

# ***Village of North Riverside***

## **Recreation, Ordinance & Judiciary Committee**

Meeting Date: July 27, 2020

Trustee Czajka, Chairwoman  
Trustee Mandel  
Trustee Sarro

Others in attendance were Mayor Hermanek, Trustees Demopoulos, Flores & Mengoni, Administrator Scarpiniti and Village Attorney Cary Horvath.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm and the following is a summary of the meeting:

**Item #1: Discussion of Restructuring Standing Committees:** Trustee Czajka provided an overview of the Mayor's recommended proposal to restructure the standing committees of the Board of Trustees. The Mayor has requested village board approval to consolidate the number of active standing committees and expand the number of voting members per committee. By doing so, the Mayor's intent is to increase accountability and discussion at the committee level while eliminating overlapping purposes between committees. Currently, there are six 3-member standing committees of the Board of Trustees, with each Trustee chairing one committee. Throughout the year, it is common for topics of discussion at the committee level to overlap more than one committee and cause some committees to meet more frequently while others to not meet at all.

The Mayor has proposed to eliminate the current standing committee structure and replace it with three standing committees. The new committees will be titled Administrative, Development and Public Services, with each committee comprised of five voting members, including the chairman.

Not intended to be an all-inclusive list, each committees will oversee the following areas of interest:

Administrative: finance & appropriations, insurance, legislative, legal and licensing

Development: public improvements & infrastructure, economic development, planning and zoning

Public Services: public safety, emergency services, parks & recreation, refuse and recycling

Trustee Czajka questioned the need for standing committee at all and favored a committee of the whole structure. Attorney Horvath provided Trustees with feedback into the committee of the whole structure based upon his experience with other municipalities. He further reiterated that adopting a modified standing committee structure as recommended by the Mayor doesn't preclude Trustees or Staff from recommending discussion of a specific matter to be reviewed and discussed at the committee of the whole level, should it be warranted. After more discussion, Trustee Sarro and Mandel agreed with the Mayor's recommendation of consolidating the board's standing committees from six to three and increasing the number of voting members per committee to five. Trustee Czajka disagreed with this recommendation and favored a committee of the whole structure for discussion of all board matters. Upon polling the other trustees present, Trustees Flores, Demopoulos and Mengoni unanimously favored the three committee structure. The Mayor's recommendation was accepted by the committee

by a vote of 2-1 and will be provided to Attorney Hayes for preparation of the corresponding ordinance for passage at the next village board meeting.

**Item #2: Discussion of Televising Public Meetings & Social Media Presence:** Administrator Scarpiniti discussed the evolving nature of live streaming public meetings due to the current pandemic. Over the past five months, the Village has been utilizing Zoom to televise and live stream its public meetings due to COVID-19 meeting restrictions. When Governor Pritzker lifted in person restrictions on public meetings to 50 people, Zoom became an ineffective way to televise the village's public meetings as this platform is best designed to virtually connect meeting participants who are not centrally located in one room. When multiple participants are at the same location, the application poses visibility and hearing challenges for those participating remotely.

The number of residents participating in our public meetings via zoom has steadily increased over the months and many have reached out to the village offices to request this service continue indefinitely after the pandemic. In order to provide better quality of video recordings, however, staff is recommending the permanent installation of video cameras to work in conjunction with the board room's existing audio system. The cost to install a video system designed to meet the size demand of the board room is approximately \$5,000. Multiple verbal quotes were obtained for comparative purposes as required by the Village's purchasing policy.

In addition, the Administrator also requested the committee authorize the upgrade of the village's website. Due to the outdated platform the village's existing website is programmed from, the village will be unable to upload and publicly share the video files created from the newly installed camera system without upgrading the system. Requests for proposals were solicited and four proposals were received in May. Pricing tabulations were shared with the committee and ranged in cost from approximately \$35,000 to \$75,000. Village staff is recommending formal presentations with all 4 vendors be conducted at an upcoming committee meeting prior to the acceptance and award of a contract. Funding for this project was not budgeted, but is believed to fall under provisions of allowable COVID-19 grant expenses for reimbursement from FEMA and the CARES Act. Village staff has been working with FEMA and County representatives to achieve confirmation of this as a reimbursable expenditure.

Funding for both these projects was not budgeted and therefore will require a supplemental appropriation, if approved. Upon further discussion, the committee unanimously approved the installation of the video system for the approximately cost of \$5,000. Formal presentations of the new website designs will be scheduled at an upcoming committee meeting. Upon polling of the other trustees, a unanimous consensus was obtained.

There being no further business the meeting was adjured 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah Czajka*

Trustee Deborah Czajka, Chairwoman