

**Minutes**  
**Combined Committee and Board Meeting**  
**Village of Willow Springs**  
**President and Board of Trustees**  
**February 23, 2017 7:00p.m.**

**Roll Call:**       **Present:** President Nowaczyk, Trustees: George Bartik, Annette Kaptur, Kevin Maloney and Jerry Strazzante

**Also Present:** Administrator William Murray, Clerk Adena Baskovich, Attorney Elizabeth Shine and Engineer Matt Buerger

**Absent:**         Trustees: Kathy Stanphill and Mario Imbarrato

**Public Hearing:**       None.

**Presentation:**   None.

**Minutes:**         None.

**President:**         *President Alan Nowaczyk*  
President Nowaczyk gave an update on the Willowbrook Ballroom Arts & Educational Cultural Community Center. He met with the new owners and their engineering and architect staff. They are very hopeful that they will be able to use the original foundation to rebuild. They are looking for any substantial documents that the Village or Historical Society would have.

Nowaczyk attended the West Central Municipal Legislative Conference Breakfast along with some Trustees and Clerk Baskovich. The mayor discussed further stream-lining the process of tax incentive programs such as the 6B Program. The Village was one of the first to use this to attract businesses to Willow Springs.

The Imperial Oak Brewing Company has more than doubled its size, from when it started out. They have added more customer area and brewing area and several updates.

**Engineering:**         *Engineer Matt Buerger*  
Engineer Buerger provided an update on our Quiet Zone application. Federal regulations require that trains sound their horns 15 to 20 seconds before entering an intersection. Several safety requirements must be met in order to get a Quiet Zone area. BNSF Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail line improvements created a lot of horn noise last year because of horn sounding to alert workers doing construction along the tracks.

The Canadian National Railroad has two crossings. One crossing is located at De Tonty Woods at the access road to Rowell Chemical; the other is west of the Village Hall. The Village has been working since 2008 on its application. The EJ&E originally owned the railway; all railway entities have to sign off in order to receive the Quiet Zone designation. In 2012, the Federal Railroad Administration stated we didn't score low enough to qualify for the Quiet Zone. They have a scale and you must be below 14,307; at that time, the Village scored 15,900. The Village has put in additional safety measures. In 2015 and 2016 the Village did an analysis to see how many people crossed the tracks each day. The main numbers were generated by commuters using the Metra Lot. Therefore, the Village decided to create the separate lot west of Village Hall and add a partial fence. The far west Metra Parking Lot exit ingress and egress had to be changed, to allow cars to exit onto Willow Boulevard, instead of Old Willow Springs Road. The improvements reduced the Village's safety risk scores. Additional signage will have to be added, markers imbedded in the roadway, longer gate arms installed, and the Metra platform made needed modifications. We need a blinker and light system to warn individuals of approaching trains. Total improvement costs are estimated to be possibly hundreds of thousands of dollars. The improvement of the

platform crossing will be dealt with next. The Village is looking into CMAQ funds to assist the process.

As another component of our upcoming CMAQ funding submittal, the Village hopes to resolve the natural barrier to accessing its northern and southern regions. Currently there is no safe access other than by motor vehicle. This fact helps in the grading of our grant application which seeks improvements to provide pedestrian and bicyclist access. The Village will need to pass a resolution as a show of support regarding the implementation of our 2016 Complete Streets initiative. Complete Streets attests to the Village's commitment to build a network connecting pedestrians, bikes, automobile traffic and commuters.

The Village is also preparing to submit a project for the Invest in Cook Grant Program. The engineer and administrator continue to explore additional funding opportunities. The Federal Highway Administration has allowed a degree of creativity in the Village's Green Corridor plan. The Village utilized virtual road counts to simulate expected traffic on a proposed roadway to provide access to newly annexed property out toward Route 83. Trustee Kaptur said she has a contact at Rails to Trails that she will give Matt Buerger so he can reach out for assistance.

Administrator Murray added that Village recently hosted a meeting of four towns' officials to promote working collaboratively on proposed trail connections from Willow Springs all the way to downtown Chicago.

**Administrator:** *William Murray*

His report was included in the Engineer's report. School District 108 would like to utilize the second baseball diamond that has been unused at Lion's Park. They want to help maintain and utilize the field for softball. The Board gave consent to work with the School District to help share costs and maintenance of a second diamond.

**Attorney:** *Elizabeth Shine*

No report.

**Treasurer:** *Arlette Frye*

*Absent*

**Ordinances:** *Trustee George Bartik*

Motion by Trustee Bartik, second by Trustee Strazzante to table **Ord. #2017-O-07** approving the variance for 11031 W. 84<sup>th</sup> Place. ROLL CALL: All AYES. ***Motion Carried.***

Motion by Trustee Bartik, second by Trustee Kaptur to approve the following Ordinances:

**Ord. #2017-O-08** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to Pay the Debt Service on \$2,585,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2004B.

**Ord. #2017-O-09** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to pay the Debt Service on \$3,140,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2009B

**Ord. #2017-O-10** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to Pay the Debt Service on \$1,765,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2012B

**Ord. #2017-O-11** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to Pay the Debt Service on \$1,520,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008A

**Ord. #2017-O-12** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to Pay the Debt Service on \$1,220,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2008C

**Ord. #2017-O-13** Abating the Real Estate Tax Heretofore Levied for the Tax Levy Year 2016 to pay the Debt Service on \$1,100,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2012A. ROLL CALL: All AYES. ***Motion Carried.***

**Resolutions:**

Motion by Trustee Bartik and second by Trustee Strazzante to approve **Res. 2017-R-01** A Resolution in the Support of the Complete Streets Policy (2016-R-01) and the establishment of a bicycle and pedestrian route in support of maintaining air quality and providing congestion relief to the Village. ROLL CALL: All AYES. *Motion Carried.*

Motion by Trustee Bartik and second by Trustee Kaptur to approve **Res. 2017-R-02** Closure of Archer Ave. from 8116 Archer to 8695 Archer Ave. in the Village of Willow Springs, Cook County, Illinois, on June 17, 2017 In Order for the Village of Willow Springs to Host a Parade to Celebrate its 125th Anniversary. ROLL CALL: All AYES. *Motion Carried.*

**Finances:** *Trustee Annette Kaptur*

Motion by Trustee Kaptur, second by Trustee Strazzante, to approve the warrants dated February 23, 2017 as read. ROLL CALL: Trustees: ALL AYES. *Motion Carried.* The Village will begin the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. The West Suburban Chamber of Commerce has a nice article on Willow Springs.

**W.S. Family & Veterans Relief:** *Trustee Maloney & Stanphill*

No report. The Village of Willow Springs has a resident that is a veteran and he will be turning 106 years old this month on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Streets & Alleys:** *Trustee Jerry Strazzante*

Trustee Strazzante said public works has used three tons of cold patch on the streets in town.

**West Suburban Water Commissioner:** *President Alan Nowaczyk*

No report.

**Police and Fire:** *Trustee Mario Imbarrato* *absent*

Trustee Strazzante reported the Safest Small Towns in the United States Report gathered from crime statistics. They published the top 250 safest towns in the United States and Willow Springs ranked 200. The safety score leaves Willow Springs in the top 2% in the country.

**Business Licenses:** *Trustee Kathy Stanphill* *absent*

No new businesses to report at this time.

**Building Committee:** *Trustee Kevin Maloney* *No report*

**Village Clerk:** *Adena Baskovich*

Clerk Baskovich announced the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is working hard on planning the celebrations. Several organizations have signed up for the parade.

**Open Floor:** No motion was made to open the floor, no one signed up to speak. A man asked about the train horns. He was told the Village is working on the Quiet Zone.

**Old News:** None.

**New News:** Trustee Kaptur said they're working on the new budget and considering hiring a part-time person for code enforcement for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. She would like some input regarding this matter.

**Executive Session:** None held.

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Strazzante and second by Trustee Kaptur. Voice Vote: ALL AYES. *Motion Carried.* Time 7:49p.m.

Adena Baskovich, Village Clerk