

MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

February 9, 2016

(Approved: March 1, 2016)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order. President Greable called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Trustees Andrew Cripe, Carol Fessler, William Krucks, Stuart McCrary, Scott Myers and Marilyn Prodromos. Absent: None. Also in attendance: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant to the Village Manager Megan Pierce, Finance Director Tim Sloth, Public Works Director Steve Saunders, Water & Electric Director Brian Keys, Police Chief Patrick Kreis, Community Development Director Mike D'Onofrio, Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky and approximately 5 persons in the audience.
- 2) Village Council 2016 Strategic Planning. Manager Bahan noted the Council preference was for staff to engage in strategic planning. He thanked Megan Pierce for her work in developing the business plan format that will be presented this evening. Mr. Bahan continued that the Department Head team will also provide an overview of their department goals and objectives and in years to come this planning will become an annual process.

Ms. Pierce explained a business plan is a strategic plan and this format is more succinct in capturing what the Village is committed to. She noted this plan is a living, integrated document influenced by strategic decisions by the Council. Ms. Pierce reviewed the components of the plan and their intended purpose including: Village-wide goals, Department missions, objectives, action steps, and timeframes.

Manager Bahan next reviewed the five Village-wide goals engaging the Council in discussion to determine if each reflects Winnetka's intended vision. Ms. Pierce actively recorded Council's discussion and noted areas of consensus. Trustee Myers inquired as to how each goal would be measured, noting metrics cannot capture such items as ensuring public health, promoting stewardship, etc. Manager Bahan explained that performance measurements could be incorporated and stress that the specific programs and action steps help quantify and measure success.

President Greable considered the Stormwater Master Plan and how its title reflects this strategic effort. Manager Bahan remarked the Stormwater Master Plan is the overarching plan to address the stormwater issue and the ensuing total population of programs. Trustee Cripe suggested language to describe the Village's financial position to include 'responsible management of taxpayer funds.' Trustee Myers recommended the inclusion of a sixth goal to address Village services and further expressed interest in how progress will be measured.

Ms. Pierce noted the 2014 Village Citizen Survey is an excellent indicator of progress as is the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Trustee Fessler commented that 2019 is the 150th anniversary of Winnetka and that community members should begin working together now in anticipation of this event. Manager Bahan concluded this portion of the discussion clarifying intergovernmental collaboration is intended to explore greater returns by partnering with other municipalities.

Each Department next presented its mission, objectives, action steps and timeframes. Finance Director Tim Sloth discussed his department's goal to apply for the Government Finance Officer's Distinguished Budget Award, which is an industry best practice and promotes transparency and stewardship of public funds. Trustee Myers added that increasing cyber security should be part of the Department's plan while rolling out electronic credit card payment options. Manager Bahan noted this is part of the standard process for accepting a new payment form. Trustee Cripe asked that fund balances be reviewed and considered. Director Sloth noted review of fund balances is part of the annual review process. Community Development Director Mike D'Onofrio explained his Department will be digitizing all building permit records. Trustee Myers complimented Community Development on their service, referencing the 2014 Permit Customer Survey. Trustee Fessler suggested the Village begin planning future survey efforts. Water & Electric Director Brian Keys addressed the issue of lead pipes in the wake of the contaminated water situation in Flint, Michigan. He noted approximately 41% of Winnetka homes have lead pipes based on the age of most homes. Director Keys stated water supplies only become at risk when treatment processes and originating sources are changed; Winnetka does not intend on making any changes and will continue to maintain the quality of the water supply.

- 3) Public Comment. Ted Wynnychenko stated his desire to encourage people to conserve energy. He stated his belief that the refuse subsidy is unfair, particularly as he does not produce a lot of trash. He also noted that electricity bundling is unfair.
- 4) Executive Session. None.
- 5) Adjournment. Manager Bahan thanked the Council for their time this evening and Ms. Pierce noted strategic planning will be revisited in late spring or early summer. Trustee Fessler, seconded by Trustee Prodromos, moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Recording Secretary