

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, VILLAGE OF NILES
June 11, 2019
6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

A video recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Village of Niles website www.vniles.com.

CALL TO ORDER The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Village Attorney Danielle Grcic in the Council Chambers, Village of Niles Municipal Building on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Village Attorney Danielle Grcic led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Village Clerk Marlene Victorine called the roll. Board members present were Trustees George D. Alpogianis, John C. Jekot, Danette O'Donovan Matyas, and Denise McCreery. President Andrew Przybylo, Trustee Craig Niedermaier, and Trustee Dean Strzelecki were absent.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN Trustee Jekot made a motion to nominate Trustee Alpogianis to serve as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Trustee McCreery. On roll call, all concurred.

PRESENTATIONS Local Impacts of Illinois Cannabis Regulation & Tax Act

Village Manager Steven Vinezeano introduced the presentation as an opportunity for the Board and residents to learn about the Illinois Cannabis Regulation & Tax Act, the options that the Village has, and what the impacts on each department would be. Village Manager Vinezeano then introduced Assistant to the Village Manager Kathy Thake. Ms. Thake reiterated the purpose of the presentation and introduced Attorney Michael T. Jurusik from Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins to present the legislation and options the Village has regarding the allowance of recreational cannabis sales within Niles. The Village does have the option to "opt out" of allowing the sale of recreational cannabis. The Village currently has regulations on cultivation centers and dispensaries for medicinal cannabis; this type of regulation through special use or conditional permits is also utilized in the new legislation. In the Illinois Cannabis Regulation & Tax Act, cannabis should be regulated in the same ways that alcohol is. Mr. Jurusik also detailed the Cannabis Regulation Fund, which is the fund that all of the revenue from recreational cannabis sales will be put into. Municipalities are allowed to tax up to 3% on recreational sales, medical sales are tax exempt.

Following the conclusion of Mr. Jurusik's presentation, Ms. Thake asked for the Human Resources impacts from Deputy Village

Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos. The Village will continue to utilize pre-employment drug testing and will have a zero tolerance for public safety positions. For the remaining staff members, the Village will review a drug free work place policy. Supervisors will receive reasonable suspicion training in order to recognize the signs and symptoms of cannabis use.

Family Services Director Darren Brown presented the current and possible impacts on the Family Services Department. Currently the Family Services Department is experiencing an increase in youth referrals relating to the usage of vapes, this is likely to continue to increase. There will be a need for increased access to services by adults, relating to both the use of cannabis as well as other substance abuse. The Family Services Department also foresees a need for community education and prevention programs. These programs would work to educate parents and work on creating partnerships with local schools and other community partners.

Fire Chief Martin Feld presented the possible impacts that the Fire Department would see with recreational cannabis. These impacts have been seen in states that have passed recreational cannabis usage. Possible medical issues include an increase in overdoses across most age groups, an increase in opioid usage, and an increase in medical conditions and psychological disorders caused by cannabis. There is also a concern with the hazardous materials utilized to cultivate cannabis plants, extracting oils, etc.

Police Chief Luis Tigera stated that with the passage of this legislation the Police Department will need to expand their education and training for officers so they are better prepared to recognize signs and symptoms of cannabis consumption. Also having a phlebotomy program at the department in order to obtain blood samples in a more proficient way. Additionally, with the passage of this legislation the Police Department will need to begin working on expunging minor cannabis offenses from records. Other impacts also include the potential increase in vehicular accidents and the challenges that come with cash businesses, such as robberies. Testing for impaired drivers will require officers to become Drug Recognition Experts, as there is no breath test or other road side exam to properly test for the usage of cannabis.

Finally, Community Development Director Charles Ostman presented on the Planning and Zoning impacts. The Village does have regulations in the code book regarding medical cannabis sales and cultivation. The current language is focused on medical cannabis sales and cultivation; however, this language can be updated for

recreational cannabis. The code does include distance requirements from school, churches, and other public or recreation facilities. While the State of Illinois will issue the licenses, the Village of Niles does have a registration requirement for businesses. Economic Development Coordinator Ross Klicker presented on the impacts from an Economic Development point of view. The ability to tax and gain revenue from the sale of recreational cannabis could have a positive fiscal impact for the Village. Mr. Klicker provided the example of Pueblo County, Colorado where there are proven positive local economic impacts, including a positive multiplier effect on dollars spent.

Ms. Thake concluded the presentation by stating this was a continuing conversation, especially with residents and other Village stake holders.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steven Yasell, Niles

Mr. Yasell was happy to hear all sides of the conversation as he believes the sale of recreational cannabis would be beneficial to Niles. He is also looking forward to the continuing conversations on the topic.

Shawn Phillips, Niles

Mr. Phillips discussed a small town in California, which allows the sale of recreational cannabis, but has not seen an increase in crime (within the allowed) nor an increase in vehicle accidents or youth consumption. He stated that there has been an increase in revenue and local jobs. Mr. Phillips also provided statistics that showed teen usage did not increase with the legalization of cannabis and in some instances actually fell. Mr. Phillips gave a personal account of his experience with a dispensary, stating he felt safe with the security and that it was located in a "nice, quiet" neighborhood. Mr. Phillips concluded by saying that this is an opportunity for Niles and he hopes that the sale and cultivation of recreational cannabis is allowed.

RECESS

At 7:12 p.m., the Board recessed.

At 7:18 p.m., the Board reconvened.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing a Bid Waiver and Contractual Agreement for Emergency Electrical Repairs at the Public Works Department Truck Garage

Trustee Matyas made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jekot, to approve the Resolution Authorizing a Bid Waiver and Contractual Agreement with Meersman Electric Ltd. for emergency electrical repairs at the Public Works Department truck garage in the amount of \$81,350. Upon inspection of the Public Works Truck Garage, it was discovered that an electrical feed needs to be replaced. This failed

feed has rendered the truck exhaust system inoperable making it a health related issue that must be repaired. On roll call, the vote was:

YEAS: 4 Alpogianis, Jekot, Matyas, McCreery
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 2 Niedermaier, Strzelecki
ABSTAIN: 0

There being 4 affirmative votes, the **MOTION CARRIED.**

Resolution Awarding a Bid to Air One Equipment, Inc. for the Purchase of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor System for Fire Department in the Amount of \$54,825

Trustee Alpogianis made a motion, seconded by Trustee McCreery, to approve the Resolution Awarding a Bid to Air One Equipment, Inc. for the Purchase of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Compressor System for the Fire Department in the Amount of \$54,825. The Niles Fire Department was awarded a FEMA grant to purchase a SCBA air compressor. This is a reimbursement grant that will refund the Village 90% of the total purchase price of \$54,825. Time is of importance for the purpose of the grant funding. On roll call, the vote was:

YEAS: 4 Alpogianis, Jekot, Matyas, McCreery
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 2 Neidermaier, Strzelecki
ABSTAIN: 0

There being 4 affirmative votes, the **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee McCreery made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Matyas. On roll call, all concurred. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.


Deputy Village Clerk


Village President