



MINUTES
President and Board of Trustees
Village of Arlington Heights
Board Room

Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
February 18, 2025
7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

President Hayes and the following Trustees responded to roll: Richard Baldino, James Bertucci, Wendy Dunnington, Robin LaBedz, Scott Shirley, Jim Tinaglia. Trustees Nicolle Grasse, and Tom Schwingbeck were absent.

Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Diana Mikula, Hart Passman, Michael Lysicatos, Lance Harris and Becky Hume.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 02/03/2025 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Baldino moved to Approve. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

B. 02/08/2025 Joint Village Library Meeting Minutes

Trustee Dunnington moved to Approve. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Richard Baldino, Trustee Scott Shirley

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

V. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A. 02/15/2025 Warrant Register

Trustee Bertucci moved to approve in the amount of \$2,929,196.84. Trustee Baldino Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

VI. RECOGNITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Presentation on Groot Truck Incident

Fire Chief Harris summarized the findings after the fire and explosion of the Groot garbage truck on December 6. The information is from the Village's internal review only; the investigation on the Groot side is still open. Groot representatives were not in attendance because of the pending litigation surrounding the incident.

The truck was powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). CNG is made of methane and burns cleaner than gasoline or diesel. It's considered a more environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fuels. CNG is lighter than air, non-toxic, odorless and tasteless. It is flammable just like natural gas. There are many CNG vehicles in town every day. CNG-powered trucks emit 80% less pollution than their diesel counterparts.

The CNG cylinders on this truck were stored on top of the garbage truck on each side, starting at the opening where the bucket dumps into the trash compactor, to the back of the vehicle. There are vent releases, which are called PRDs, on each side of each gas cylinder. For this truck there were 10 PRDs.

It is false to say that garbage vehicles always explode if they catch on fire. Since 2017, there have been six garbage truck fires in the Village. What was not normal in this event, was the explosion. The pressure relief devices are supposed to go off between 212 and 220 degrees. When the Fire Department arrived, there were flames shooting out the top of the truck. The fire was well over 212 degrees. The PRDs are designed to release the gas product to help to prevent an explosion within 2 to 5 minutes. Once they open, they remain open, produce a hissing noise, and vent to the sky. They will continue to burn under high pressure until all the cylinders have been released. All cylinders are daisy-chained together. It only takes one pressure relief valve to go off, and once one goes off, it will never close. If the PRDs do not operate, the pressure will continue to build, the cylinders can fail, and an explosion can occur.

The Fire Department has a very robust training division. In February 2024, all fire personnel had training on compressed natural gas fires to ensure responders knew when PRDs release, what pressures they release at, where they should be venting, and how to identify if it's a compressed natural gas truck. Typically, when we have a garbage truck on fire, the load is dumped on the street. Then the fire is put out, and Groot cleans it up.

The Fire Department arrived 4 minutes and 10 seconds after receiving the dispatch. Smoke and flames were already coming out the top of the truck. Our Firefighter immediately went to the driver and asked if he could dump the load. This is important,

because if we dump the load, then we can get the load on the street and don't have a problem with the CNG cylinders. The driver tried but was unable to dump the load. A hose line was deployed with the tactic of lobbing some water up onto the top of the truck but keeping it away from the CNG. Then, the truck blew up. The first thing we did was check the responsive personnel on the scene to make sure there were no injuries. The Fire and Police officers then began to check the four houses that were immediately adjacent to this explosion. Chief Harris said he was blessed to be standing here tonight. It's a miracle that no responders or citizens were injured.

Chief Harris said the biggest takeaway from this event is that there's a very high suspicion that this fire was started because of the improper disposal of the lithium-ion battery in a recycling bin. The amount of fire and the amount of heat indicate that it was a lithium-ion battery, because when a lithium-ion battery goes into thermal runaway it burns at around 700°. This fire grew very rapidly and had a strong fuel source.

What changes is the Arlington Heights Fire Department going to make as a result of this incident?

1. Create safe parking distances
2. Instead of having the garbage truck squeeze the load to exterminate the fire, they will be instructed to dump the load immediately. Previously, we would have them squeeze the load first to compress it and put out the fire. This did not work for this fire. When this load was compressed, some debris went underneath the slide bar, sending fire behind the slide bar, so the fire kept going and set the other part of the load on fire.
3. Stay 300 feet away and set up a command post with the Police Department immediately.
4. Deploy the Police Department's drone above the truck so that we can watch it and make sure that it's venting.
5. Evacuate a 300-foot radius in all four directions
6. Send an immediate public service announcement from the scene with accurate information to avoid the incident.
7. Deploy hose lines to protect any structures
8. Coordinate with Northwest Central Dispatch on the newly revised operating procedures
9. Groot is training their drivers to notify the dispatch center if it's a compressed natural gas truck, so that the dispatch center can relay the information to the crews responding. They will also identify if it is a load fire or a chassis fire.
10. If we have a truck on fire, we are going to let the truck burn.

Chief Harris said proper battery disposal is critical. 20,000 fires are caused each year in the USA by the improper disposal of batteries. Because of their highly flammable nature, do not throw these batteries into recycling bins or garbage. It's an extreme risk to our workers and to the environment as they ignite under pressure. He directed residents to go to approved battery recycling centers. They are in Village Hall at the Health Department, the Senior Center, the Home Depot in Mt. Prospect, and at Best Buy.

Mr. Recklaus commended Chief Harris and his entire team on both the response to this incident and the conscientious way with which they reviewed it. They took it seriously, were trained for this type of event, they engaged in best practices and took care of our residents. We learned that had either the driver been successful in unloading the garbage on the street or if the release valves had activated, the explosion would not have

occurred. This knowledge will be shared with surrounding municipalities.

President Hayes appreciated the focus on lessons learned and how we can perhaps prevent this, or at least minimize the damage, in the future. He said it's a testament not just to training but also to the grace of God that Chief Harris is still standing. We're fortunate that no one was seriously hurt and there was very little property damage.

Trustee Bertucci said it appears we have to educate our residents about proper battery disposal. He said he was disappointed that Groot was not present to address the Board's questions. He said for future consideration, he would like the safety records to be considered along with truck maintenance. Was it that the driver couldn't dump or wasn't educated to dump quicker? Did a truck mechanism fail? Did we have a driver who waited too long before he tried to dump? He would like answers to these questions.

Trustee Shirley recounted that some, if not all, of the PRD's failed. Chief Harris said it is their belief that none of the PRD's operated. There was plenty of heat to trigger them. Trustee Shirley asked if PRD's expire. Chief Harris said that would be a question for Groot. Trustee Shirley said he was curious about the actual PRD's and whether they're periodically inspected or tested. Mr. Recklaus said he would reach out to Groot for answers to the Board's questions. Trustee Shirley said it would be nice to know that the vehicles on our streets pass some minimum inspection related to these devices.

Trustee Tinaglia said, in summary, we think that the fire may have started from a battery that was improperly disposed of. Then, the pressure relief valves didn't operate the way they were supposed to, and the hydraulics were in a position such that something melted, and the driver couldn't dump the load on the street. Chief Harris said either the hydraulic line melted, or the safety sensors were not operating. The inability to dump the load was the first failure. The next failure was the PRDs which did not activate. The new directive for a fire is to look for a side street or parking lot and dump the load. Once the load is off the truck, and there's no fire in the truck, the CNG doesn't come into play and the explosion portion of it is less likely. Trustee Tinaglia noted the truck successfully dumped its load at the transfer station at noon. The truck was working 4 hours prior to this explosion.

Chief Harris noted that the 911 dispatcher and the driver said and asked all the right questions. The first responders had an awareness of the situation. We're refining that process to make it foolproof in the future. We don't feel the driver did anything improper. One of the changes we've made with Groot and Dispatch is that if a truck fire is reported, they will ask if it is a CNG truck and if the fire is in the load or on the truck. They will also ask if the load has been dumped. Then we can make our operational decisions appropriately.

Trustee LaBedz said this is something that has to affect Chief Harris and everyone else in the Department. She asked if they were getting the support they needed. Chief Harris said there is a peer support team and a clinical psychologist available to the Department. Trustee LaBedz noted that there were 4 homes impacted.

Trustee LaBedz asked for an explanation of how a load is dumped. Chief Harris explained there's a big door at the back of the truck that folds open. Then a mechanism tilts the load platform, and it dumps out the rear. Then the truck can pull away. This has occurred in other incidents. Then we wet down the garbage fire and do not have to worry about the truck catching on fire. It takes the CNG out of it.

Trustee LaBedz asked what the recommendation was on throwing alkaline batteries away. Chief Harris said throwing any kind of battery in the garbage is dangerous. He recommended taking all batteries to battery recycling centers.

Trustee Dunnington asked if there would be more battery drop-off locations available for residents. Mr. Recklaus said we are working on increasing collection at other locations. We've also had some discussions with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County about best practices. This presentation will kick off more communication and promote resources for residents. Lithium-ion batteries are in many kinds of devices, like electric toothbrushes and vape pens. We really want people to understand that they shouldn't be looking at these things casually. A new State law is coming in 2026. It doesn't help us today, but there is help to come.

Trustee Baldino said over the course of his career, he has seen a number of battery fire incidents and a number of compressed gas fire incidents, but never the two combined. The pressure relief device issue should be investigated and there will be resolution. The operating procedures will be updated. The biggest takeaway is to not throw batteries away. These lithium-ion batteries, when they catch on fire, cannot be extinguished. You have to let them burn, and they burn very hot. Once the new law takes effect, we'll have more opportunities to recycle these batteries. But in the meantime, please don't throw your batteries away in the garbage.

Philip Bengtsen thanked the Fire Department for all the hard work. He and the neighbors were Ground Zero, and it's very much appreciated what they did. They suffered quite a bit of damage.

Bill Manganaro said during budget discussions last year, the Board voted to continue paying ahead on the pensions of hundreds of service workers. He believes it is critical that we continue to discuss the risks that emergency service workers take when they go to work every day.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VIII. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda should fill out a card, located in the back of the room, and hand it to the Village Clerk. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

This Agenda consists of proposals and recommendations that, in the opinion of the Village Manager, will be acceptable to all members of the Board of Trustees. The purpose of this Agenda is to save time by taking only one roll call vote instead of separate votes on each item. Consideration of this Consent Agenda will be governed by the following rules and procedures prior to roll call vote:

1. Any Trustee who wishes to vote "no" or "pass" on any Consent Agenda items should so indicate.
2. Upon the request of any one Trustee, any item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately after adoption of the Consent Agenda.

3. Citizens in the audience may request that the Board remove any item from this Consent Agenda for separate consideration after adoption of the Consent Agenda.

4. One roll call vote will be taken and will cover all remaining Consent Agenda items.

Resident Rob Brodecki commented on Consent item B. He said it is an example of why we need to be looking at road diets. We're moving 100K from one fund into the road maintenance fund because the materials are more expensive. If we just keep the status quo and repave roads as they are, then we're going to end up in this boat every year. He requested the Board direct staff to evaluate all road projects and implement road diet tactics. These can mean pedestrian jut-outs and islands at intersections. This could result in real savings. He asked for transparency in this evaluation process and studies.

Trustee Tinaglia moved to Approve. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

A. Recommendation that the Liquor Commissioner issue one Class A license to THLACO LLC dba Thlaco Cocina Tijuanaense located at 1786 W. Algonquin Road.

B. Resolution Approving Change Order No.1 for 2025 Pavement Rejuvenation (Reclamite) Program

R2025-23

C. Resolution Approving the AT&T Complete Link Renewal - Master Discount Agreement

R2025-24

D. Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Ford Pickup Truck for the Fire Department

R2025-25

E. Resolution Approving Custodial Services for Municipal Buildings - 2025 Contract Extension

R2025-26

F. Resolution Approving the Award of the 2025 Roadway Maintenance Materials Contract

R2025-27

G. Resolution to Approve Plan Review Services 2025 – Contract Extension

R2025-28

H. Ordinance Approving Two 2-Way Stop Signs and Two All-Way Stop Signs

2025-07

I. Ordinance Approving Sign Variations for Chase Bank at 585 E. Palatine Rd.

2025-08

- J. Resolution Approving a Professional Design Engineering Agreement for Water Storage Tank Improvements

R2025-29

- K. Resolution Approving the Purchase of Commercial Water Meters

R2025-30

- L. Resolution Approving Award of Contract for Water Service Materials 2025

R2025-31

- M. Resolution Approving updated Engagement Letter with Elrod Friedman LLP for Legal Services

R2025-32

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Ilona House to the Performing Arts Metropolis Board of Directors, term ending February 18, 2028

Keith Moens said there are two current lawsuits alleging discrimination, harassment, abuse and unsafe work conditions at the Metropolis Performing Arts Center. It started as late as early as 2015 and has continued until at least until 2021. It is troubling that these toxic work conditions exist. He asked if they had been fixed. He is hopeful the new PAM Board will do the job. He asked if the Village is liable for the legal fees and potential settlement costs that may go beyond its \$300,000 subsidy. He asked who was watching and who was accountable. He said he understood why the public was never invited to the PAM Board meetings. He thinks the Village would encourage the public to attend the PAM board meetings as that might provide the oversight and transparency that's necessary for the safety of our staff that work there and for any visiting actors.

President Hayes said he had the utmost confidence in the PAM Board leadership and its newly appointed Village representatives. He said these new appointees will ensure that Metropolis remains a successful concern. It is a private concern that has been very beneficial to this Village in many different ways. It's been in operation for 20 years and President Hayes is confident it will be successful for another 20 years. He said he's looking forward to the Mary Poppins performance this weekend.

Trustee LaBedz moved to Concur in the Mayor's Appointment. Trustee Baldino Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

- B. ICON Studio - 3375 N. Arlington Heights Rd, Units A, B, G, & H - PC#24-014
Amendment to PUD Ord. #79-166, 80-105, 81-028, 81-035 & 19-002, LUV for a Barber, Beauty Salon in the M-1 District, Parking Variation

Artemiy Novik and Inha Stankevich are the petitioners. Mr. Lysicatos introduced the PUD amendment proposed to allow for a beauty salon in an M-1 Research Development District, which allows for this type of commercial use. The existing PUD needs to be amended to allow for a Land Use Variation. Previously, the Board allowed for a proceed-at-your-own-risk declaration for the applicant so they could apply for permits. That action

was based on the Plan Commission providing a positive recommendation. The floor plan shows approximately 2,500 square feet which will be converted into a salon. There will be 14 employees with 4 facial rooms, a nail salon, a hair salon and a makeup counter. The parking rings the site. As the complex is being updated to include medical uses, the parking space requirements were recalculated. That's why there is a parking variation request. A three-day parking study done by the petitioner showed a 36% utilization rate. The staff is very comfortable with the parking variation. The site is well parked there won't be any problems with converting to a commercial use in the future.

The Plan Commission recommended approval. Staff have worked with the owner of the property on some of the landscape conditions, and we're continuing to work them on potential future PUD amendments to give more flexibility to their space.

Trustee Dunnington asked which parking lots would be used by customers. Mr. Novik customers will be parking both in the north and west lots. Trustee Dunnington said she noticed some of the parking areas are blocked off by salt and maintenance trucks. She asked if we include that when we're looking at our parking numbers. Mr. Lysicatos said we do not look at that, but we can follow up with the property owner. Because their utilization of the site is so low at this point, it wouldn't be a huge concern. We can work with the landowner to make sure that those things are addressed. Mr. Novik said they've been doing construction there for more than a month and there's never a problem.

Trustee Bertucci said it might be beneficial for the property owner to be present so that the Board has confidence that they will do what they're supposed to do in terms of the petitioner. Mr. Lysicatos replied that we have been working very closely with the property owner, the broker for the site, and even a second property owner that's within the PUD. There is direct communication with the owner.

Trustee LaBedz moved to direct staff and the Village Attorney to prepare final documents approving the requested relief or consideration at a future Board meeting for DC #24-014 an amendment to Planned Unit Development Ordinances 79-166, 80-105, 81-028, 81-035 and 19-002 and the following variations from Chapter 28 of the Municipal Code; A Land Use Variation to allow Barber, Beauty Salon in the M-1 District, Research, Development and Light Manufacturing District. And, a variation to Chapter 28, Section 10.4.- 2 'Schedule of Parking Requirements', to reduce the required off-street parking from 273 to 238 spaces. Including the conditions as listed on the motion recommended by the Planning Commission as amended by the Staff Development Committee. Trustee Baldino Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact the Health & Human Services Department, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, healthmail@vah.com or 847/368-5760.

Trustee Baldino moved to Adjourn at 8:44 p.m.. Trustee LaBedz Seconded the Motion.

The Motion: Passed

Ayes: President Hayes, Trustee Baldino, Trustee Bertucci, Trustee Dunnington, Trustee LaBedz, Trustee Shirley, Trustee Tinaglia

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Grasse, Trustee Schwingbeck