

ONLINE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2021

In response to Covid-19, the meeting will not be open to the public.

JOIN MEETING ONLINE VIA ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84665155097?pwd=Q0xMaEhNcDBUK2ZmR0tMZkdMZE1DQT09>
Meeting ID: 846 6515 5097, Passcode: 588163

CALL IN: 312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 846 6515 5097, Passcode: 588163

PUBLIC COMMENTS: are required to be sent in advance via email to Clerk Linda Gould - lgould@hillside-il.org before 4:00 p.m. on meeting day.

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD-OF-A-WHOLE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT
AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HILLSIDE HELD IN THE
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 425 HILLSIDE AVENUE, HILLSIDE,
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Joseph T. Tamburino. The following members responded as present at roll call:

Mayor	- Joseph T. Tamburino
Clerk	- Linda L. Gould
Trustees	- Herman L. Walter, Jr.
	- Frank J. Lomeli, Sr.
	- David V. Delgado
	- John N. Kramer
	- Valerie J. Farries
	- Marvin A. Watson
Absent	- None

Clerk Gould and Trustees Farries were present at the Village Hall.

Also present via ZOOM were: Mayor Tamburino, Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado, Kramer and Watson, Patrick Deady, Village Attorney; Ken Carling, Fire Chief; Joseph Pisano, Public Works Director; Sandy Lozano, Village Treasurer; Joseph Beckwith, 911 Director/IT Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Tamburino opened the Town Hall section of the meeting.

Prior to comments being read, Trustee Watson renewed his objection to multiple comments coming in from a single source. Trustee Lomeli agreed.

Clerk Gould read the following comments received via email:

Comment 1

Good Evening, my name is Janet Dubsky 452 High Ridge Road, Hillside, IL

Congratulations to Mayor Tamburino, Clerk Linda Gould, Trustees Claudell Johnson, John "Jack" Kramer and Frank Lomeli, Sr. on winning the election on April 6th.

It was my pleasure to volunteer at the Hillside vaccination site on Monday, March 29th. Everyone coming to receive their vaccination was very grateful and happy. It was a great event to be involved in.

At the last Village Board meeting, several neighbors in the Warren/Forest area of Hillside signed a letter to the Village Board complaining about dust from a business in Hillside because the business has an unpaved parking lot. If that is on your list of complaints, it shows how frivolous your complaints are. It is very expensive to pave a parking lot and driveway for a business. Maybe if these seven residents come up with a plan to pay for the paving, the business (which also pays taxes to the Village) would consider having their property paved.

The residents who have been complaining about the Village and the way it's run, are not on any Village committees. They do not volunteer at any Village events, to my knowledge. They complain but do not go out and take it upon themselves to improve the community. While walking around the neighborhoods, when it's garbage day and everyone's garbage bins are out, if I see litter, I pick it up and put it in the next trash can that I see. If everyone takes community pride, instead of nitpicking, the world would be a better place.

Be happy that you live in a lovely community that cares about its residents. All of its residents, not just the ones who grumble all the time.

Everyone has had a different year. Let's all hope that 2021 will return to a more "normal" year. We should all be appreciative of the efforts that our elected officials, fire and police have taken to keep us safe.

My hope is that our Village has a safe and healthy 2021 without discord.

Comment 2

My name is Heide Schulz. I live at 765 N. Rohde Avenue in Hillside

It has come to my attention that the Village is helping Hillside Lumber obtain the Cook County 6B tax abatement incentive. However, Hillside Lumber seems on its face to legally not qualify for the abatement. Why? The subject property first has to be vacant or abandoned. Or the existing occupant must agree to pay for and complete substantial redevelopment. Attached is the Cook County 6B application. See page 1.

I myself was in charge of applying for the 6B incentive for my employer. The application process, construction and final approvals were expensive and rigorous.

What I find troubling is three-fold:

- (1) The Village wants to raise residential real estate property taxes by 5%.

<https://www.vfpress.news/articles/government/hillside-to-consider-roughly-5-levy-increase-at-dec-21-meeting/>

- (2) Hillside Lumber donated to Mayor Tamborino's 2021 re-election campaign.

- (3) The Village of Hillside seems intent to break the law.

Has Hillside Lumber submitted an application to the Village?
Thank you.

Attorney Deady responded by saying amendments were made to the ordinance and statutes in 2020. The basis for this application is based on certain types of improvements made on the property.

Attorney Deady said the lawyer for Hillside Lumber believes that they qualify for this incentive. It will be up to the Cook County Board to decide whether or not they do.

Attorney Deady also introduced Attorney Michaela Hamilton from the firm.

Comment 3

I am Dan Adams 736 East End Avenue.

I am lodging an official complaint against the current mayor, Mr. Tamburino. He must apologize to Hillside residents and be sanctioned by the Village Trustees especially Watson, Walter and Delgado. If no action is taken by the trustees or

mayor tonight, then the whole group shall be considered guilty by association.

In the Hillside, the rule of law is supreme. When elections are over, Hillside residents have 3 days by law to remove political signs from their lawns. That's the law: 3 days.

But last Wednesday April 7th only 10 hours after the election was over, Tamburino ordered village employees to illegally remove Hillside Neighbors Party political signs from people's lawns. It is outrageous - - and it is illegal - - for Tamburino to have village employees trespass on people's properties and pull down Hillside Neighbors Party political signs before the 3 day period ended.

This is also a total waste of our Hillside taxes. We're not paying village employees to do political work for Tamburino. We're paying village employees to do the people's work, and taking down political signs is not the people's work.

If Tamburino says that these political signs were in the public way to justify his ordering village employees to break the law, this is totally unacceptable to the good people of Hillside. During the recent campaign, hundreds of Tamburino political signs were in the public way for months, but none were removed by village staff.

So, taking away Hillside Neighbors political signs on the morning after the election under any guise these signs being in the public way is ridiculous. There is simply no excuse - - none - - for Tamburino's illegal conduct on the morning after the election.

Question for Tamburino: Will you apologize to the good people of Hillside for breaking the law and wasting taxes to have village employees trespass on people's lawns and do political work for you? Village employees didn't put these signs up, so it's not their job to remove them. It's the job of Hillside's political parties to remove these signs, period.

Question for the Trustees, especially Watson, Walter and Delgado: Will you now sanction Tamburino for his illegal conduct, violating Hillside residents' rights by taking down their political signs before the 3 day deadline which is Hillside law?

Now, Hillside residents will listen for Tamburino's apology and admission of guilt. And listen for Watson, Walter and Delgado to sanction the mayor. If all are silent, they are all guilty by association.

Comment 4

I am Keegan Goss 4506 Madison St. Together with many Hillside neighbors, we oppose any property tax reduction for Hillside Lumber Company at this time.

While Hillside Lumber is recognized for the jobs and tax revenues that they provide, there are urgent safety concerns involving Hillside Lumber's operations, and there are urgent community needs in the Warren Avenue Neighborhood that must come first.

The following 10 Warren Avenue Neighborhood Improvements are requested tonight. These were presented at the March 22 meeting, but the mayor and trustees did not respond:

1: Hillside Lumber must move its truck operations off Warren Ave. and onto Litt Drive, one block north. By law, Warren is a residential street, and large trucks are prohibited. Hillside Lumber's trucks are blocking school buses, cars, driveways and vehicle turns. This is dangerous.

2: Hillside Lumber must pave its gravel parking lots to prevent dust and grime from coming into Hillside homes. All commercial parking lots must be paved by law.

3: Hillside Lumber must put at least 3 exterior lights on its Butterfield Road building that was supposed to be a residential building, but now looks abandoned at night and casts a negative image on Hillside without exterior lights.

4. Hillside Lumber can't block Warren Ave. sidewalks with snow piles or vehicles. We have photos of this which is illegal.

5: Hillside Lumber must collaborate with Village Hall to transform the Warren & Granville vacant lot into a children's park like other Hillside neighborhoods have. Parents with small children can't be forced to walk almost a mile to Thiele Park in streets without sidewalks.

6: Speed bumps should be installed on Warren at Granville where the new park should go, forcing east and west vehicles to stop.

7: All-way stop signs must be installed at all Warren intersections to prevent speeders, which remain a dangerous problem.

8: Village permit parking must be installed on Warren between Forest and Broadview to prohibit strangers from parking there and prevent future crimes, since serious crimes have occurred already.

9: Traffic signals should be installed at the Forest-Butterfield & Warren-Mannheim intersections to help vehicles turn and provide safe crossings for Prairie Path bikes and walkers.

10: Geneva, Granville, Hyde Park & Englewood streets must be repaved this summer.

Now, we will listen for the mayor and trustees to confirm that no tax break will be approved tonight for Hillside Lumber and that village government will move forward with these 10 community improvements for the Warren Avenue Neighborhood. Thank you.

Comment 5

I am Roger Romanelli 4406 Madison St. Together with many Hillside neighbors, we oppose the Mayor and Trustees awarding any property tax reduction to Hillside Lumber Company at this time. For the record, Hillside Lumber has made campaign contributions to the current mayor's political fund.

On March 1, I made a Freedom of Information request to Village Hall to receive a copy of Hillside Lumber's tax reduction application. On March 8, Hillside government personnel emailed me stating there was no application.

By law, Hillside Lumber must file a government application for a tax reduction. Since no application was provided to me under the FOIA law, then Hillside Lumber can't be considered for a tax reduction tonight. If the application was filed but my FOIA request was ignored, then the Tamburino administration has broken the law.

Hillside Lumber is recognized for the jobs and tax revenues they provide. But Hillside families who pay high property taxes must come first. For this year, the current mayor and trustees raised everyone's property taxes by 5%, forcing new financial hardship on families during the pandemic. If a 12-year tax break is given to Hillside Lumber, then residents' property taxes will rise over the next 12 years, and this isn't fair.

If a company wants a tax reduction, there must be at least 3 public hearings, so residents can understand the proposal and ask questions. Without any public hearings so far, this matter can't be approved tonight.

If a company wants a tax break, a Village Benefits Agreement must be forged. How many jobs will be created? How can Hillside residents apply for these jobs? Has the company evaluated its community-impact and agreed to change operations if needed? In the case of Hillside Lumber, the surrounding community is experiencing many adverse impacts.

So, Hillside Lumber must move its trucks off of Warren and onto Litt Drive because current operations are unsafe. The company can't block sidewalks with vehicles or snow. The illegal gravel parking lots must be paved. The company's vacant lot at Warren & Granville must be developed into a children's park, which every Hillside neighborhood deserves.

I ask the mayor and trustees: Has Hillside Lumber filed a written application with the Village of Hillside requesting a property tax reduction? If yes, will you hold at least 3 public hearings for residents to understand why the company wants a tax reduction and how this will benefit our village, especially since residents are being forced to pay higher taxes? Thank you.

As there were no further comments from the floor, Mayor Tamburino entertained a motion to close the Town Hall Meeting.

So moved by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Kramer.

VILLAGE CLERK:

Clerk Gould reported The Village received numerous calls, thanking us for their ability to receive the Pfizer Covid Vaccine, both at Hillside School on Tuesday, March 23rd and the Sheet Metal Workers Union Hall on Monday, March 29, 2021. They also complemented how everything ran smoothly and was orderly. Second vaccines are scheduled for April 13th and 19th.

DEPARTMENT HEAD OPERATING REPORTS:

Police Chief: (Joseph Lukaszek)

No report

Fire Chief: (Ken Carling)

Chief Carling reported he was proud to be part of putting together the recent COVID-19 vaccine clinics. There are a lot of logistics that go into planning this type of event to ensure that all runs smoothly. He thanked everyone for a great job.

Public Works and Building Services Director: (Joseph Pisano)

Director Pisano wanted to clarify and correct the public comment from Mr. Adams. It was under Director Pisano's direction that political signs be removed within public right of ways. Unfortunately, the directive was not understood correctly. When Director Pisano became aware of this, the employee stopped removing signs and the signs that were removed were returned to the interested parties.

Director Pisano also reported that Senior Grass Cutting program began this week. If anyone is not on our list and is interested in signing up, please call Pubic Works.

VILLAGE TREASURER: (Sandy Lozano)

No report

VILLAGE ENGINEER: (John Nelson)

No report

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: (Russ Wajda)

Mayor Tamburino reported the following will be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of Resolution 21-02, Class 6B request from Hillside Lumber for property commonly known as 4324-38 Warren Avenue, 4250 Warren Avenue, 500 Melrose Avenue and 4329 Butterfield Road, Hillside, IL.

Mayor Tamburino reported that we have done several 6B's within the Village. We are here to help our businesses. Hillside Lumber is one of our top 10 tax providers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Administration Committee: (Trustee Kramer)

Trustee Kramer reported the following are to be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of gross payroll for period March 13 through March 26, 2021, in the amount of \$310,253.61; and March 27 through April 9, 2021, in the amount of \$373,557.67.
- B. Approval of bills for the month of April, 2021.
- C. Approval of Ordinance 21-05, Amending Chapter 22, Article XII, Signs, replacing with new Section 22-741 Definitions and new Section 22-748 Restrictions.

Public Services Committee: (Trustee Walter)

Trustee Walter reported the following to be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of Ordinance 21-03, Amending Chapter 94, Article II, Water, replacing with new Section 94-31 Illinois Plumbing Code Adopted and new Section 94-38 Bills; penalty for late payment; persons liable, adding new sections 94-39 through 94-42.
- B. Approval of Ordinance 21-04, Amending Chapter 94, Article III, Sewers and Sewerage Disposal, replacing with new Section 94-206, Discharge Regulations.

Public Safety and Education Committee: (Trustee Watson)

Trustee Watson congratulated the Mayor, Clerk and Trustees for their campaign and resounding victory. He feels the residents of Hillside recognize that Hillside is a great place to live and work. He also has no reason to consider sanctions against Mayor Tamburino.

Trustee Watson reported the following to be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of agreement between the Village of Hillside and Hillside Firefighters Association, Local 4474, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024.

- B. Approval of Fire Chief Carling to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Symposium May 12-14, 2021 in East Peoria at a cost of \$371.76, including registration and hotel.

Trustee Watson reported thank you email received from Laura Miller, thanking Hillside firefighter/paramedics David Buie and Joe Michalski for their care and assistance with her daughter while at Proviso West for the Covid vaccine on Friday, April 2, 2021.

Trustee Watson also reported thank you note received from resident, Corrine Gourley, thanking all involved with helping acquire the Covid vaccine for its residents.

Trustee Watson further reported Community Awareness Meeting is Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Not yet determined if it will be via Zoom or in person.

Zoning Committee: (Trustee Lomeli)

Trustee Lomeli reported Zoning Board of Appeals to conduct hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, to consider petition submitted by Zoran Miodragovic, 126 69th Street, Darien, IL 60561, seeking a Variation in R-2 Zoning District, to reduce the total side yard requirement to 12 feet from 15 feet to accommodate the construction of a new single family home with attached garage at 34 Oak Ridge, Hillside, IL 60162.

Technology Committee: (Trustee Delgado)

Trustee Delgado reported the following to be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of quote from CDW Government, 200 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, IL 60061, for Microsoft Office 365 license renewal for the amount of \$16,386.12. Last year's amount was \$15,135.32.
- B. Approval of payment to Harris Computer Systems, P.O. Box 74007259, Chicago, IL 60674, for MSI computer maintenance for the amount of \$13,714.79. Last year's amount was \$14,051.78.

Trustee Delgado congratulated the Mayor, Clerk and Trustees on winning the election.

Community Services Committee: (Trustee Farries)

Trustee Farries reported on the Village Easter parade held Wednesday, March 31, 2021; and free goodie bag giveaway held Saturday April 3, 2021 at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT:

Mayor Tamburino reported liquor licenses are being reviewed.

He also reported restaurants that were closed for business because of the pandemic will not be charged for their business license and gaming licenses will be pro-rated.

Mayor Tamburino reported the following to be on the agenda for action at the Regular Board Meeting of April 26, 2021.

- A. Approval of the following appointment and reappointments

Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals

James Erlander, 5 year term, expiring April 30, 2026

William Norwood, 5 year term, expiring April 30, 2026

Youth Commission

Peter Kearns, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Karen Bimler, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Community Relations Commission

Fatima Norwood, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Arturo Nolasco, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Fire Pension Board

Sandy Lozano, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Fire and Police Commission

Jorge Deleon, 3 year term, expiring April 30, 2024

Mayor Tamburino also reported that Russ Wajda, our Administrator, is retiring from the Village of Hillside after thirty-seven (37) years. He will be missed. Mayor Tamburino will be recommending Public Works Director Joseph Pisano be appointed as new Village Administrator.

Mayor Tamburino further reported how proud he was of the Department Heads, resident and village volunteers who worked the vaccine clinics. He also thanked Jewel Osco for doing a great job and Q's Restaurant for donating lunch for the workers.

Mayor Tamburino also reported 6B tax incentives are an important part of business development. He also said no political money was taken from Hillside Lumber for the campaign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Tamburino announced the next Regular Meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Monday, April 26, 2021 via Zoom.

As there was no further business before the Board, Mayor Tamburino entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the for the purpose of:


1. Discussing a personnel matter, Section 120/2(c)(1).

So moved by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Delgado.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion declared carried

Adjourn to Executive Session 8:16 P.M.


Linda L. Gould
Clerk