

February 21, 2023

State of Illinois
County of Cook
Village of Stickney

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:03 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees were present:
Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, and Kapolnek
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos and Hrejsa

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, and Kapolnek
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic that the bills, approved by the various committees of the Board, be approved for payment, and to approve warrants which authorize the Village Treasurer to draw checks to pay the bills, to be signed by the authorized signers, as provided for by the Ordinances of the Village of Stickney.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, and Kapolnek
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Trustee Torres moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to Request to hire one (1) Probationary Patrol Officer from the Lateral Police Officer Eligibility List.

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:
Ayes: Trustees White, Milenkovic, Torres, and Kapolnek
Absent: Trustee Savopoulos and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Walik explained that we already have hired four officers already. One just left. It is happening everywhere. They come and go. As an example, Bedford Park is hiring police and firefighters with required specifications. He heard that Aurora is hiring people with a high school diploma. People are going anywhere the money is at.

MAYOR'S REPORT: He asked people to take care with the forecasted ice and snow.

CLERK'S REPORT:Information was provided on a proposal from the Illinois Department of Resources to submit legislation that amends the Level of Lake Michigan Act to collect an annual water allocation review fee of up to \$5,000 from all Lake Michigan Water Allocation permittees. The Illinois Municipal League is reviewing this matter and they are seeking opinions and questions to share with the IDNR a response to the proposal. All fees collected would be deposited into a specially designated portion of the Illinois Boat Fund to be solely utilized to assist communities in the Lake Michigan Program. In addition: The Clerk told the audience that the Harlem/Pershing TIF resolution will be on the March 7, 2023 agenda.

Trustee Torres: We were given information concerning filing with the Stickney Township Assessor at the North Clinic to challenge your property taxes. She reminded people of the free services that are available through the Township. The Trustee is working on upcoming programs. See the next newsletter for the events and dates. The Mayor interjected that the newsletter will be out in a couple of weeks.

Happy Birthday greetings were given to the Mayor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works Director Joe Lopez: The street sweeper repairs and tune up have been made. They will start sweeping the alleys tomorrow. This sweeper is a 2010 Pelican.

Police Chief James Sasseti:The Chief brought our attention to our new metal detector in use in the lobby. It is a sign of the times. We are being proactive. It was purchased through funds obtained through a grant from the State of Illinois at no cost to the residents. It is on wheels so it is portable and can be used elsewhere. It's unsure when the newest officer will start.

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian:A synopsis was given by Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian of the 2022 Annual Fire Department Report.

As COVID restrictions were lessened earlier in the year, we were happy to be able to get back into our regular annual "routine" and complete important tasks that had been put on hold:

- The fire prevention bureau completed all fire safety inspections and ensured our commercial and industrial districts were operating safely.
- The Public Education team was able to get back into the schools and daycare centers to teach the children about fire safety. We were able to return to school with the Fire Safety Trailer (smoke trailer) allowing both Edison and Home Schools to practice exiting a building safely if it were on fire.
- We continue to support our seniors by joining them at their scheduled meetings. Providing them with information about the KNOX Box loan program and both verbal and written information about fire safety in the home.

As is true of all first responders, at the firehouse you never know what the day will bring. You never know how you will be called to be of service. We are always happy to lend a helping hand wherever/however needed. In June of 2022 a storm came through the area and knocked out the power to the majority of the Village. The Fire Department worked alongside Mayor Walik to provide "cooling events". The Fire Department was able to join the mayor at locations throughout the town, hooking our equipment to hydrants. This allowed residents to safely cool off in the hydrant's spray while they had no air conditioning due to the loss of power. We were able to provide not only critical cooling but also some fun in otherwise miserable conditions.

We were able to continue with the KNOX box program. This was a program instituted by Mayor Walik. If the seniors ask for one, their house key is locked inside this box and it is hung on the outside of their door. Only the fire department has the access key.

The guys have been working inside the fire house cleaning. The original 21-year-old ceiling tiles have been replaced.

2022 Call Summary

Total Structure Fires: 15

Other Fires: 20

(Includes Vehicle Fires, Brush Fires, Rubbish/Trash, etc.)

False Alarms/False Calls: 135

EMS Calls Emergent: 729

Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid Given: 112

Hazardous Material/Conditions: 73

(Includes Hazard Material, Power Lines Down, Storms Damage, etc.)

All Other Responses: 184

**The Stickney Fire Department responded to a total of 1,268 calls in the year 2022
(this is the most calls we have had in 20 years)**

Right now, we are hiring. We have a big turnover. We are a steppingstone. We have guys coming in as part time and are called up to a full-time fire department. Some will stay with us and some are told that they can't work part-time in another fire department. One of our newest lieutenants has been deployed to Africa for one year. He is also a Chicago firefighter.

The Mayor explained that if the fire department or police department notice a second fall to a senior that is home alone, we will talk to them or the family about the KNOX box. There is no cost. If someone moves or passes on, the box is returned to the fire department. This allows us to have a count available. The Mayor said that if that count goes below three, they would buy more.

Fire Chief Boyajian told us that the Mayor asked him two months ago to start looking for a ladder truck. They started a committee of five people to start looking for a new ladder truck. The one we are looking at is \$1.3 million. McCook just got one that was

\$2 million. We are on a fast track of 13 to 16 months for delivery. To build one it takes 2 ½ to 3 years. Trustee White interjected that we applied for a grant a couple of

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weeks ago. The Chief explained that it is the FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant. Last year's grant is supposed to close in March. He is waiting for a letter updating him on that.

An audience member asked how old is the current ladder truck? The Chief told him that we sold it. It was 27 years old. The Chief talked about everything going up 20% in the last year. We are fortunate that we can buy new things. Other departments are less fortunate, and he does not know how they do it.

The Mayor thanked the Chief for his report and the men and women of the department for doing a great job.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Milenkovic that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**_____
Audrey McAdams, Village Clerk**

Approved by me this 7th day of February, 2023

**_____
Jeff Walik, Mayor**