

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF GLENWOOD, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD AT THE GLENWOODIE GOLF COURSE JULY 15, 2020

The July 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Village President Ronald J. Gardiner, who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Upon Roll Call by Village Clerk Dion Lynch, the following Trustees responded: Beckman, Clark, Dawson, Hadnott, Styles, Winston

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Mitchell, Village Administrator; John Donahue, Village Attorney; Chief Kevin Welsh Fire/Building; Finance Director, Linda Brunette; JoAnne Alexander; Senior Center Park Programs; Toleda Hart, Village Treasurer; Police Chief Derek Peddycord; Harrison Maddox, Village Engineer; Phillip Robbins, Glenwoodie;

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No comments

Approval of a Resolution approving a Water Supply Contract between the Village of Glenwood and the Southland Water Agency.

Discussion: SWA representative Aaron Fundich and Michael Roth

Mr. Fundich explained the Village of South Holland, Village of East Hazel Crest and The Village of Thornton (Charter Members) entered into a Municipal Intergovernmental agreement where the SWA (Southland Water Agency) was established in May of 2019 Mr. Fundich then stated the total supply water contribution is \$62,650.00 with three installments 1.\$31,325.00 2nd installment \$15,663.00 3rd installment \$15,662.00. SWA will create new intake structure, pump station and water transmission lines. Mr. Fundich also stated the 50-year term of the loan is necessary for three reason. 1. The Bond payment, Cost of the project as well as maintaining guaranteed fixed rates which will be much lower than Chicago and Hammond

SWA is an Independent system dedicated to serve Lake Michigan to each town. Water purchase and conveyance rates independent of both Chicago and Hammond, SWA also guarantees transparency and predictability in water rates for the next 50 years. We are currently investigating sites for water treatment plants.

SWA is guaranteeing Initial water rates at least 3% less than current Supplier. Guarantee of no rate increase first 10 years thereafter Deep discounts for early adopters as well as lower wholesale rates. Indiana infrastructure LLC to finance \$300,000,000 system construction to state line.

The Agency will pursue WIFIA low-interest loan from the USEPA, additionally we will use IEPA loans over multi-year period. We are guaranteeing water rates from day one will

be below the rates offered at that time (2027-2028) by your current supplier. The Agency will also guarantee zero rate increases to each customer for the first 10 years. Rates for years 11-50 will become more consistent across entire southland aligned with the Agency mission to provide a fair, cost effective system.

Mr. Fundich then explained the 2020 base fee= \$150,000.00/MGD 2025 water allocation. 20 MGD threshold ensures rates below current suppliers on day 1 even without Joliet. The sooner the Agency reaches 20 MGD the quicker it can become a partner of Joliet. The return on Investment \$131,258.00 save din the first year. \$183,853.00 in the second year, \$237,362.00 in year 3. A total of \$552,473.00 saved in years 1-3.

Residents Question

***Several Residents** asked question including but not limited to. The following. **1.** Why does the commitment have to be 50 years? **2.** Why does the Board need to make a decision so quickly-is someone receiving a kick back-we were given approximately two weeks to review this? **3.** Why does it appear Companies are targeting middle class/predominantly African American Communities? **4.** Can we make the presentation a little more understandable for the Residents? **5.** Residents then asked why are we having three meetings within 30 days on one subject? **6.** How long have you been established? Do you have historical data? **7.** You all have only been established one year! **8.** Residents then asked what other Cities/Villages are apart of this.**9.** Several Residents expressed concern related to the length of the 50-year contract. **10.** Another Resident stated, we need to have more conversation, we need more time to review, educate and digest the information. **11.** A question was asked are we going to have our own meter to compare one meter to the next? **12.** Do we know or have we budgeted for Insurance and Increase of Insurance, **13.** Lastly it was asked who is water for water quality?

Residents continued to ask; do we have any experts on the Village side to combat what the SWA is presenting. **14.** It was then mentioned from longtime Residents whom explained their plight with the water situation that has been going on over 50 years. It was then stated, we put in new lines 30 years ago thinking that was long enough and it was. t we've had well water many longtime Residents remember having to replace their bathrooms, floors, washers and dryers because of the damage the water caused., we had to continually get our kids tested. There are several Residents here, who understand the decades of challenges we've had with water. This situation is not new, this is an opportunity to make a change and do something new. A Resident concluded by providing an article that is currently being

introduced on the Senate floor that prohibits a Village/City from entering into a water contract beyond four years.

Trustee Dawson stated, we just spent over a half million dollars in the Plaza. We don't have a plan or a budget. We don't have anything going on, we have had no conversations outside of the presentations that were seen. We have only talked about it amongst ourselves, with the open meetings act we can't do too much talking. I would like to know do we have a specialty person we go to with regards to water? I don't even know; do we hire someone outside of the Village to give their input to the Board? He then what conditions and perimeters of water will be bringing? What PH, what chlorine? We don't have those answers.

Trustee Hadnott stated, we should be asking Robinson Engineering about our water. We also have a Exec VP giving a presentation for Robins, they are also our partners. I think is an undisclosed conflict of interest. I want to focus on what the Village should have done. We could have utilized the tip 4-11 app, more phone calls. I got this agenda 5pm on Friday evening. We have to do better communicating with the Board. Communication in this Village is horrific. I spoke to a couple Trustees about our bond. I am not seeing anything in this contract about that. Why would we enter into a five 50-year contract and 5 years down the road you either sue us, or we sue you. I believe in the WIN-WIN philosophy for everyone. If it cost more for us to get a win-win I'm ok with that. I don't like high pressure sales, I don't want to be sold water. I water Robinson and SWA to be a partner. I have not heard anything about the budget and or cost for the next 50 years. He then stated, I don't believe you have enough money to get this started. He concluded by saying, I have a social justice issue with this. Robinson Engineering and Ice Miller charged the South Suburban JAWA a lot of money. Cities are still paying off the bond.

Trustee Winston stated, to make a decision that will bind us for 50 years in two weeks seems absurd. We need to clarify the Insurance language, language that appears to only protect the SWA but not the Village. 50 years from now my kids will be paying for the This decision needs to be throughout more, we need language that states if we want to "back out" we should be able to. He then asked why hasn't it been made available to us to have someone on the Board?

Trustee Beckman stated, one of the main issues we are having in the Village is Economic development. Lower utility cost, lower water cost will greatly benefit the Plaza or Industry especially if it's a heavy water consumption industry. To many Businesses are going to the other side because they have cheaper water. If we can reduce their

water cost on this side, we could attract business and industry back into Illinois.

Mayor Gardiner concluded the Public comment section by reading a prepared statement, explaining the purpose of having the SWA presentation. He then explained the reason for the delay in the presentation not being made in full to the Board a Public. He concluded his statement by identifying the savings, progress and benefit that adopting this contract would benefit the Village.

*Please note, due to the length of the Special Board Meeting (3 hours), not all questions, statements and or concerns are listed above. The Concept, strategy and end Goal from SWA has been listed. All Questions/Statements listed from the Residents/Public are a general consensus of all questions and statements made from the Public. Trustees statements are listed, as stated. Additionally, ALL questions, statements and concerns were addressed in full from Mr. Fundich as well as the Attorney from the SWA. Further information related to the SWA presentation can be found on the Village website, and can also be answered by the Mayor, Village Administrator as well as the Board of Trustees.

Trustee: Beckman moved; **Second by Trustee Styles** to accept the Motion as read.

Upon Roll Call: Ayes:4 Naes: 3 Recues: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

Ayes: Beckman, Clark, Styles Mayor Gardiner

Naes: Dawson, Hadnott, Winston

Recues: 0

Absent: 1

Abstain: 0

Motion Approved: Yes

ADJOURNMENT:

The July 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.



Dion Lynch, Village Clerk