

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021 7:00P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Baldino, Bertucci, Canty, Grasse, LaBedz, Schwingbeck, and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Scaletta

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Diana Mikula, Assistant Village Manager; Robert Taraszka, IT Manager; Sarah Fitzgibbons, Management Analyst; Ron Fraider, Deputy Fire Chief; Chris Papierniak, Acting Director of Public Works; Scott Schweda, Superintendent of Utilities; Steve Mullany, Services Coordinator; Chester Gorecki, Management Analyst; Charles Perkins, Director of Planning & Community Development and Kim Peterson, Recording Secretary

SUBJECTS:

- A. Departmental Status Reports – Integrated Services
- B. Departmental Status Reports – Public Works
- C. Departmental Status Reports – Fire
- D. Departmental Status Reports – Planning & Community Development

Other Business

Adjournment

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Recklaus advised that Village Board will be hearing Department Status Reports from four Departments, including the Integrated Services Department, the Public Works Department, the Fire Department and the Planning & Community Development Department.

A. Departmental Status Reports – Integrated Services

Ms. Mikula introduced the two members of her Department in attendance at tonight's meeting, Robert Taraszka, IT Manager and Sarah Fitzgibbons, Management Analyst. Ms. Mikula thanked them for their assistance in helping to prepare her report, as well as for all of their hard work over the past year. Ms. Mikula stated that she is proud of her team, as it has been a year of

accomplishments while working in challenging times.

Ms. Mikula advised the Integrated Services Department (ISD) is a 15-member workgroup that is organized into three areas: Village Manager's Office, Information Technology (I.T.) and Legal. The Department was reorganized in May of 2021 to incorporate the Legal division. The purpose of the Department is to exercise oversight over all departments, ensure the achievement of Village Board Goals and Objectives, optimize interdepartmental processes, and lead in organizational efficiencies. In addition, the ISD serves as the focal point for the executive leadership and direction of the organization.

ISD focuses on three key service areas where interdepartmental coordination is key, including technology initiatives, communication and outreach, and customer service. Ms. Mikula, as the Assistant Village Manager, oversees the Department by providing professional support to the Village Manager and the development and administration of programs and services, as well as serves as the Acting Village Manager in the absence of the Village Manager.

Ms. Mikula discussed her Department's scope of services, including the Village Manager's Office, which is responsible for communications, administration and legislative support. The Village Manager's Office provides outreach to village staff and the community, administers liquor licenses, monitors liquor law changes and trends, oversee the Village Board agenda management, Committee-of-the-Whole agenda management, ensures Open Meetings Act requirements are met, schedules special recognitions, oversees all communications in the Village and oversees all of the special events and community events in the Village. The Information Technologies division provides leadership, cost effective technical services and business solutions for village staff and public interaction. In addition, the I.T. division provides email support, Help Desk support, business application support, maintains network and Wi-Fi maintenance between eight locations and continuously monitors cyber security risks to the organization. Ms. Mikula advised the I.T. division had 3,613 calls for service in 2020, which is a 13.5% increase from 2019. The Legal division moved over to ISD in May and some of the services they provide include, legal advice to elected and appointed officers and employees of the Village and prepares recommendations for policy formation, research and preparation for Village ordinances and resolutions, legal interpretation for questions that are received by residents and draft contracts and documents. In addition, the Legal division oversees Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which are steadily increasing.

Ms. Mikula discussed the various communication platforms the Village uses, including social media and Arlington Alert/Everbridge, and the increase in the engagement rate by users, with the most successful communication message in 2020 coming from the Mayor in regards to Covid-19.

Ms. Mikula next discussed some of ISD's key accomplishments in 2020 and their internal and external operations response to Covid-19. ISD focused on delivering services in a different way, as they streamlined and automated processes, created new online applications for financial assistance for Social Services and highlighted Covid-19 resources on the Village's web pages. Liquor License Renewals were

deferred from April of 2020 to September of 2020 and several liquor license classifications received a 25% reduction in their annual fee to assist license holders experiencing difficulties during the pandemic. The I.T. division focused on expanding remote work capabilities for village staff by setting up and deploying 46 remote VPN laptops, as well as increasing the network bandwidth to support the increased number of remote users. In addition, I.T. facilitated video conferencing for Board Meetings and trained employees and staff liaisons on how to run their own Boards & Commissions. The I.T. division also conducted a network vulnerability assessment, expanded Microsoft 365 and worked closely with the Police and Fire Departments to update local infrastructure and systems as part of the new Motorola CAD system. The Legal division completed the collective bargaining agreements for the two unions, Police and Fire, and partnered with the Building & Life Safety Department on significant building code amendments.

Ms. Mikula discussed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and the need for a new technology system, as the Village's current system has been in place since 1996. The new ERP system will better serve the community by streamlining business processes and improving internal efficiencies. The Village is currently in the process of selecting a vendor for this project.

Ms. Mikula discussed the current and anticipated challenges, which include finding a replacement for the Community & Outreach Coordinator position, ERP implementation, coordination of special events and cyber security.

Ms. Mikula advised some potential new initiatives include keeping pace with current social media trends, exploring new communication tools, and creating an electronic FOIA process. In addition, ISD will be working with the Village Board in July for the Goal Setting session, which establishes the strategic priorities for the next two years, as well as the business plan for all departments. ISD will also be working on coordinating special events and hosting Sounds of Summer concerts, implementing the new ERP system by the end of the year and accessing the redevelopment and re-use of the Arlington Park site.

Ms. Mikula stated the Integrated Services Department strives to balance the workload of ongoing projects while leading new initiatives that are needed to make the Village a quality, high-performing organization that is innovative and responsive to the needs of the organization and the community.

President Hayes thanked Ms. Mikula for her report and discussed the importance of her Department and the services they provide, especially during the pandemic. President Hayes advised the Village Manager's front office staff handles a great deal of phone calls from residents and non-residents, which is a very important function.

Trustee Schwingbeck advised that Sarah Fitzgibbons and Beverly Davis are doing a great job with the Village's use of social media, following the retirement of Nancy Kluz. Trustee Schwingbeck asked about the increase in calls for I.T. support and why there were so many calls for service. Ms. Mikula stated I.T. assisted staff with remote setups, conducting meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams, Office 365 and the preparation for the new CAD mobile system for Police and Fire. In addition, there was an increased need for assistance with hardware. Trustee Schwingbeck

asked if the new ERP system will prompt additional calls for service and if ISD has enough staffing. Ms. Mikula indicated they are hoping to fill the current vacancy by July 4th and will need to task somebody with maintaining the new ERP system.

Trustee Tinaglia asked about FOIA requests and how challenging they are and what can be done to make the process easier. Ms. Mikula stated that FOIA's are very time consuming and the response time the Village has to fulfill the request is very short. Ms. Mikula has already realigned some of the work and gave it to the Administrative support person to help free up the Legal Staff Assistant, and is looking into a FOIA solution, that is trackable and measurable. Trustee Tinaglia thanked Ms. Mikula and her staff for all that they do.

Trustee LaBedz thanked Ms. Mikula for her report and for the fine work she and her staff produce. Trustee LaBedz asked about the Community & Outreach Coordinator position and what the timeline looks like to fill this vacant position. Ms. Mikula advised that the Village received 126 applications for this position, which she is currently going through and should have an update for the Board in about three weeks. Trustee LaBedz thanked Ms. Fitzgibbons and Ms. Davis for their help with keeping the social media output status quo until this position is filled. Trustee LaBedz asked about the hardware the Village uses and if the experiences from this last year impact the type of hardware the Village will choose to use moving forward. Ms. Mikula discussed the cost benefits of laptops and Surface Pros, as well the flexibility these types of hardware offer.

Trustee Bertucci asked Mr. Recklaus if and when it is appropriate to reach out to Ms. Mikula, other than in the Village Manager's absence. Mr. Recklaus advised that as a rule of policy, any service requests should go through the Village Manager's Office, however if he is unavailable or out for the day and something comes up, the Board can always contact Ms. Mikula. Trustee Bertucci asked about Liquor License Renewals and what that process consists of. Ms. Mikula advised Liquor Licenses are good for one year and establishments still need to meet all of the compliance factors to hold a Liquor License. Trustee Bertucci asked if the Village checks to make sure the establishment has not served to minors during the renewal process, which Ms. Mikula stated they do not. This is something that is dealt with by the Liquor Commission when a violation occurs.

Trustee Baldino asked about the vendor that was hired to look into the Village's network vulnerability and if they found any causes for concern. Ms. Mikula advised that everything went well and there was nothing that was identified that could not be addressed. Ms. Mikula attributed the network's success to Mr. Taraszka and his tenacity with keeping everything secure.

Trustee Canty thanked Ms. Mikula and her Department for their fantastic work with keeping everyone connected, especially during the past 15 months. Trustee Canty expressed her desire to keep the same level of connection with the public once the meetings go back to in person and asked about looking for ways to still offer remote participation. Ms. Mikula advised she already looked into having a landline available for the public to call in with questions or comments during the meetings, but is unsure if this process will work. Ms. Mikula stated she will continue to brainstorm and look into offering a remote connection.

Melissa Cayer, Arlington Heights resident, asked if the new ERP system will handle the agendas and minutes. Ms. Mikula advised that at this time the new ERP system does not offer a better solution than what is being used now, although perhaps down the road they will incorporate a different solution.

Mr. Recklaus thanked Ms. Mikula and her staff for the tremendous job they did getting the Village technologically through the pandemic.

B. Department Status Reports – Public Works

Mr. Papierniak introduced the four members of his Department in attendance at tonight's meeting, Scott Schweda, Superintendent of Utilities; Mike Pagones, Village Engineer; Steve Mullany, Services Coordinator and Chester Gorecki, Management Analyst. Mr. Papierniak explained how Public Works is the largest single-shift department in the Village, with 10 operating units, 101 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees. The units of Public Works are Building Maintenance, Engineering, Forestry and Grounds, Sewer, Streets, Traffic, Water Distribution, Water Meters and Water Production. The Public Works Department operates and maintains the Village's basic infrastructure system, which include roadway, sidewalks, traffic signals and street lights, trees, detention ponds and all components of the Village's water and sewer backflow. Public Works also operates and maintains all Village owned property, including all municipal buildings, parking garages and surface lights, water and sewer pumping stations, portable storage tanks and wells, village vehicles and equipment. In addition, The Department has legal and reporting and compliance regulations to the IEPA, MWRD, IDOT, IDOL, IDNR, ACOE and USEPA.

Mr. Papierniak discussed some of his Department's accomplishments in 2020, including the replacement of almost 11,000 feet of eight-inch water main, completion of the road resurfacing/rejuvenation and reconstruction projects on time and within budget, modification of the water pumping strategy from tank elevation to pressure based, reduction in water main breaks, completion of the second water-lining project, completion of the first year of rezoning snow plow routes, completion of rejuvenation of the waterproof membrane on the top floor of the Municipal Parking Garage, completion of two phases of edge grinding program and streamlined the Utility Locate program through the use of new software and cross training. Additional accomplishments included, completion of design and bidding of Greenbriar stormwater project, which is currently under construction and due to be completed at the end of this year, coordination and completion of water, sewer and roadway improvement programs, implementation of new traffic counting equipment and the integration of two new civil engineers into the traffic and road resurfacing programs. Mr. Papierniak advised his Department's biggest accomplishment in 2020 was their response to Covid-19. The Public Works Department maintained the public infrastructure and staffing levels during the pandemic, rearranged all public spaces, offices and facilities to accommodate CDC guidelines and social distancing, procured sanitation equipment and supplies and implemented and maintained Arlington Alfresco.

Mr. Papierniak next discussed his Department's current and anticipated challenges, including the continued effort to address the Village's aging infrastructure. Public Works is now replacing over \$4 million of watermain every year, which is up from \$400,000, just a few years back, and although they still treat the water lines with Poly Ortho Phosphate to remain in compliance with lead and copper regulations, Staff believes it is inevitable that they will be forced to replace the lead services lines in town, which would cost over \$31 million. In addition, the costs of maintenance to the water system beyond the mains continues to rise. The future costs of rehabbing the water tanks, generators, pumps and motors and replacing the aging residential water meters puts stress on their already lean budget. Public Works also continues with their parkway tree planting program after the removal of 12,000 trees due to EAB. Mr. Papierniak stated the Department continues to be affected by unfunded mandates and Staff continues to be challenged by costs associated with ADA's Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines. In addition, Staff continues to seek and obtain funding for arterial roadway construction.

Mr. Papierniak discussed potential new initiatives including his Department's continued effort to find new ways to communicate with residents, mainly through social media, which provides Public Works with an excellent platform to provide information about sidewalks, roadway conditions, broken tree limbs, trip hazards and more. Public Works continues to cooperate with other local public agencies to try to find new ways to do business and share equipment, as well as foster their new employees to explore new ideas and creative solutions.

President Hayes thanked Mr. Papierniak for his concise report and the great work his Department does representing the Village, as they often have daily interaction with residents. President Hayes asked Mr. Papierniak about the portion of his report that lists the "Top 10 Requests Received in 2020" with "vehicles need maintenance" on that list, and if these are Village vehicles. Mr. Papierniak advised these are all Village vehicles that need specific maintenance or just routine maintenance.

Trustee LaBedz thanked Mr. Papierniak for all of his hard work and the fine job his Department does representing the Village. Trustee LaBedz asked if residents are utilizing the SeeClickFix app, which Mr. Papierniak stated they are. Trustee LaBedz also asked about the park district and school district using the Village's salt and how they pay for the portion they use. Mr. Papierniak stated that the salt is weighed when it is loaded and then the school district/park district are billed for that amount they use. Trustee LaBedz asked if there is some sort of quality control when the contractors plant the parkway trees, which Mr. Papierniak stated Public Works does inspect the trees after they are planted to ensure everything is done correctly to sustain the life of the trees.

Trustee Tinaglia thanked Mr. Papierniak for the great work his Department does, as he believes they are the true heroes in many ways. Trustee Tinaglia asked Mr. Papierniak how his Department is handling the change in leadership since he became Acting Director. Mr. Papierniak advised that change is hard on everybody, especially considering how long the previous Director was in place, however he is confident that everyone will eventually adjust. Mr. Papierniak stated that he has an open-door policy and wants to keep the lines of communication open with all of the members of his Department. Trustee Tinaglia stated that Mr. Papierniak is a leader

and he wishes him well.

Trustee Baldino asked about the rehabilitating of wells under Capital Improvements in Mr. Papierniak's report and what the Village is using these wells for. Mr. Papierniak advised these wells are used strictly as a back-up water source.

Melissa Cayer, Arlington Heights resident, asked if the Village can opt out of the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, which Mr. Papierniak advised that he is not aware of the Village being able to opt out of it.

Mr. Recklaus advised that he is always impressed with how much the Public Works Department does, as they do a lot of big things that everyone can see, but they also do a lot of little things extremely well.

C. Departmental Status Reports – Fire

Mr. Recklaus advised that Chief Larson is unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to a personal issue, therefore Deputy Chief Ron Fraider will be presenting the Fire Department's report.

Mr. Fraider reported that the Fire Department has a staff of 108 sworn Firefighters, two administrative assistants and one fiscal clerk. In addition, there are 8 Command Staff positions, 16 Lieutenants and 84 Firefighters, with the majority of them cross-trained as Paramedics. The Command Staff is made up of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, three Division Chiefs (EMS, Community Risk Reduction, Training) and three Battalion Chiefs (one for each of the three 24-hour shifts).

Deputy Chief Fraider discussed the Fire Department's Organizational Chart and some of the different practices his Department is involved in, including water rescue, rope rescue, technical rescue and car fire rescue. Deputy Chief Fraider also discussed the 2020 incidents by their dispatched alarm type, and similar to how the numbers historically are, the EMS responses make-up approximately 80% of all calls for service. Deputy Chief Fraider went on to explain how since 2010, the number of EMS calls for service have consistently hovered around the 10,000 mark, with a slight uptick in 2019. However, in 2020, the EMS calls for service decreased by approximately 10%, which he attributes to people not wanting to go to the hospital and potentially expose themselves to Covid-19. These numbers are trending back up this year and it's anticipated that the number of EMS calls will be similar to those in 2019.

Deputy Chief Fraider next discussed the Fire Department's key accomplishments in 2020, which included the rewriting of the Department's General Orders and Standard Operating Guidelines. Deputy Chief Fraider advised that the Department identified numerous policies that were outdated and therefore needed to be discontinued, while other policies needed to be created due to changes in the standards by OSHA and other organizations. Other key accomplishments Deputy Chief Fraider discussed included his Department's efforts to share information that they thought would be beneficial with other Departments in the Village, as well as the creation of committees within the Department, including a high-rise committee and a vehicle purchasing committee. In addition to these key

accomplishments, the Fire Department, as part of their DEI initiatives, formed a recruitment team to increase its outreach efforts in an attempt to attract a more diverse candidate pool for the entrance examination process. The Fire Department also changed their criteria for applicants by removing the merit points process to increase the candidate pool, which helped increase the number of applicants. Along with the changes made to the hiring process, the Fire Department has implemented a program that pairs recruit Firefighters with experienced employees to act as mentors. The program is focused on providing the recruit with the tools necessary for a successful career as a member of the Arlington Heights Fire Department. In addition to these employee onboarding efforts, the Fire Department is also focusing on career path development for its members. The final key accomplishment Deputy Chief Fraider discussed was the creation of a Risk Reduction Division, which was put into place just prior to the pandemic, and played a critical role in assisting the EMS Division with the development of the Department's Covid-19 response, including procuring PPE, how to use the PPE and the risks that were associated when members of the Department came in contact with potential Covid-19 patients. Now that the pandemic is slowing down, the goals of the Division will shift from an internal focus to reaching out to the various community organizations and assisting them with their risk reduction programs.

Deputy Chief Fraider discussed the Fire Department's future initiatives and challenges, which included updating the scheduling software the Fire Department uses, as their current system is antiquated and no longer meets their needs. The Fire Department has identified the software program VCS, which is the scheduling software the Police Department currently uses. In addition to upgrading the scheduling software, the Fire Department is also looking to continue updating their Standard Operating Guidelines and General Orders, enhance Firefighter safety, increase community outreach, via social media platforms, and get back to working on their basic skills. Deputy Chief Fraider also discussed some of the Fire Department's challenges moving forward, including the redevelopment of Arlington Park, succession planning, strategic planning, mandated training, recruitment and retainment and Covid-19.

Lastly, Deputy Chief Fraider thanked the men and women of his Department for their strength and perseverance through what turned out to be a very difficult year.

President Hayes thanked Deputy Chief Fraider for the fine job he did filling in for Chief Larson and for the great work his Department does, especially during the last 15 months. President Hayes asked about the community Risk Reduction Program and if this was internal initiative. Deputy Chief Fraider advised that the Arlington Heights Fire Department was the first in the area to create this position, with the goal of reducing risk internally in the Department, as well as in the community (weather-related emergencies or mass shooting incidents).

Trustee Schwingbeck thanked Deputy Chief Fraider for the very concise report and the phenomenal job his Department does.

Trustee Tinaglia thanked Deputy Chief Fraider, Chief Larson, and all of the men and women of the Arlington Heights Fire Department, for the great job they do.

Mr. Recklaus thanked Deputy Chief Fraider for stepping up and filling in for Chief Larson tonight. Mr. Recklaus acknowledged Chief Larson for the inclusive, forward-thinking culture he has created in his Department.

D. Departmental Status Reports – Planning & Community Development

Mr. Perkins began his presentation by thanking the members of his Department for all of their hard work and effort over the last year, as it has been a challenging year for everyone. Mr. Perkins discussed the structure of his Department, which is comprised of several program areas, including Zoning, Comprehensive Planning, Redevelopment & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) implementation, Business & Economic Development, Urban Design and Housing Initiatives. Mr. Perkins next discussed his Department's Mission Statement, which is to ensure professional, courteous, consistent and reliable service to the community and Village Board that they are promoting the highest quality development that the community deserves and providing timely advice and information to the Village Board and the various commissions.

Mr. Perkins advised that in 2009 his Department saw a significant reduction in staffing, however they continue to manage the workload, as they have streamlined some processes over the years, which helps to expedite some projects. The Planning & Community Development Department took on some new initiatives last year with various loan programs for businesses, Arlington Alfresco, additional Covid-19 funds they received through CDBG and the inclusionary zoning ordinance the Board adopted last year. Mr. Perkins explained how his Department performed 2,124 zoning reviews in 2020, as compared to less than 1,500 in 2018 and 2019. The Planning & Community Development Department also provides liaisons to the Arlington Economic Alliance, Arts Commission, Design Commission, Housing Commission, Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Perkins advised in 2020, 58 new businesses opened in Arlington Heights, bringing nearly 1,000 jobs to the community. The largest businesses that opened were the Amazon Fulfillment Center and the Fortune 500 company on Shure Drive. In addition, International Services acquired the 3650 Wilke Road properties. Mr. Perkins discussed the Business Attraction and Recruitment program and the efforts that were made last year to attract new businesses to the community.

Mr. Perkins discussed his Department's key accomplishments in 2020, which included Arlington Alfresco, which was truly a team effort. Mr. Perkins explained how his Department recognized early on in the pandemic, when the restaurants were forced to close to indoor dining, that something had to be done to help them, therefore they presented a report to the Board in April of last year that identified a number of alternatives to allow outdoor dining. The decision was made to close the streets and since that time, the program has been extremely successful. The Planning & Community Development Department developed a seating plan for every single restaurant and worked with Public Works to implement the plan. Mr. Perkins noted that the National Restaurant Association reported that 100,000 restaurants closed across the country last year, however in downtown Arlington Heights, there wasn't a single restaurant that closed. In addition to Arlington Alfresco, the Planning & Community Development Department developed a process to quickly approve restaurant seating in parking lots that could have tents,

developed a Covid-19 Relief Loan program, which 18 businesses were approved for \$10,000 zero interest loans, used Federal CDBG funds to develop a small business forgivable loan program and increased communications, via social media and e-blasts.

Mr. Perkins also discussed some of his Department's key accomplishments on the development sector, including the Arlington Downs project, which is moving into the second phase residential and is anticipating having their first occupancy permits within the next couple of months, as well as the development of the climbing wall by First Ascent. The 4 N. Hickory project, which is a 5-story, 76-unit, mixed-use residential development near Marianos, just re-submitted their building permit application, therefore that project should be moving forward very soon. Mr. Perkins also discussed the various warehouse distribution facilities that were built over the last 12 months. In addition, the Planning & Community Development Department assisted Arlington 425 with their application submittal and Sigwalt 16 with some utility issues they were experiencing. Mr. Perkins advised that just prior to, and during the pandemic, there were three restaurants that opened.

Mr. Perkins next discussed some of his Department's anticipated challenges, including the retention of revenue generating uses, as there are less retailers out in the market place today, which is a big portion of the Village's budget. When the Planning & Community Development Department identifies a potential retailer, they do everything they can to lure them into Arlington Heights. Other challenges include continued funding for corridor improvements, continued downtown redevelopment and Arlington International Racecourse and what their announcement brings. Mr. Perkins also discussed some of the new technologies that his Department will need to embrace and stay on top of, including the use of drones and autonomous vehicles within the community. Mr. Perkins discussed some local challenges post-Covid-19, including the future of the office market, if it will rebound, what it's going to look like and how it will impact Arlington Heights. Mr. Perkins believes the office market will take more of a hybrid approach, with some businesses staying virtual and other bringing their staff back, which will affect occupancy rates in the community and impact parking. Other challenges include retail and if it will rebound, as well as the future of the Downtown Chicago office market and how it will impact commuters, public transportation and parking.

Mr. Perkins discussed some of his Department's key potential new initiatives and advised that last year the Village adopted an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance and Arlington Downs will be the first recent development to provide nine affordable units in their development, which was negotiated prior to this Ordinance being adopted. These units will need to be monitored to ensure they are being rented to families that meet that criteria. The Planning & Community Development Department is also working with the Housing Commission on developing priorities and a process for the use of the Trust Fund monies, as well as future use of Zero-Interest Loan Funds, which should have approximately \$1.22 million in the Fund in the next 10 years. There are currently 13 small businesses participating in this program. This Fund was also used for the 18 small businesses that participated in the Covid-19 Relief Loan program. Some new initiatives in the downtown, include implementing Arlington 425 and working with the developer when they move forward with construction, working with the contract purchaser of the long vacant

former AT&T building and other long-term redevelopment sites, parking, and how the Village can utilize some other remote parking areas that are not heavily used during the peak times, and perhaps establish a trolley/shuttle system to transport people to and from the downtown, and the long-term plan for Arlington Alfresco.

Mr. Perkins advised that another key initiative for his Department, which is also one of the Board's strategic priorities, is to look at sustainable Green initiatives. The Village has earmarked Green Aggregation Funds and some of the potential projects for use of these Funds include, ITEP Grant Match for permeable pavers, EV charging stations, solar infrastructure and Bioswales for traffic calming. Other key initiatives include, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District redevelopment and corridor improvements. Mr. Perkins explained how there are currently four TIF Districts that are in various stages of redevelopment, with a plan to add a mixture of residential, retail, restaurant, senior living and medical offices to these areas. The Village has identified three corridors to redevelop and improve upon, including the Rand/Palatine area, Northwest Highway and South Arlington Heights Road. Mr. Perkins advised that the Arlington International Racecourse property that is up for sale spans 326 acres, which creates an opportunity for a dynamic and unique redevelopment, whether or not that includes continued racing remains to be seen.

President Hayes thanked Mr. Perkins for all the great work he and his team have been doing these past 15 months, despite the pandemic. President Hayes also thanked Mr. Perkins for acknowledging the fact that very few of the businesses in town closed during the pandemic, and thanked the business owners for their perseverance and dedication to our community.

Trustee Tinaglia thanked Mr. Perkins and his team for all of their hard work and acknowledged how lucky the Village is to have had Mr. Perkins for all of the years he has been here.

Trustee LaBedz thanked Mr. Perkins for all that he and his staff do and asked him about staffing and if his Department were to hire another staff member, what would he task that individual with. Mr. Perkins advised that pre-Covid-19, his Department explored the idea of adding some additional staff to assist with business recruitment and attraction efforts, however they did not follow through with this idea, once Covid-19 hit. Mr. Perkins stated that he has thought about the redevelopment of Arlington Racetrack and potentially needing additional staff, but it all depends on what happens there.

Mr. Recklaus explained how Mr. Perkins had been discussing the concept of outdoor dining and an open streetscape for several years and when Covid-19 hit, Mr. Perkins was able to bring his vision to life and essentially created a lifeline for the restaurants in town.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Trustee Baldino moved, seconded by Trustee LaBedz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.