

March 7, 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, March 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom located at 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Illinois.

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

Trustee Hrejsa moved, duly seconded by Trustee Kapolnek to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

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

Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos 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, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa
Nays: None
Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.**

Trustee Torres moved, duly seconded by Trustee Hrejsa to approve Ordinance 2023-03, "An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving the Purchase of Certain Vehicles for the Police Department of the Village of Stickney, Illinois"

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

Trustee Savopoulos moved, duly seconded by Trustee White to Approve Resolution 06-2023, "A Resolution Proposing a Redevelopment Plan and Project for, and the Designation of the Harlem-Pershing Redevelopment Project Area, and the Adoption of Tax Increment Allocation Financing Therefor, Convening a Joint Review Board and Calling a Public Hearing in Connection Therewith"

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

Prior to the vote, Trustee Savopoulos told us that there has been a public meeting for the TIF. There were a few questions that were easily answered. The Mayor added that the first meeting in May will be at Saint Pius X Church. There will be a TIF public meeting at 6:00 p.m. The regular Board meeting will be held at 7:00.

Trustee Milenkovic moved, duly seconded by Trustee Torres to approve Resolution 07-2023, "A Resolution Authorizing and Approving a Proposal from Axon Enterprises, Inc. to Provide Equipment and Services to the Police Department for the Village of Stickney"

Upon the roll call, the following Trustees voted:

Ayes: Trustees White, Savopoulos, Milenkovic, Torres, Kapolnek and Hrejsa

Nays: None

Mayor Walik declared the motion carried.

Prior to the vote Police Chief Sassetti explains that this resolution approves the purchase of three Axon in-car cameras. The total sum of this invoice will be paid out of grant money with no financial impact to the Village. The Mayor said that we will be slowly replacing our cameras in the cars. We now have body cameras. It is a safe company, and we are keeping it all together.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor thanked the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director and Deputy Chiefs for all their hard work. He directed people to the reports that will be given by Trustee Torres and Hrejsa. Monday is our Senior Luncheon. The corned beef will be coming from the Corned Beef Factory. Their store should be opening this Friday. They are ready to go but they are waiting for their Pepsi machine. All their inspections are finished. Their hope is to use the Villa Nova drivers to deliver their sandwiches as well.

CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk reminded people of the Early Voting for the April 4, Consolidated Election to begin March 20. Information was included on how to go to the Cook County Clerk's website to find out what is going to be on your ballot. The Village Attorney told us that the Regular Board Meeting will be postponed until the next day of Wednesday, April 5. The Clerk assured people that notice of all the 2023 meetings is posted in the lobby at the beginning of the year.

TRUSTEE SAVOPOULOS: Further information was provided on the TIF. We have been having meetings every other week. The Village Attorney told us that the resolution we passed today sets meeting dates. There will be a meeting on March 24, at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Hall. On May 2 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a hearing for the public at Saint Pius X Church. The Board will likely adopt the final TIF document at the May 2 Village Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. The TIF will be created at this time. Once that ordinance is passed it is registered with the county. The county will take a few weeks to set up the accounts for the TIF. She forecasted that by late Spring it will be done.

TRUSTEE TORRES: She is planning the Cinco de mayo festivities on April 30, 2023 from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. It is located at 43rd and Ridgeland. An outline of the activities was given.

Trustee Kapolnek: He reminded people to change their clocks this Sunday.

Trustee Hrejsa: Pertinent information was provided concerning the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, 2023.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works Director Joe Lopez: Yard waste pickup begins in April.

Fire Chief Jeff Boyajian: Change your clock, test your detectors, and change your batteries. The ten-year battery detectors do not need to be changed.

Police Chief James Sassetti: We were informed that the police will be participating in the IDOT Saint Patrick's Day enforcement period from March 10 to March 19. Our goal is to identify and arrest impaired drivers. There will be extra police officers out there pursuant to a grant from IDOT.

Stickney Police Department 2022 Annual Report

In 2022 we saw a 9.5% increase in calls for service. It is down from the 36.4% increase from 2021. This was probably due to Covid. We have not seen the same level of criminal activity that our bordering communities have seen. Our annual crime data showed a 10.53% decrease from 2021 with respect to crimes committed and our clearance rate/arrests have increased.

Our technological initiatives have helped our officers become more efficient and effective. We have implemented our patrol operations strategy which, in part, created three (3) patrol beats within the Village based on an analysis of calls for service. This new patrol operation strategy isolates police coverage in dedicated geographical areas of the Village thus making us more visible and reducing response times.

There were numerous public safety initiatives that the police department completed in 2022 that increased the overall safety for all residents and visitors to the Village of Stickney. By equipping our officers with dynamic policing tools and crime-based knowledge, our productivity and efficiency has increased. Some (but not all of the initiatives that were completed in 2022 include:

- Phase II of our technology initiative was completed. With this initiative, we are able to provide real-time information to our officers in their respective patrol cars thus making them aware of important information while on the street. This technology in turn makes us more efficient and effective in responding to crimes in progress along with proactivity deterring, preventing, and ultimately reducing overall crime.
- The police (and fire department) completed building out a Mobile Incident Command Vehicle. This vehicle will be utilized at various community events and critical incidents thus allowing police and fire personnel to have all the resources needed to effectively and efficiently command an incident.
- Entered into an agreement with Axon Industries to provide our officers with Body-worn Cameras (BWC), Tasers and cutting-edge technology. This initiative was negotiated and agreed upon in fall 2022 and was implemented in February 2023. Our BWC's will afford our officers the ability to both video and audio record their interactions while on calls for service and the issuance of Taser's will provide them with less lethal options. The Axon initiative will in part help reduce the liability exposure for the Village and memorialized recorded interactions which will be utilized in court or prosecutions.

- Launched Quicket. Quicket is a platform that eliminates the handwriting of traffic crash reports, traffic citations, parking tickets and local ordinance tickets. This platform digitalizes all these aspects and imports vital information thus reducing the time our officers spend completing these various tasks. This initiative also transmits statutorily required information to various government authorities which decreases the amount of time that our records department previously spent completing these tasks.
- We entered into an agreement with the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department (CCSPD) to provide crisis intervention options for individuals suffering from mental health issues. When we respond to certain types of calls, our officers now possess a tablet which was provided to us by CCSPD free of cost to present to individuals who in turn can have live interactions with clinical crisis intervention personnel employed by Cook County. Our requirement to provide mental health options for individuals on certain calls for service was statutorily mandated and this program allows us to fulfill our requirement under the law.

GRANTS: Over the course of 2022, we have been able to secure \$713,289.30 in grant funding. Some of the grants are:

- The United States Department of Justice C.O.P.S. Grant which pays the salary and benefits for four (4) additional police officers. These officers will increase our patrol operations and help towards providing the high level of services our residents have come to expect.
- The United States Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant award which paid 100% of the cost for a new police canine and canine squad retrofit. Our canine Hans is a 1 ½ year old Belgian Malinois who is currently training in Sharpsville, PA and will be in service by the end of April 2023.
- The above-mentioned Mobile Incident Command Vehicle was built out with 100% of the cost to convert a former ambulance funded through a State of Illinois grant.
- We were awarded a grant through the Illinois Secretary of State which was utilized to fund the initial cost of our contract with Axon Industries for our Body Worn Cameras and Tasers for all our officers. We are required by law to have body cameras in place by January 1, 2025, however we were able to advance the implementation of the body worn camera project due to receiving a significant contract discount along with this grant funding. This grant award will be utilized to purchase three (3) additional Axon Fleet 3 in-car cameras. Once the entire Axon initiative is completed, we will have an integrated system in place to capture via video all our police-related interactions allowable by law.

Some interesting facts that were given: The three designated patrol beats are Harlem to the west side of Oak Park, the east side of Oak Park to Central, Central to Cicero Avenue; The heaviest volume of calls took place on Thursdays between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. and between 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. Using this data they added additional staffing during these times; We upgraded the complete infrastructure; We applied for the canine grant prior to finding out that we were going to receive our current canine, Ali, from Forest View; Our canine handler will be leaving for Pennsylvania to train with our new dog for six weeks; Both Hans and his handler will be on the Village streets at the end of April; We will now have a total of seven Axon-car cameras; If we pull out our fire arms or the, tasers the body cams and the car cameras will turn on; We are one of the only communities that have the integrated Axon system; Our Consolidated Dispatch center in Cicero just went through a complete renovation and we now have our own radio frequency; We will now have more reliability with our radios; We are waiting for approval for two more radio frequencies; The medal detector was also purchased by a grant; We put shields and rams in all our cars; We put automatic defibrillators in both buildings and one car; There will be an open house on August 5, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Some of the Trustees asked a few questions such as; if the cameras would be activated in other communities. The Chief explained that if those communities have AXON cameras and if their cameras are activated then so will ours. Cicero has AXON, Berwyn is in the process of going with AXON, North Riverside is interested. During a mutual aid, an officer's body cam is required to be active. The battery lasts 12 to 14 hours. There is a charger in the cars. We have unlimited storage in the cloud.

The Mayor and the entire Board thanked Chief Sassetti and the entire department along with the dogs for doing a very good job.

There being no further business, Trustee White moved, duly seconded by Trustee Savopoulos that the meeting be adjourned. Upon which the Board adopted the motion at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey McAdams, Clerk

Approved by me this day of , 2023

Jeff White, President Pro Tem