that she had given the Southland Journal meeting information.

Who runs the village media?

Ms. Nickson responded that she did.

Wishing mayor a speedy and robust recovery.

Mayor Rogers expressed his thanks to all residents who sent their good wishes.

Is the board aware of what the Open Meetings Act entails?

Trustee House answered yes.

The award is a ploy to prevent comments from the village.

Ms. Nickson responded that if the mayor is no longer on the meeting she will forward comments to him.

Who has access to block comments?

Ms. Nickson said that she alone has and that she has never done so.

Will this radio band be available throughout the village so residents can keep up?

Chief Mobley answered no.

Wish mayor a speedy recovery. When will the alleys be cleared?

Supt. Stacey said they will be cleared as soon as possible. Residents may call public works at 201-3280.

The street lights are still not working at 148-149th and Lincoln. ComEd has not responded

Supt. Stacey said that he will check.

At the previous board meeting, no one answered who is responsible for the manual checks.

Why is Trustee House mayor pro tem when Mayor Rogers is in the meeting?

Trustee House responded that it was not certain that the mayor was going to stay. Mayor Rogers said that he does not have an agenda and was not sure how long he would be on the meeting.

Who issues manual checks?

Trustee House said that he believes that was answered during the meeting.

Will the YouTube chat box continue for people unable to make meetings?

Trustee House said the trustees were considering.

To (Trustee) Steave: Do have communications access?

Trustee Steave responded that he has access only to channel 4 for additional support.

When will district 3 bills be released?

Trustee House recommended an email to Ms. Scott.

If only 60 people from the village are on the meeting, word must not be getting out. Is there a better way?

Ms. Nickson responded that email communications go out to 3,000 residents and notice is on the broadcast channels. Trustee Steave added that for the past 4-5 years the biggest audiences are the day after the livestream.

If public works is not clearing alleys, how can people get in/out of alleys?

Is the next bill that comes out for 5 months of usage, which is close to double?

Does the media person understand that blocking residents violates the Open Meetings Act?

Ms. Nickson referenced her earlier answer.

Forensic audit does not go back far enough.

Baker Tilly to be involved is a conflict of interest.

Ms. Scott said that the village does not have to use Baker Tilly. The trustees said they wanted proposals.

Will the forensic audit delay implementation of new systems?

Ms. Scott said no.

Will all comments be read?

Ms. Nickson said yes.

Who authorized manual checks?

Trustee House referenced the earlier discussion.

What is protocol should the mayor be determined unable to perform his duties?

Is only one signature allowed to write a check?

Mr. Miroballi said that dual signatures are required except for manual checks authorized up to certain amounts.

Does the village have authority to change traffic signals? If so, what is the protocol?

Supt. Stacey said that IDOT makes those determinations.

Civic Systems does software for Baker Tilly. That is a conflict of interest.

Is it legal for the mayor to override board and issue manual checks?

Trustee House responded that the only remedy is to demand return of the check.

I would like to hear from all candidates running for office.

Trustee Henyard said that she may be reached at (708) 963-2137.

Why one snow plow with all of the snow overnight?

Ms. Scott reported that two trucks were down and there was also a water main break. Supt. Stacey added that one truck is now back up.

It's very convenient that the delay lasted long enough for an award to be given to the mayor and the mayor to give a speech.

Who has authority to block posts?

Little water at 143rd and Ellis.

Supt. Stacey said that there was a water main break.

Is there a manager for the water department? Why can't question regarding when the water bills go out be answered.

Ms. Scott said that district 3 water bills are to go out February, May, August, and November.

Is it a conflict of interest for a trustee to have access to village media tools?

Ms. Nickson said that she is the sole manager. She calls Trustee Steave when there is an outage after hours because he lives close by.

Who can issue manual checks?

There are not enough street lights on the west side.

How can I sign up for emails?

Ms. Nickson said residents can sign up on the website, or contact her at (708) 201-2960 or at gnickson@vodolton.org. She cautioned that the communications emails may go directly to spam.

Who approves manual checks?

If you give all trustees access to medial, more people will subscribe.

Why is the mayor's block completely plow and he is not even there?

Supt. Stacey said the mayor's street is on the "dead end list" which was completed by tonight.

Ms. Nickson may not be blocking folks but someone is.

Ms. Nickson said that no one else has access.

Ron Robertson of Bud's Ambulance questioned Ms. Scott's figures on the purchase of the police radios.

Ms. Scott confirmed the figures were correct.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT/INSURANCE. No action to be taken.

Motion by Trustee House. Second by Trustee Henyard. There being no discussion:

ROLL CALL

AYES: 4 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2 Trustees Brown, Steave

Motion passed.

The Board of Trustees entered into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:32 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Henyard, second by Trustee Denton to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, Mayor pro tem House asked for a roll call to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Trustee Brown

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 5th day of April, 2021.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor