

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (“COW”) on Monday, November 8, 2021. Village President Charlot called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

The following were present:

Village President:	Regis Charlot
Trustees:	Barbara Ankenman Kate Briand Taryn Fisher (arrived at 6:00 p.m.) Joy Markee Stephen Rappin Susan Rider (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)
Also Present:	Katharine, Hatch Village Clerk Drew Irvin, Village Administrator Peter Friedman, Village Attorney Jeff Hansen, Village Engineer (VE) Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator

Non-Agenda Items and Visitors

President Charlot stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the COW on any matter not listed on the agenda. There were no requests to address the COW.

Stephanie Bjork came forward to address the COW. She asked for a status update on the double power pole situation that exists on Prospect Avenue. Prior to the installation with the small wireless devices issue, there was a discussion regarding an expected aligned sharing agreement. She said now they have a very unattractive situation with two power pole lines and there does not seem to be any intent to move the line over off of the old pole. Ms. Bjork commented on what AT&T Representative had told her in regards to the situation. She said we are looking at a very unattractive situation in the most historic part of town and noted that 5g is handled differently in historic districts. Ms. Bjork said there have been past discussions with the Village to place Prospect Avenue in an historic district for protection purposes. She commented on articles regarding health risks from exposure to low level ionizing radiation and FAA has delayed AT&T and Verizon rollout of 5g for another month because it is interfering with airplanes and interference with radio communications is specifically one of the things that is not to be done in the rollout. Ms. Bjork said she was told because we have a difficult situation with Comcast problems, that the Village is the holder of that Comcast license as well and she think there are multiple issues that need to be discussed.

Village Administrator Irvin said the Village is interested in getting those redundant poles taken down but the regulations governing that is through the Illinois Commerce Commission, not the Village. Staff is working with the Village’s community affairs representative to get the poles removed. He clarified that the existing infrastructure was placed there by ComEd to reduce the number of outages that occur on that line due to the large number of trees along East Prospect and what remains is the redundant poles that were there prior to the replacement. Village Administrator Irvin said the Village’s goal when working with utility providers, such as ComEd, is to reduce visible infrastructure and preserve nature. He said there is no 5g infrastructure in the Village.

In response to a question from Trustee Rappin, Village Administrator said when ComEd moves their power lines the communication companies (AT&T, Comcast, etc.) transfer their lines over to the new poles. Trustee Rappin said the Board job is to advocate for its residents so it would be great to get an update.

Ms. Bjork said the existing poles were AT&T, the other utilities were line sharing on their infrastructure. She was told by the AT&T Supervisor that they did not enter into any type of agreement to move their lines over nor do they intend to do so. She said she respects the comment in regards to the trees but she understands that 5g requires line of sight and clarified that much tree work has been done by both companies at two different levels which has had a negative impact on the canopy of trees along Prospect Avenue. She said the National Register does not allow 5g infrastructures because it alters the appearance and makes specific arrangements for historic districts to be protected.

Consideration of the Minutes from the July 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Trustee Briand moved to approve the July 12, 2021 COW minutes. Trustee Markee seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (4) Ankenman, Briand, Markee, Rappin
Nays: (0)
Absent: (2) Fisher, Rider

Presentation by Infrastructure Management Services (IMS) Regarding their Evaluation of Village Streets

President Charlot introduced the agenda item then invited Sadaf Khosravifar from IMS to the podium to begin the presentation.

Ms. Khosravifar reviewed the CMAP project goals; Pavement Management program which included the primary goal, Village objectives, policies, priorities and budgets, objectives and analysis and reporting; PAVER 7 Management Program, components, software used to implement the program; Laser Crack Measurement System Pavement Condition Survey which captures a 3d image of the road condition; Pavement condition index and assessment and shared various examples of condition data results throughout the Village; Pavement management concepts; Budget analysis (FY23-27) and annual conditions for various budget levels noting to eliminate all the backlog the budget amount would be \$1.74 million; and Pavement management recommendations.

In response to a question from Trustee Ankenman, Ms. Khosravifar said basically you would implement the CMAP program as part of this study, CMAP is providing a license for PAVER software then she explained how the program would be updated and noted entering work history is really important.

Trustee Ankenman said the 3d modeling would have to be done by specialized vehicles, every two or three years, and asked what would that look like in terms of cost.

An IMS Representative said it would be between \$20,000 to \$50,000 to do a complete comprehensive survey, if multiple agencies coordinate, the cost could come down. He also stated that the PAVER software license is provided by the CMAP Program and does not expire.

In response to a comment from Trustee Ankenman regarding the deterioration curve, Ms. Khosravifar said that is a general plot but in the PAVER program you have the option to calibrate the model. The calibrated model will be a good representation of how pavement actually deteriorate in Lake Bluff.

VE Jeff Hansen said the Village was fortunate to receive the CMAP grant. He said the results showed that about a quarter of Village streets are rated in serious condition (26%); he thinks this is impacted due to when there was a change in the asphalt mix design in 2006 to 2008 and those subpar materials have set us back. Staff have discussed using the Build Illinois money to try to get rid of some of the backlog. Staff will receive training soon to assess what it will take to keep this software program up. VE Hansen said Staff have been doing visual assessments of the Village every year to try to figure out where we are and this laser service and expertise will guide the Village over the next few years.

In response to a question from Trustee Briand, Ms. Khosravifar said in Lake Bluff she thinks everything is asphalt except for one segment. Trustee Briand said she is excited about the database management system, because when the data is put in, the analysis will help us make these determinations for budgeting purposes. A discussion followed.

In response to a question from Trustee Briand, Ms. Khosravifar said the PAVER software allows different reporting options as well as the ability to generate GIS maps and status reports.

In response to a question from Trustee Markee, Ms. Khosravifar explained what the \$6.9 million backlog encapsulates and considers both the preventive maintenance backlog and major below critical backlog.

In response to a question from Trustee Rappin, Village Administrator Irvin said there is no separate fund for the road resurfacing program, funding comes from the General Fund or Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

In response to a comment from Trustee Rappin, VE Hansen said prior to the COVID period the Village has been doing crack sealing and will recommence soon. Also, he will be researching other asphalt rejuvenation products which are relatively inexpensive compared to the annual resurfacing program.

President Charlot expressed his understanding that making a small improvement in the Village budget would make a big difference in road surface quality. Ms. Khosravifar thanked the COW.

Discussion Regarding Golf Cart Regulations on Local Roadways

President Charlot stated that Under Illinois law a municipality may authorize the operation of non-highway vehicles (which includes all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, off-highway motorcycles and recreational off-highway vehicles) on roadways under its jurisdiction if the unit of local government

determines that the public safety will not be jeopardized. A municipality may restrict the types of non-highway vehicles that are authorized to be used on its streets but before permitting the operation of non-highway vehicles on its roadways, a municipality must consider the volume, speed, and character of traffic on the roadway and determine whether non-highway vehicles may safely travel on or cross the roadway.

President Charlot continued that the Village Board has discussed allowing golf carts on local roads as far back as 2008 and as recent as 2019. In 2008 Village leadership was not inclined to authorize golf carts due to public safety concerns (mixing modes of transportation) and the barriers that State routes play (limitation on non-highway vehicles to perpendicular crossing of state routes). When the Village reexamined this same topic late in 2019, the Board chose to stop studying the issue due to concerns regarding public safety and a lack of support from the Police Department. At the request of Village President Charlot, a COW discussion is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2021 to consider the establishment of a golf cart pilot program. It is anticipated that Residents Bob and Brenda O’Neill (along with Resident John McKendry) will address the COW on Monday night.

President Charlot invited Brenda O’Neill to the podium to begin the presentation.

Ms. O’Neill, a 50-year Lake Bluff resident, said she has lived an active lifestyle then commented on various activities which she has participated and said you can not beat the ambience of the dog and kid Village. She commented on the various ailments that are now impacting her once active lifestyle. Despite the limitations bought on by age, she said that both she and her husband wanted to continue to enjoy the magnificent beauty of the Village so they decided to purchase a golf cart. She said driving the golf cart around the Village has been wonderful and she is greeted by supportive neighbors. There are other residents with similar limitations and they love it when she picks them up to tour the Village, as it gives them a sense of freedom and the ability to once more enjoy the sights and sounds of Lake Bluff. Ms. O’Neill said she has been stopped by the Village Police several times and was told she should not be driving a golf cart on Village property for safety reasons. She said she supports and respects the Police but disagrees with the reasoning as the evidence does not support that there are any substantial safety issues associated with the golf cart. The golf cart is an electric vehicle that is street ready with front/rear seat belts, rear hazard and brake light, turn signs, horn and rear-view mirrors. Ms. O’Neill said while driving the golf cart she respects the rules of roads and she is asking the COW to allow street ready golf carts to operate on village streets as a pilot program, so our seniors and other residents can enjoy the sights and sounds of our lovely Village, and experience the sense of freedom that we once enjoyed in our youth.

John McKendry congratulated the new Board Members then shared background information regarding golf cart usage. He said over 200 residents signed a petition for a golf cart pilot program. The presentation submitted basically went through the Village Strategic Plan and applied it in a manner that he believes a golf cart pilot program would work. He commented on the pros regarding a pilot program: fits the Lake Bluff vibe, ecofriendly, decrease the carbon footprint, increase home value, frees up CBD parking, increase business in the CBD with a captive audience for shopping and eating, increase CBD business with positive ROI and raffle merchant opportunities, increases business with a potential summer golf cart parade, potential to generate sales revenue from part sales and repair operations, great for disabled and people with mobilities issues, low maintenance amongst other pros. Mr. McKendry said we again have submitted 200 signatures on a petition in support of a golf cart pilot program,

provided 56 years of collected data from nine nearby communities with golf cart program operating safely in their communities. He said we have presented factual data which documented golf carts to be safe and no factual data relevant to the proposed golf cart pilot program regarding safety concerns has been presented. He was asked why the Village contradicts their own safety concerns by allowing for numerous years as recently as three months ago, the usage of golf cart not outfitted for street use to be used during the fourth of July, Criteria Bike races, Ghost walks (especially when events such as the July 4th Parade cause an influx of people and increase in traffic).

In response to a question from Mr. McKendry, Village Administrator Irvin said those are different scenarios where the golf carts are being operated as authorized vehicles to carry out a job or task for municipal support and on a closed course operating within the range of a specific special event. He said the distinction is the golf cart are serving a function of supporting an event, a specific event for one time period or specific public safety functions. A discussion followed.

Mr. McKendry said the Village allows non-highway UTV, which are illegal to drive in Illinois roadways by statute to operate on the streets/roadways on a weekly basis. He asked what does the cart golf drivers training entail.

Trustee Rappin said he thinks the speakers time may be best spent putting his argument forward.

Mr. McKendry said he is driving an obvious point as there are 200 residents requesting the Village consider a golf cart pilot program. He said it is confusing to him because they cannot do it with street legal golf carts yet the Village and Groot are allowed to operate golf carts in the Village. He said they are open to the training for the pilot program, golf cart will have signs and they will share the signage. He commented on the materials such as the traffic/accident statistics documents provided in the packet. In conclusion, Mr. McKendry said the pilot program has many benefits and he recommend allows a golf cart pilot program, for 21 years and older, in east Lake Bluff and give specific rules and monitor the program to ensure compliance. He said he is passionate regarding the matter and does not feel the Village is looking at it in totality.

Trustee Fisher expressed her understanding that the pilot program is specific to the east side and asked how would you move forward if community members on the other side would want to participate.

Mr. McKendry said an individual representative from each different areas of Lake Bluff was included in the discussion and the plan is that the other areas would work along with east Lake Bluff to learn the procedures required for the pilot program. He commented as to why the pilot program would not be allowed in the Sanctuary Subdivision.

President Charlot said the pilot program could begin with a limited geographic area and increase to areas with similar geographical boundaries, not including state routes, and then assess the program.

Trustee Briand she expressed her concern regarding connectivity and safety and said the pilot program would be prohibitive to the North Terrace and Tangley Oaks Subdivisions. She said she is not willing to experiment even with training safety statistics. In regards to the comments regarding golf carts use during various Village events, there are certain things that the general public would not be allowed to do.

Trustee Markee said it is her understanding that the Police Department does not support a golf cart pilot program because they are concerned about safety. He shared information regarding her online research of golf carts accidents/incidents for 2021. She thinks this is truly a safety issue with golf carts on the roadway and she would be interested to know the communities that use golf carts. Also, she does not think the Board has ever considered legislation for a portion of the Village rather than the whole Village.

Trustee Rider asked if there was a reason why we could not allow the golf cart pilot program within the same requirements in the other neighborhoods. President Charlot said the initial pilot program could limit the operating areas and if we have a successful program, then the Board can consider how to link the remaining areas in town. Trustee Rider said a pilot program makes more sense unless there is a broader swath safety concern, and she does not like the idea of the pilot program only be allowed to operate in east Lake Bluff.

Trustee Fisher said she is actually interested in the concept of how this pilot program would positively impact sustainability in the Village. She would prefer there be a conversation as to whether or not we are going to further explore developing a pilot program. She thinks it would be interesting to focus on a pilot program to accommodate transportation for people with specific needs as she does not want to see a whole population of people who would benefit and be more mobile in the community as opposed to the Village not exploring this option. Trustee Fisher said she is concerned about safety but she is comfortable with the Village considering further exploration and development.

Trustee Ankenman said residents that participate in the pilot program will be investing thousands of dollars on their golf cart and would be unhappy if the pilot program was pulled after 12 or 36 months. Also, it was talked about at great length about potential positive impact on the environment but she believes people will use golf carts instead of walking resulting in a negative impact. She asked how many residents are going to add a golf cart and eliminate a car, and where they may park the golf carts. Trustee Ankenman said the Village Green is the centerpiece of the Village so we would take two things that are counterintuitive: you cannot ride the golf cart on the open green and you can ride the golf cart on Village roadways. She commented on the challenges people with mobility issues faces but people have to modify their live to get around those issues. She expressed her concern regarding the noise and said we can do a lot of exploring but there are so many negatives and she asked what problem are we solving because she feels like we are creating problems.

Trustee Markee commented that the former School District Superintendent Jean Sophie was not in favor of the pilot program because she did not like the idea of parents dropping their kids off at school in a golf cart and the congestion combined with cars would not be a good idea.

Trustee Rappin said he does not think making a decision at this point is realistic but should consider if we want to continue to explore this concept. He said everyone is responsible for keeping the community safe but the Board must look at the culture, overall health, marketability and vibe of our Village. To him this is intriguing enough that we should explore this concept because he cannot believe that mopeds are safer than golf carts. Trustee Rappin said this is something that should be looked at, and if we can find a way to do a successful pilot program, and make it equitable he may support it.

Trustee Rider said there is a significant difference between a vehicle that is accomplishing a community task and maybe they should have turn signals, but there are serving a community need and the Village

authorized the drivers. She said her major concern is that people who really need them would have access to them and noted limiting this to the east side because she thinks that is a bad policy. A discussion regarding scooter, bicycles and moped usage followed.

President Charlot said, if we consider a pilot program, the usage would be specifically within neighborhoods, not Village wide.

Trustee Ankenman said she thinks the Board should consider how much we have invested in looking at this in the past and how much we want to dedicate our Staff time to looking at this non problem-solving proposition. She expressed her frustration regarding the fact that Staff will be directed to continue to look at something that is nice to have for some people but does not solve a problem.

President Charlot said the question to consider is should we continue to explore this pilot program for residents. He said he thinks there is a role for non-highway vehicles in the community.

Trustee Markee asked Ms. O'Neill if she was still able to drive a car, a discussion followed.

President Charlot opened the floor for public comments.

Ms. Bjork expressed her concern that no one had addressed liability associated with golf carts.

Mr. McKendry said by law individuals would be required to carry their only liability insurance, a discussion followed.

Trustee Briand said Staff is already overburdened and if approved, the pilot program would create additional burden for Staff.

In response to a request from Trustee Markee, Police Chief Mike Hosking said they have looked at the concept in depth and he can not say he is in support. The pilot program would put golf carts in competition with vehicles; also, they were not designed to be on the road. He said he can not support the idea, but if approved, it will be enforced and guidelines followed but he does not think this is a program that will be a win for the community.

President Charlot conducted a straw poll regarding a golf cart pilot program with the following results: Trustees Ankenman, Briand, Markee, elected to not explore this issue any further; Trustee Rider undecided and said she is not comfortable with the division and not understanding how it would be an equitable policy for other community members; and Trustees Rappin and Fisher elected to further explore the concept.

President Charlot summarized the results as the COW did not reach a consensus and will not move forward.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Fisher and seconded by Trustee Markee. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. Drew Irvin
Village Administrator