

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M., August 2, 2021**

After calling the meeting to order, President Kaufman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called the roll, with the following members present: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – None.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michelle Peterson spoke regarding her work with the Planning Commission for Spark Academy and thanked everyone for their work as Village Board members.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes.
  - 1. Regular Meeting – July 19, 2021
- B. Approval of Bills

Trustee Parrott moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.  
No: None – 0.  
Absent: Newman – 1.

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT**

Mayor Kaufman presented the Village personnel cost for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Trustee Menold moved to approve the spending from the Tourism Fund and this motion was seconded by Trustee Leitch, being accepted with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.  
No: None – 0.  
Absent: Newman – 1.

Mayor Kaufman then announced that the premier of Baking Up Love will be on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Morton Cinemas. Tickets will not be available at the door and must be purchased on the Baking Up Love website prior to arrival. Purchases will be added to a list for entry at the premier and an electronic payment receipt will be given. Each ticket for the movie is \$10.00 and tickets for the after party will be \$20, hosted by Schooners in Morton.

**VILLAGE CLERK** – None.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Smick presented Documentation Review #68 covering the receipt and disbursement of Motor Fuel Tax funds by the Village for the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020.

Administrator Smick then presented a 6-month update on sales tax, noting that the Village had received \$2,328,169.17 from January through June 2021. She noted that this number is higher than this time last year by about \$116,000.00 and projected that the next 6 months will return about \$2.5 million in sales tax revenue. The numbers are higher than previous years, in part, due to Illinois lawmakers passing an act regarding sales tax from online orders being directed to municipalities where the purchased product is shipped. Trustee Parrott asked if there were statistics showing the breakdown of taxes received from online orders and brick and mortar store orders. Administrator Smick replied that she does receive a report, but the detailed information is confidential. She is hopeful to have some information available regarding this for the next quarterly report.

**CHIEF OF POLICE** - None.

**CORPORATION COUNSEL** - None.

**DIRECTOR OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

DFES Kelley presented his recommendation for acceptance of a new fire truck bid. This recommendation was for Alexis Fire Equipment, who was the lowest bidder, at \$567,900.00. The amount includes a pre-pay discount of \$10,000.00 which has been done for other equipment in the past. Trustee Leitch asked where Alexis Fire Equipment was located and DFES Kelley noted that it was Alexis, IL, between Galesburg and Monmouth. Trustee Blunier then asked if there were any local bids received and DFES Kelley stated that this was the most local company with such products and part of their appeal was the ability to service equipment in a close proximity. Trustee Menold questioned the similarity of the new equipment compared to the existing and DFES Kelley answered by saying that it was extremely similar, although all equipment of this nature is considered custom. Trustee Parrott moved to accept the recommended bid and Trustee Leitch seconded the motion; it passed with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.

No: None – 0.

Absent: Newman – 1.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** – None.

**ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

ZCO Marks presented a 6-month update on building permits for the Village. Overall, 340 permits were issued through June 2021, which was higher than this time last year by 52 permits. The total valuation of permits in the first 6 months of this year is higher than 2020 by roughly \$4,500,000.00.

ZCO Marks then presented Petition 21-02 SP which was a special use request for 216 N. First Ave. to allow for a daycare center. Trustee Hilliard motioned to bring the item onto the floor for discussion and Trustee Menold seconded this motion. ZCO Marks explained that this item was given a favorable review by the Plan Commission. Trustee Parrott spoke on behalf of neighbors to this property who had expressed concern with a daycare being located here. Another, primary concern that he expressed was regarding traffic and parking. He noted that the street sees a high level of traffic and, even though there would be a lease for a close parking lot, is not sure how the parking would be handled if that lease was not renewed at some point in the near future. The option of a crosswalk at this location was also discussed by Trustee Parrott, but not seen as feasible or favorable due to it being mid-block and atypical, costly, and something that would potentially exist

longer than the planned daycare's existence. Trustee Parrott expressed his appreciation for the daycare idea and encouraged it in a better-suited location. Trustee Hilliard then noted that this proposal is mostly for a pre-school that provides education, and that he also has concerns regarding parking and traffic, agreeing with Trustee Parrott's comments. He then raised concern regarding neighbors' ability to park in front of their home if a crosswalk was constructed at this location because the Village does not allow parking during the day within 100 feet in either direction (for a total of 200 feet on both sides of the street) of a school crosswalk. Trustee Hilliard also liked the idea of the proposed daycare and pre-school, but at another location. Trustee Menold asked for clarification from Trustee Hilliard regarding the parking regulation near school crosswalks during school days, which was done, and then asked ZCO Marks if this regulation was considered at the Plan Commission meeting when this petition was given a favorable review. ZCO Marks stated that this school crosswalk parking regulation was not mentioned at the meeting because it was more of a Public Works topic. Trustee Blunier then expressed his concerns regarding children's safety with traffic at this location and also neighbors potentially not being able to park in front of their house during school days. Trustee Leitch then agreed with the parking concerns and stated that he did not feel that this location was conducive for either daycare or pre-school activity. He stated that this facility needed off-street access to the front door so that the street does not need to be used for a drop-off stopping point. The Village already directed another learning center that recently opened to construct an off-street location for drop-off and temporary parking, so Trustee Leitch expressed the same need for this location as well. He spoke of the need for permanent solutions regarding parking and traffic and not just short-term solutions, then stating that due to these concerns, he did not favor this special use permit. The special use permit was unanimously denied by the following roll call vote:

Yes: None – 0.  
No: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.  
Absent: Newman – 1.

The next item presented by ZCO Marks was Petition 21-03 ZA which is a request to change the zoning of 101 N. Morton Ave. from B2 to R1. A motion to approve this petition was made by Trustee Leitch and seconded by Trustee Parrott. The petition was approved by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.  
No: None – 0.  
Absent: Newman – 1.

ZCO Marks finally presented Ordinance 22-08: An ordinance amending Title 10 of the Village Code of the Village of Morton to provide amendments regarding front yard setbacks. He explained that this ordinance clears up previous language and Corporation Counsel McGrath noted the same. A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Trustee Blunier and seconded by Trustee Hilliard. The ordinance was approved with the following roll call vote:

Yes: Blunier, Hilliard, Leitch, Menold, Parrott – 5.  
No: None – 0.  
Absent: Newman – 1.

#### **VILLAGE TRUSTEES**

Trustee Blunier – None.

Trustee Hilliard – None.

Trustee Leitch – None.

Trustee Menold – Gave his appreciation to ZCO Marks for his efforts in taking care of the Village flower pots early in the mornings.

Trustee Newman – None.

Trustee Parrott – None.

**CLOSED SESSIONS** - None.

**CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSIONS** - None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Leitch moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Hilliard and followed by a unanimous voice vote of all present board members.

ATTEST:

  
VILLAGE CLERK

  
PRESIDENT

