

**VILLAGE OF LAKE VILLA  
VILLAGE BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Mayor McDonald, Trustees: Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly Bartlett, Savell, and McCollum, Village Administrator Mike Strong, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jake Litz, Chief of Police Rochelle Tisinai, Village Attorney Rebecca Alexopoulos, Public Works Supervisors Ryan Horton and Jim Bowles, Finance Director Christine McKinley and Management Analyst Mikaela Alonso. There are approximately 15 members of the public in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Public Comment:** Michael Dobrow provided comments concerning building codes with the Village and encouraged the Village Board to not require fire sprinklers within the Village due to the financial cost burden that would be placed on residents, and the impact it may cause on available housing within the community.

Robert Frank provided comments to the Village Board concerning fire sprinklers and asked that the Village Board not require them due to the burden it would place on future redevelopment costs for the Village.

Dave Mowry shared information and data with the Village Board on recent structure fires that had taken place throughout the township over the past month, stating that fire sprinklers would have saved lives that were lost.

Erik Hoffer shared comments with the Village Board concerning municipalities that have adopted fire sprinkler requirements in Illinois and locally in Lake County. He encouraged the Village Board to support a fire sprinkler mandate for new construction within the Village.

**Minutes:** It was moved by Trustee Nielsen and seconded by Trustee McCollom to approve the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Village Board Meeting Minutes.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 4 (Nielsen, O'Reilly, Bartlett, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 2 (Barbato, Savell)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Finance:** It was moved by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee Bartlett to approve the account payable report for November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the amount of \$445,880.92

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Mayor:**

The Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Parade will take place on Saturday, November 30 reminders, Ribbon cutting at 137 Cedar Avenue (American Family), Ribbon cutting at Alonso Music School at 777 Milwaukee on November 16. The Mayor stated that an application for liquor license has been applied for, pre-packaged liquor license at Deep Lake Road and Grass Lake Road. Seemed okay with the recommendation; based on hours of operation, etc.

**Staff Reports:**

Public Works reported that the water meter changeout is approximately 50 of the 115 homes have been completed, and first notification letters have been sent out to the townhomes in Painted Lakes. The Police Department is collecting gently worn winter clothing for the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago, a donation box is in the lobby of Village Hall. The Village has received a \$200,000 grant from Representative Weber's office for infrastructure projects, and the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a meeting on Thursday, November 21.

**Old Business:**

**Discussion: Building Code Update**

Assistant to the Village Administrator Jake Litz provided a brief presentation regarding the status of the building code updates. He walked through a presentation on what authority non-home rule communities have in requiring or amending out requirements for automated fire sprinklers, reviewed local municipalities who require fire sprinklers, and policy questions the Village Board could consider. The Village Board conferred on whether to require automatic fire sprinkler systems for residential, commercial and multi-family uses.

In addition to automatic fire sprinkler systems, the Village Board conferred on whether to allow for different types of wiring in construction, including flexible conduit and rubber-sheathed products like Romex.

The Village Board opted to continue its conversation relative to fire sprinkler requirements to a future meeting, asking that different options for minimum square footage requirements be provided relative to different commercial uses and classes of buildings. The Village Board also asked Village staff to investigate other potential programs, such as a homeowner opt-out option to allow individual homeowners to decide whether to install sprinklers or not.

**Resolution 2024-11-01: Resolution Approving an Amended Agreement for Sewage Disposal Entered Into By and Between the County of Lake, Illinois and the Village of Lake Villa, Illinois**

Village Engineer Bob Doeringsfeld provided background information on the agenda item including the history of the agreement, terms of the agreement, and the service area that the Village and County have agreed to, in addition to expansion areas that have been added to the existing service territory. He explained that approval of the Agreement would allow the Village more flexibility in how the population equivalents are dispersed to the interceptor systems, address billing challenges with three subdivisions in the community, and enhance the Village's control of assets within the community.

It was moved by Trustee McCollum and seconded by Trustee Bartlett to approve Resolution 2024-11-01 approving an Amended Agreement for Sewage Disposal Entered Into By and Between the County of Lake, Illinois and the Village of Lake Villa, Illinois.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Discussion: Transfer of Former Lakes Region Sanitary District Assets**

Village Engineer Bob Doeringsfeld provided an introduction and history on the item related to the former Lakes Region Sanitary District and the purpose it served providing sewer utility to portions of Lake County. He stated that since the Village's last discussion on this item, the Lake County Board adopted a policy that authorizes the equitable transfer of the District's former assets to communities that overlap its former jurisdictional boundaries. He stated that the Prairie Trail, Cedar Ridge I & II subdivisions were located in the former District's boundaries and all have sewer infrastructure that is the responsibility of Lake County Department of Public Works. The Village Board conferred on whether to express its interest to Lake County to obtain the assets, or to formally inspect the infrastructure prior to notification.

The Village Board directed staff to conduct a spot inspection of the infrastructure and report back later this winter with any concerns staff may have with the current condition of the manholes and underground pipes.

***New Business:* Ordinance 2024-11-01: An Ordinance Approving FY2024 Transfers out of General Fund**

Finance Director Christine McKinley provided background on the general fund surplus based on the Village's audit that was recently completed. She added that the amount of the transfer reflects the excess funds beyond the minimum fund reserves required based on the financial policies established by the Village Board.

It was moved by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee Savell to approve Ordinance 2024-11-01 approving FY2024 Transfers out of General Fund.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval: FY2025/2026 Non-Binding Tax Levy Estimate**

Finance Director Christine McKinley provided background information on the tax levy, reviewed current year-to-date financial information on major revenue sources, and presented options the Board may consider relative to the 2024 property tax levy. The Village Board conferred over multiple options that were presented, including options that would cover police pension and dispatch service cost increases anticipated next year, along with options that would cover the Village's liability insurance costs.

It was moved by Trustee Nielsen and seconded Trustee Savell to approve the Village of Lake Villa estimated 2024 Tax Levy payable in 2025 in the amount of \$2,470,313.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 5 (Nielsen, Barbato, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 1 (O'Reilly)**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval: Purchase Order for the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-600 (Public Works**

**Vehicle) from Rush Truck Center for \$76,310.00**

Public Works Superintendent Ryan Horton provided background on the Unit 6 vehicle for the public works fleet. He stated that the approved five-year capital budget includes the replacement of this unit with a 5-ton International Truck, however, there is a 2-year build period for a standard plow replacement. He added that based on direction provided by the Village Board during the capital budget discussions, staff is proposing to replace this vehicle with a Ford F-600, which is a lower cost vehicle to the Village.

It was moved by Trustee Savell and seconded Trustee Barbato to approve a Purchase Order for the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-600 (Public Works Vehicle) from Rush Truck Center for \$76,310.00.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Approval: Purchase Order for the upfit a of a 2025 Ford F-600 (Public Works Vehicle) from Knapheide Truck Equipment Center Chicago for \$83,349.53**

Public Works Superintendent Ryan Horton provided additional background relative to the upfit requirements for the F-600 vehicle, including dump body specifications, plow attachments, and other configurations the truck would need to support the public works operations.

It was moved by Trustee Bartlett and seconded Trustee Savell to approve a Purchase Order for the upfit a of a 2025 Ford F-600 (Public Works Vehicle) from Knapheide Truck Equipment Center Chicago for \$83,349.53.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Executive Session:***

It was moved by Trustee Nielsen and seconded by Trustee Barbato to go into Executive session at 9:59 pm.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

It was moved by Trustee Barbato and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly to reconvene into regular session at 10:17 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Trustee O'Reilly and seconded by Trustee Barbato to adjourn at 10:18 pm.

**ROLL CALL VOTE WAS:**

**AYES: 6 (Nielsen, Barbato, O'Reilly, Bartlett, Savell, McCollum)**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 0**

**ABSTAIN: 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVED BY ME THIS** 18<sup>th</sup>, November, 2024

  
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**JAMES MCDONALD, MAYOR**

  
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**MARY KONRAD, CLERK**