

ONLINE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 22, 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/87519502511?pwd=K0JjeEhyd0F0THl2ZWVtaXRqdTMxUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 1950 2511, Passcode: 207021

CALL IN: 312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 875 1950 2511, Passcode: 207021

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. Please include your name and address. By ordinance, comments are limited to 3 minutes.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Joseph T. Tamburino. Board members and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. 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 |

Administrator Wajda and Clerk Gould were present at the Village Hall. Mayor Tamburino and Village Trustees attended remotely.

Also present via ZOOM were: Joseph Lukaszek, Police Chief; Ken Carling, Fire Chief; Joseph Pisano, Public Works Director; Sandy Lozano, Village Treasurer; Patrick Deady, Village Attorney; John Nelson, Village Engineer; Joseph Beckwith, 911 Director/IT Manager

TOWN HALL:

Mayor Tamburino opened the Town Hall section of the meeting.

Trustee Watson read the following statement:

"For a few meetings now, I have objected to a single source of multiple public comments. I believe this is an unethical attempt to bypass our rules on number of allowable comments and time limitations. I made these objections publicly not only for the

benefit of my fellow trustees but also so Mr. Romanelli and the people he says gave him permission could hear. Since what is being read here tonight is not important enough to submit your comment yourself, I shall give it the same level of importance."

Clerk Gould read the following comments received via email:

Comment 1

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

I want to thank the Village of Hillside for having a phone bank COVID survey. I was asked to volunteer, and take information from our senior citizens. I was at the Village Hall from 1:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. on March 10th. It was a pleasure talking with members of our community. On the news you are hearing about pop up vaccine sights. Our hope is that we will have one (or more) in our Village.

At the last Board Meeting several notes were read about needing more stop signs, getting rid of the red-light cameras. I was wondering, if you are driving safely, shouldn't you be able to stop at intersections if you see other pedestrians/vehicles approaching? If you are driving and there is a red-light camera, shouldn't you slow down just in case the stop light turns red? That is how I was taught to drive.

Again, sidewalks were mentioned. I do not want a sidewalk in front of my home. I walk all over Hillside and Berkeley and not once have I felt unsafe walking in the street. In fact, when there was snow and ice, the streets were clear and easy to walk on. Cars move over when they see pedestrians. Most times when I am in the cross walk at Forrest and Butterfield the cars in both directions will stop for me to cross safely. If it looks like a car is not going to stop, it is my responsibility to wait and cross safely. It's about time that people take responsibility for their actions.

The people who send in letters saying that our Village is not doing enough, have no constructive solutions. They complain about the Village, but have no good ideas to make changes. They complain about people speeding and not stopping completely at stop signs. It seems that they want a police officer permanently posted at the corner of Madison and Forrest. Who will pay for that? Should we have police officers posted at every intersection in Hillside?

I hope that on April 6th our residents take a good look and vote for the people who care about our Village. Not the people who want to complain, and say our Village doesn't do enough. The Village takes great pride in making sure its residents are safe. Please remember to color in the bunnies that were printed in the Herald and turn them into the Village by Thursday, March 25h at 5:00p.m.

Thank you again Mayor, Board of Trustees, Village Employees, Police, Fire and Public Works for making Hillside a great place to live.

Comment 2

"I am Keegan Goss of 4506 Madison Street. I request a written apology from Mayor Tamburino for his false and hurtful remarks against me at the March 8th meeting. I also request the mayor's apology for other false statements at village meetings.

For the March 8th meeting, I submitted public comments about dangerous speeders. I asked for safety improvements on Madison Street to protect my neighbors and my family. Ignoring these concerns, Tamburino referenced a news article in which I commented on the mayor's misuse of Hillside resources and I noted that my home's property taxes rose from about \$6,000 dollars to \$9,000 dollars recently.

What happened at the March 8th meeting? The mayor attacked me personally and accused me of lying about this tax increase. No, it was the mayor who lied. For the public record, my property taxes were \$6,683 dollars for 2018 and 2019 respectively, but increased to \$9,116 dollars in 2020. I emailed copies of my tax bills to the village clerk today along with these comments.

It is unacceptable that Mr. Tamburino would personally and falsely attack any resident at any public meeting. This is why Gwen Amber should be elected as the next Mayor of Hillside. She will treat residents fairly and never degrade or slander any resident at a public meeting as Tamburino has done.

Tamburino's lying about me follows his pattern of lying about other village issues. In November, Tamburino claimed that government tax credits dried up for his failed redevelopment of the Taft Avenue church where he wasted \$640,000 dollars of our taxes. The next day, Illinois officials confirmed that tax credits have not dried up for seniors housing over the past 30 years.

At the same meeting, Tamburino falsely claimed that 3 Hillside churches took away sales taxes and entertainment taxes when these churches bought former theater buildings and a former restaurant building. Let's be clear: Sales taxes and entertainment taxes went away when the businesses closed, not any fault of the churches. These churches invested millions of dollars to save their buildings from the wrecking ball, and these churches brought wonderful worshippers and social services to Hillside. Our churches should be praised for investing in Hillside, not attacked.

Mayor Tamburino must apologize for the lies that he presented at public meetings against me, against our churches, and related to his failed development. Hillside residents can move our village forward with our dedicated neighbor Gwen Amber as the new mayor. Tonight, Mr. Tamburino must apologize for his false, hurtful and slanderous statements."

Thanks,
Keegan Goss

Administrator Wajda reported the Mr. Goss submitted some of his tax papers, but not all. He also reported that the accessed evaluation of Mr. Goss' property increased to \$9,116.00, however that is not the amount of his tax bill. Administrator Wajda continued we don't know if Mr. Goss has appealed his taxes. Notices were sent out from the Assessor's office on the appeal process. Mr. Goss also has not yet filed for his Homeowner's Exemption which is entitled too as the owner of the property. Attorney Deady also said if Mr. Goss has since filed for this exemption it will show up on the second installment of the tax bill.

Comment 3

In accordance with Village of Hillside procedures, Roger Romanelli is hereby emailing the public comments of Tubonimi Bob-Manuel that were approved by him for tonight's village meeting. He is copied here. Thank you.

"I am Tubonimi Bob-Manuel 441 Granville Avenue. Together with many neighbors from the Warren Avenue Neighborhood, we note that the mayor and village administrator were quoted in the media as considering a 10-year property tax reduction for Hillside Lumber Company on Warren Avenue.

As Hillside residents, we honor Hillside Lumber for the jobs and revenues that they provide. However at this time, there are more urgent concerns in our community. Tonight, we ask the mayor, clerk and trustees to prioritize 9 Warren Avenue Neighborhood Improvements:

1: Please ask Hillside Lumber to relocate its truck operations off of Warren and onto Litt Drive, one block north. Warren is primarily a residential street. Hillside Lumber's truck operations are blocking pedestrians, school buses, cars, driveways and turning visibility. This is often dangerous.

2: In accordance with the Village of Hillside building code, please request that Hillside Lumber pave its gravel parking lots to prevent dust and grime from coming into our homes.

3: Hillside Lumber is asked to 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 our community.

4: Geneva, Granville, Hyde Park & Englewood streets should be paved this summer due to deteriorated conditions.

5: The Warren & Granville vacant lot should be converted to a children's park like other Hillside neighborhoods. Our children have nowhere to play, and it is unsafe for children to play in our streets where there are no sidewalks.

6: Where the new children's park should go, speed bumps should be installed on Warren at Granville forcing east and west vehicles to stop.

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

8: Village permit parking should be installed on Warren between Forest and Broadview to prohibit strangers from parking there.

9: New traffic signals should be installed at the Forest-Butterfield & Warren-Mannheim intersections to help vehicles turn and provide essential safety for Prairie Path bicycles & pedestrians. In the Village of LaGrange on Mannheim Road/LaGrange Road, there are several traffic signals slowing vehicles properly, and Hillside deserves the same on Mannheim Road between Washington and Madison. This is the proper, cost-effective way to improve the Prairie Path which should be retained on Warren for the betterment of our community.

Respectfully, the mayor, clerk and trustees are asked to support these 9 community requests. Thank you. Signed by Hillside Residents: Tubonimi Bob-Manuel • Silvino Garcia • Marisol Guadarrama • Miguel Lepe • Ruby Pitts • Maria Rangel • Roger Romanelli"

Comment 4

I am Roger Romanelli 4406 Madison Street. Attorney Deady interrupted saying that since Mr. Romanelli since signed the last letter, he has already had his comment. There was no need to read a separate comment from Mr. Romanelli.

Comment 5

In accordance with Village of Hillside procedures, Roger Romanelli is hereby emailing the public comments of Dan Adams that were approved by Dan for this village meeting. He is copied here. Thank you.

I am Dan Adams 736 East End Avenue. Mayor Tamburino, Clerk Gould, and Trustees Kramer and Lomeli are running for re-election. They did not allow debates, so this is the people's chance to ask about their government decisions using our taxes. Tamburino, Gould, Kramer and Lomeli are called to answer simple questions. If they refuse, everyone in Hillside will see the truth.

1: Why did you spent \$600,000 dollars to buy and repair the Stimac's Restaurant building?

2: In September, Tamburino said that many investors wanted to buy the building long before the pandemic. Why did you interfere with private investors who wanted to buy and fix this building themselves? Today, this property sits vacant in the heart of our downtown without jobs or food service. An economic development disaster for Hillside.

3: Do you admit that you used Hillside taxes to enrich a group of private Hillside voters on this Stimac's deal? Will you admit that it is a conflict of interest to use our taxes to enrich the family of someone who serves on our village planning board?

4: Why did you buy and fix this building without allowing any public use for residents?

5: Why did you spent \$640,000 dollars to buy the Taft Avenue church, even though other church congregations wanted to lease or buy this building? Why didn't you help a new congregation make a deal with the former church owners?

6: Why did you defy our village-paid real estate appraiser's recommendation to retain this building as a church and instead you bought this church to convert it to seniors housing? Where is your written development plan to convert this building to seniors housing?

7: In November, Tamburino said that tax credits for seniors housing dried up. Where is your proof of this? If the credits dried up one year into the project, why haven't you sold the church or leased it to another congregation already? You bought this majestic church four years ago, you have done nothing with it, and this church is deteriorating and vacant.

8: In 2019 long before the pandemic, the government of Tamburino, Gould, Kramer and Lomeli lost \$150,000 dollars on the Hillside summer concerts. How do you justify this?

9: How do you possibly justify a 5 percent property tax increase this year amid the pandemic when people are out of work, it's a financial recession and businesses are closing?

Tamburino, Gould, Kramer and Lomeli are called to answer these questions now. The good people of Hillside need to know your record. 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.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Kramer entertained a motion that there being no additions or corrections to the minutes for Regular Meeting of February 22, 2021, and Board of a Whole Meeting of March 8, 2021, the minutes be accepted and approved.

Seconded by Trustee Farries

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

VILLAGE CLERK:

Clerk Gould reported Mail-in Ballot Applications for the April 6, 2021 Election are now available at the Village Hall or online at the Cook County Clerk's website at cookcountyclerk.com. Completed forms must be received at the Cook County Clerk's Office by Thursday, April 1, 2021.

Clerk Gould also reported Early voting is March 22 to April 5, 2021. The nearest polling places to Hillside are the Villages of Bellwood, 3200 Washington; or Melrose Park, 1000 N. 25th Avenue.

Clerk Gould further reported the Village Offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3, 2021 in observance of the Easter Holiday.

Clerk Gould presented the Consent Agenda.

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered a part of the Board Member's committee business.

Illinois Department of Revenue: Sales tax returns for month of January, 2021, in the amount of \$450,531.40. Amount received for January, 2020, in the amount of \$466,003.12.

Illinois Department of Transportation: Motor Fuel Tax allotment for the month of February, 2021, in the amount of \$22,289.83.

Approval of gross payroll for periods February 13 through February 26, 2021, in the amount of \$320,802.57; and February 27 through March 12, 2021, in the amount of \$303,738.38.

Payment of bills for the month of March, 2021, in the amount of \$801,134.49.

Com Ed: Utility tax for the month of December, 2020, in the amount of \$30,543.48.

NiCor Gas: Utility Tax for the month of January, 2021, in the amount of \$17,423.26.

Excise Tax for the month of January, 2021, in the amount of \$17,249.67.

Video Gaming Tax for the month of January, 2021, in the amount of \$2,170.27; and February in the amount of \$4,821.19.

Code Enforcement Officer's Reports (February, 2021).

Police Department Report (February, 2021).

911 Dispatch Report (February, 2021).

Fire Department Report (February, 2021).

E.M.A. Report (February, 2021).

Public Works Department Report (February, 2021).

Building Inspector's Report (February, 2021).

Social Services Report (January, 2021).

Motion made by Trustee Kramer, seconded by Trustee Watson, to accept and approve Consent Agenda.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

DEPARTMENT HEAD OPERATING REPORTS:

Police Chief: (Joseph Lukaszek)

No report

Fire Chief: (Ken Carling)

No report

Public Works and Building Services Director: (Joseph Pisano)

Director Pisano reported that two new restaurants, Shark's and Tony's opened last week. They are located on Butterfield Road.

Village Treasurer: (Sandy Lozano)

No report

VILLAGE ENGINEER'S REPORT:

No report

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Wajda reported he is continuing to work with Hillside Lumber. He also reported that many of the things mentioned in Mr. Bob-Manuel's letter are things that Hillside Lumber is planning to do with the savings they can get and then invest into the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance and Administration Committee: (Trustee Kramer)

Treasurer Lozano gave some background information on the search for a new auditing firm. She reported there will be a cost savings of approximately \$30,000.00 with Sikich.

Motion made by Trustee Kramer, seconded by Trustee Watson, to approve the engagement letter with Sikich, 1415 W. Diehl Road, Suite 400, Naperville, IL 60563, to provide audit services to the Village of Hillside for FY ending April 30, 2021, and to authorize the Village Administrator to sign and execute same.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

Public Services Committee: (Trustee Walter)

Motion made by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Lomeli, to approve one year street sweeping contract extension for 2021 in the amount of \$2,657.40 per service sweep as submitted by Waste Management, 700 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 400, Lombard, IL 60148. It is anticipated we will have twenty-six (26) service sweeps for 2021, and the proposed cost for extension is a three (3) percent increase over last year's service sweep rate. The increase is due to rising fuel costs, labor cost increases and expected maintenance cost increases.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

Motion made by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Lomeli, to approve payment in the amount of \$17,830.00 to Cerniglia Co., 3421 W. Lake Street, Melrose Park, IL 60160 for emergency work performed to repair leaking water main valve, replace valve vault and repair water main break at the intersection of Taft and Electric.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

Motion made by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Lomeli, to approve proposal in the amount of \$50,900.00 from AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc., 9341 Adam Don Parkway, Woodridge, IL 60517 to perform work associated with new generator installation at Hillside Fire Department. Work will include new gas piping, new 4" exhaust piping and building penetration, new outside air louver with damper and building penetration, provide all new duct work, provide wall cutting and patching, replace sprinkler heads.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

Motion made by Trustee Walter, seconded by Trustee Lomeli, to approve proposal in the amount of \$61,881.00 from Continental Electric, 815 Commerce Drive, Suite 100, Oak Brook, IL 60523 to perform electrical work associated with new generator installation at Hillside Fire Department. Work will include disconnection of existing generator and transfer switch, install new generator and transfer switch, relocate two remote panels, install new 600 amp fused main switch, remove emergency panel from transfer switch and connect to main panel, install generator start control and annunciator panel, installation of other miscellaneous electric to connect to new panels.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Public Safety and Education Committee: (Trustee Watson)

Trustee Watson reported Hillside will be having an Easter Parade on Wednesday, March 31st, just past 7:00 p.m. The route will be a little longer than the Christmas Parade to ensure more people will be able to view Mr. Bunny and the participants.

Trustee Watson also reported the Community Awareness Meeting has been cancelled due to the Easter Parade.

Zoning Committee: (Trustee Lomeli)

Trustee Lomeli reported Zoning Hearing scheduled for a tentative date of April 13, 2021 for a side-yard variance on a new construction single family home at 34 Oak Ridge.

Technology Committee: (Trustee Delgado)

Motion made by Trustee Delgado, seconded by Trustee Kramer, to approve annual maintenance contracts with Harris Computer Systems, P.O. Box 74007259, Chicago, IL 60674-7259, for utility billing and accounting software in the amount of \$13,714.79. Last year's cost was \$14,051.78.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

Community Services Committee: (Trustee Farries)

Trustee Farries reported the Village of Hillside, along with the Hillside Youth Commission, is sponsoring a coloring contest for all ages in place of the annual egg hunt. The pictures will be available on the website, Facebook, in the "Herald", or at the Village Hall. Deadline to submit the artwork to the Village Hall is Thursday, March 25th at 5:00p.m.

Trustee Farries also reported Hillside Youth Commission will also be handing out surprises in the Board Room on Saturday, April 3rd from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Finance and Administration Committee: (Trustee Kramer)

Motion made by Trustee Kramer, seconded by Trustee Watson, to approve Ordinance 21-02, acquisition of 499-501 N. Wolf Road from the Cook County Land Bank Authority for a total of \$15,000.00, and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to sign and execute same.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

Motion made by Trustee Kramer, seconded by Trustee Farries, to approve the acquisition of 499-501 N. Wolf Road from the Cook County Land Bank Authority for a total of \$15,000.00, and authorizing Village Administrator to sign and execute same.

Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Trustees Walter, Lomeli, Delgado,
Kramer, Farries, Watson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion declared carried

VILLAGE PRESIDENT:

Mayor Tamburino extended the condolences of the Village Board and the Village of Hillside to the family of Terrence "Terry" O'Brien, former president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and longtime friend of the Village Hillside who recently passed away.

Mayor Tamburino also wished Trustee Farries a Happy Birthday on Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Board-of-a-Whole Meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on Monday, April 12, 2021, via Zoom.


As there was no further business before the Board, Mayor Tamburino entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Adjournment: 8:18 P.M.



Linda L. Gould
Clerk