

1 VILLAGE OF ALSIP
2 MINUTES OF
3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
4 June 18, 2012
5

6 Mayor Kitching called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Clerk Venhuizen called the roll with the
7 following in attendance: Trustees Shapiro, Daddona, Quinn, Dalzell, Ryan and Mayor Kitching and
8 Village Attorney Todd Hayden. Trustee McGreal absent.
9

10 MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Kitching read the following: By the authority vested in me as the Village
11 President of the Village of Alsip, I return without my approval Ordinance Number 2012-6-2, adopted at
12 the Village Board meeting of August 15, 2012, titled, "Ordinance Amending Section 2-59 (Removal of
13 Appointed Officers), Division 2 (Mayor) of Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Municipal Code for the
14 Village of Alsip, Illinois. I veto this Ordinance because if it were to become law, it will change the
15 Village's form of government.
16

17 This Ordinance effectively grants the Board of Trustees authority over appointments. As stated in the
18 court cases I have attached to this message, "without a referendum" the ordinance encroaches upon the
19 appointive power granted to the Village President, which the Board cannot legally do. "The transfer of
20 the appointive power from the executive to the legislative branch affected without a referendum" is
21 unconstitutional according to the Illinois Supreme Court.
22

23 I veto this Ordinance not just for myself as the current elected Village President, but also for future
24 Village Presidents. The Village President of the Alsip should not be constrained in his or her
25 appointment authority by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are elected to act in a legislative capacity
26 rather than to encroach on the day to day administration of government.
27

28 For these reasons, I veto and return without my approval Ordinance Number 2012-6-2.
29

30 CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Venhuizen presented: 1) IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for May, 2012 in
31 the amount of \$41,687.77.
32

33 ATTORNEY REPORT: No report.
34

35 ENGINEER REPORT: Tom Lang, Village Engineer, presented: 1) Recommendation to award the
36 Springfield Avenue Reconstruction contract to the lowest, qualified bidder, Gallagher Asphalt
37 Corporation for the bid amount of \$255,938.80.
38

39 PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Kitching asked for any input from the public.
40

41 Jim Bradford, owner of Dakota Inn for 18 years and Alsip resident, recommended Board approval of
42 video gaming in Alsip. Mr. Dakota explained the impact of the poor economy on local businesses and
43 noted that four bordering Villages already approved video gaming that could result in a loss of patrons
44 for Alsip. Mr. Dakota further pointed out charity work performed by patrons of his establishment, for
45 example, the purchase of van for a handicapped person.
46

47 Janice Gintzler, Crestwood, member of the Illinois Church Action Against Alcohol and Addiction
48 Problems, recommended the Board not approve video gaming.
49

50 Jack Carlson, Alsip resident since February of 1967, spoke in favor of video gaming and recommended
51 more transparency by the Board in keeping residents informed.
52

53 Charles Kaehne, Alsip, Village Sportsman's Club, spoke in favor of video gaming and the charity work
54 performed by the Club.
55

56 John Lavin, Red Shoes Billiards, Alsip business owner for 18 years spoke about poor economy and
57 recommended approval of video gaming.
58

59 Ken Stevens, Riddles Comedy Club, Alsip business owner for 3 years spoke about poor economy and
60 recommended approval of video gaming.
61
62

63 Board of Trustees meeting
64 June 18, 2012

65
66 Dewey Nowee, owner of D&H Vending, resident since 1966, explained he has been doing business in
67 Alsip since 1981 with the VFW, and with the Sportsman's Club since 1995, noting that both
68 establishments run fund raisers for the Alsip community on a continuous basis. Mr. Nowee
69 recommended approval of video gaming.

70
71 Mike Graff, Commander, VFW 450, pointed out persons coming to the VFW have the option as whether
72 to play video poker or not; it is solely their decision. Mr. Graff recommended approval of video gaming.

73
74 Lisa Zett, owner, Southside Bar for seven years pointed out the persons that spoke against video gaming
75 last week were residents of Crestwood where off track betting has been allowed for years, and
76 Crestwood recently approved video gaming. Ms. Zett recommended approval of video gaming.

77
78 FINANCE REPORT: Trustee Quinn presented: 1) Request for approval of a list of payroll dated June
79 15, 2012 totaling \$369,171.68. 2) Request for approval of a list of accounts payable dated June 18, 2012
80 totaling \$387,125.03. 3) Request for approval of the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal
81 Year May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2012. 4) Request for approval of the Estimate of Revenues
82 Ordinance for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Trustee Quinn tabled these items for further discussions and
83 removed Items F and G from the Consent Agenda.

84
85 In response to a recommendation from Trustee Dalzell, Mayor Kitching presented a State of the Village
86 Address for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013. In order to paint a relative picture of our Village resources and
87 finances, we must first examine a little of our recent history. When I became Mayor in 2005, there was
88 approximately \$800,000 in our General Revenue Fund, and most of that was earmarked to pay off
89 looming bond payments.

90
91 Our first independent audit just a couple of months in was a nightmare. Nothing made any sense and
92 there were few records. This was the most expensive audit in the history of Alsip. We immediately took
93 steps to improve our record keeping and began to examine all aspects of our budget. This led us to
94 examine expenditures that seemed unreasonable. Quite frankly, we were bleeding cash everywhere we
95 looked. Myself and capable staff audited our utility bills for starters. We found some pretty surprising
96 things. We were paying for multiple phone lines in the Village that hadn't been used in years. We were
97 paying for street lighting on the lakefront and more than \$34,000 a year for the Alsip Digest to name a
98 few.

99
100 Upon getting the bleeding under control we began examining the long term debt load. Multiple bonds
101 taken out had produced a crushing debt load. We began systematically examining, paying off, refunding
102 and combining these bonds until they were manageable, all the while making our payments on time a
103 top priority. Eventually applying for and receiving a coveted double A bond rating. That effort helped
104 poise our Village for much future success.

105
106 In 2008 the downturn in our national economy wreaked havoc with the Village's traditional funding
107 resources. Sales tax revenue decreased approximately 20%, housing related revenues such as building
108 permits and property transfer taxes saw a significant decrease and monies owed us from the State and
109 County slowed to a trickle and were unreliable. Still we stayed the course. As a result of the Village's
110 improved bond rating, we were able to establish a line of credit for one million dollars to address any
111 emergencies. Fortunately, we never had to tap this line of credit, although we were very close at one
112 point. With concessions graciously extended by our Village employees, along with other cuts in our
113 budget, we were able to manage the crisis without cutting core services to residents and businesses. We
114 truly owe our employees a debt of gratitude.

115
116 Bringing us to our current situation, we now know better than to expect the State of Illinois or the
117 County of Cook to live up to their responsibilities; therefore, we don't. We have always been
118 conservative with our revenue projections, which has allowed us to bank an adequate reserve so no
119 matter how far behind the state gets in paying our due, we will always make payroll and purchase the
120 things necessary to maintain and improve our infrastructure. Industrial vacancy is down from 9.8% to
121 8.4% in the past decade, the lowest ever. Our Village added 1,000 plus jobs in the past decade. Most of
122 these jobs were added in the manufacturing business (30%) and wholesale trade sectors (16.5%).
123 Industrial Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) is almost 50% of the entire community. With all this said
124 our collective efforts have left us very well positioned to continue on our progressive path.

125 Board of Trustees meeting
126 June 18, 2012

127
128 One final thought, I find it most interesting that tending to our fiscal responsibilities has left us with a
129 better bond rating than the state we reside in. Quite an impressive accomplishment!

130
131 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Trustee Dalzell presented: 1) Monthly report for May, 2012 based on
132 the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS). Trustee Dalzell gave a summary of the report.

133
134 POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Trustee Daddona presented: 1) Request for approval of a Block
135 Party for 4352 W. 118th Street, on July 28, 2012, from noon to 10 pm, with a DJ. 2) Request for
136 approval of the Garcia timesheets. 3) Letter of Recognition from Police Chief Radz directed to Officer
137 Rezny, and K-9 "Eddie" for working successfully with Investigators Dollear, Reily, Officer Gutierrez
138 and Lt. Miller in securing cannabis, cocaine, handguns, machine gun and ammunition and US currency.

139
140 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT: Trustee Ryan presented: 1) Request for approval to hire
141 one new summer helper. 2) Request for approval to hire a new full time employee, Sean Cunningham to
142 replace the employee that transferred to the Water Department. 3) Monthly reports from October, 2011
143 to May, 2012. Trustee Quinn requested an update of the Emerald Ash Bohr problem from
144 Superintendent Cullen.

145
146 BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT: Trustee Shapiro presented: 1) Request for approval for J.
147 Martin Construction to receive a foundation permit for the Family Dollar Store, 12299 S. Pulaski, while
148 resolving issues with other agencies. Trustee Shapiro reported the contractor has reissued paperwork to
149 Cook County and recommended approval with the addition of wording "permit to be issued upon receipt
150 of Hold Harmless Agreement with the Village." 2) Request for approval for a variance from Mr. Groller,
151 11913 S. Lockwood, to erect a 10'x 22' shed along the north end of his garage. 3) Request for approval
152 of a request for a variance of the paving requirement for JAS Trucking for the property located at NE
153 Corner of 131st Street and Pulaski. Trustee Shapiro reported the Board received letters from Mr.
154 Madison of JAS Trucking and Mr. Smith of FutureMark Paper (a business in Alsip for over 45 years
155 with 155 employees.) Approval of this variance will preserve many jobs in Alsip. 4) Monthly report for
156 May, 2012. Trustee Quinn pointed out that if the variance is given to JAS Trucking, the door is then
157 open to other companies for the same. Trustee Shapiro recommended approval of the variance and
158 further clarification of the Village's current ordinance. Mayor Kitching noted that plans will be reviewed
159 by the Village Engineer and all departments of the Village prior to issuing any permits. Discussion
160 followed.

161
162 HEALTH & POLLUTION: Trustee Daddona presented: 1) Report that the Health Department issued 22
163 tickets for the June 17, 2012 court call that include violations for grass height, no business license and
164 accumulation of garbage on property.

165
166 SEWER & WATER: Trustee Ryan presented: 1) Report on Water Committee meeting held Thursday,
167 June 14, 2012. Discussion was held on: a) Need to secure State purchasing information for purchase of a
168 pickup truck. b) Potential for building a garage for the Water Department. c) Additional use of a Public
169 Works truck for use by the Summer Help. d) Possibility of retirement for the Water Commissioner in
170 approximately one year. e) Request for approval to transfer the streetlight locates back to Public Works.

171
172 LICENSE REPORT: Trustee Quinn presented: 1) Request for approval of a list of licenses dated June
173 11, 2012.

174
175 PLANNING & ZONING REPORT: No report.

176
177 REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

178
179 VILLAGE PROPERTIES: Trustee Ryan presented: 1) Request for approval of An Ordinance
180 Authorizing the Disposal of Items of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Alsip (disposal of a
181 Fellows Shredder.)

182
183 INSURANCE COMMITTEE: Trustee Ryan presented: 1) Reminder the Village's Insurance
184 representatives will be meeting with all Village unions on Wednesday, June 21, 2012 at 10:00 am at the
185 Village Hall to discuss a new insurance program.

186

187 Board of Trustees meeting
188 June 18, 2012

189
190 ORDINANCE & LEGISLATION: Trustee Dalzell presented: 1) Request for approval of an Ordinance
191 Amending the Municipal Code for the Village of Alsip to Permit Video Gaming in the Village of Alsip.

192
193 IT: No report.

194
195 BOAT LAUNCH: Trustee Quinn requested and received an update on the MWRD permit and lease
196 agreement.

197
198 PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS: Mayor Kitching read a letter of retirement
199 effective November 1, 2012 from Greg Palumbo, Finance Director.

200
201 CONSENT AGENDA

202
203 Mayor Kitching asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda; Trustee Quinn
204 removed Items F, G and R. Motion by Trustee Dalzell to establish the Consent Agenda as modified;
205 seconded by Trustee Daddona.

206
207 CONSENT AGENDA

- 208 A. Approval of minutes of June 4, 2012 Board meeting.
209 B. Approval of minutes of June 11, 2012 Committee meeting.
210 C. Approval of a list payroll dated June 15, 2012, totaling \$369,171.68.
211 D. Approval of a list of accounts payable dated June 18, 2012 totaling \$387,125.03.
212 E. Approval of a list of licenses dated June 11, 2012.
213 F. ~~Approval of THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR~~
214 ~~MAY 1, 2012 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2012. (tabled)~~
215 G. ~~Approval of THE ESTIMATE OF REVENUES ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR~~
216 ~~2012-2013. (tabled)~~
217 H. Approval of an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF ITEMS OF PERSONAL
218 PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF ALSIP. **Ordinance No. 2012-6-3.**
219 I. Approval of an ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE VILLAGE
220 OF ALSIP TO PERMIT VIDEO GAMING IN THE VILLAGE OF ALSIP.
221 **Ordinance No. 2012-6-4.**
222 J. Acceptance of the IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for May, 2012 in the amount of \$41,687.77.
223 K. Approval to award the Springfield Avenue Reconstruction contract to the lowest bidder,
224 Gallagher Asphalt Corporation for the bid amount \$255,938.80.
225 L. Approval of a Block Party for 4352 W. 118th Street, on July 28, 2012, from noon to 10 pm, with
226 a DJ.
227 M. Approval of the Garcia timesheets.
228 N. Approval for Public Works to hire one new summer helper.
229 O. Approval for Public Works to hire a new full time employee to replace the employee that
230 transferred to the Water Department.
231 P. Approval of a request from J. Martin Construction to receive a foundation permit for the Family
232 Dollar Store, 12299 S. Pulaski, with the addition of wording “permit to be issued upon receipt of
233 Hold Harmless Agreement with the Village” while in the process of resolving issues with other
234 agencies.
235 Q. Approval for a variance with Mr. Groller, 11913 A. Lockwood, to erect a 10’ x 22’ shed along
236 the north end of his garage.
237 R. ~~Approval of a request for a variance of the paving requirement for JAS Trucking for the property~~
238 ~~located at NE Corner of 131st Street. (removed)~~
239 S. Acceptance of committee reports as presented.
240 Roll #1: Voting “aye”: Trustees Shapiro, Daddona, Quinn, Dalzell and Ryan. Motion carried.
241 Motion by Trustee Shapiro to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee Dalzell.
242 Roll #2: Voting “aye”: Trustees Shapiro, Daddona, Quinn, Dalzell and Ryan. Motion carried.

243
244 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

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246 ITEMS F and G: Tabled until June 25, 2012 Committee meeting.
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248

249 Board of Trustees meeting
250 June 18, 2012
251
252 ITEM R: Motion by Trustee Dalzell to approve a request for variance of the paving requirement for JAS
253 Trucking for the property located at NE Corner of 131st Street; seconded by Trustee Shapiro.
254 Roll #3: Voting “aye”: Trustees Shapiro, Daddona, Dalzell and Ryan.
255 Voting “nay”: Trustee Quinn. Motion carried
256
257 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Trustee Quinn requested a copy of the letter on the State of the Village and
258 any backup information.
259
260 NEW BUSINESS: None.
261
262 ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee Shapiro to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Dalzell. All in favor;
263 none opposed. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.
264
265 Respectfully submitted,
266
267
268
269 _____
270 Deborah Venhuizen
Village Clerk, Alsip, Illinois