

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Held at
14020 Torrence Avenue
Burnham, IL 60633
November 24, 2020

Mayor Robert E. Polk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson, Travis Claybrooks, Mayor Robert E. Polk, Village Clerk Lus Chavez and Village Attorney Pagorek (over phone)

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer

Motion made by Trustee John Cap Jr. seconded by Trustee Carmella Richardson to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer

Motion made by Trustee Travis Claybrooks and seconded by Trustee Denise Bonner to open the meeting to the public.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer

John Hajduch had the following comments:

- Donated \$100.00 to the Volunteer Fire Department
- Working together
- Mayor's job description had changed
- When were sewer's cleaned on 141st Greenbay
- How were the water rate increases calculated
- FIOA officer answers to whom
- Grants for 2019 & 2020

Roshunda Deloach had the following to comment to John Hajduch:

- Water increases were increased by Hammond

Motion made by Trustee Carmella Richardson and seconded by Trustee John Cap Jr. to close the meeting to the public.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Polk had the following to address:

- Questions that have been asked prior and answered- continue to be asked over and over again
- Original water increases that were proposed, was recommended in order to apply for the IEPA loan for the water meter replacement
- Grants for 2018 was applied for but denied
- Grants for 2019 was applied but denied but than a recent grant was awarded to the Village
- Burnham is doing great

Cook County President Preckwinkle spoke over the phone to inform us of the following:

Today, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a balanced \$6.94 billion FY2021 budget.

“This is a balanced budget, without tax increases, that makes millions of dollars in important equity investments made possible because of our hard work, tough decisions and avoiding quick fixes,” said President Preckwinkle. “We’ve done a great deal of heavy lifting to instill fiscal responsibility and financial stability in Cook County.”

Despite the enormous budget pressures caused by the pandemic, the \$6.94 billion budget continues to be driven by several policy goals to ensure vital health care access for vulnerable residents, foster a fair justice system aimed at violence prevention and reducing recidivism, provide economic development to under-resourced communities, and invest in infrastructure while also promoting long-term fiscal stability.

Preckwinkle closed a \$222.2 million gap in the general fund without the need for new taxes. A combination of financially responsible efforts, the use of rainy day savings, expenditure holdbacks, federal relief funding, higher than previously forecasted revenue, and vacancy reductions helped close a substantial general fund budget hole. With the closing of a \$187 million budget gap at the hospital system, Cook County closed a \$400 million deficit without the need for new taxes.

Higher than previously forecasted revenue figures primarily found in newer tax sources like cannabis, gaming and online sales, and \$50 million in reimbursements through the federal CARES Act funding are the remaining elements that have helped balance this General Fund budget without the need for taxes.

Cook County Health also had their hands full closing a \$187 million gap. Through expenditure reductions, a \$40 million dollar additional tax allocation from the County, revenue from increased CountyCare membership, renegotiated reimbursement rates and modified direct payments from the State of Illinois, Cook County Health was able to close this gap while continuing to provide world-class services during the pandemic.

The County reduced expenditures by eliminating 569 vacant full-time equivalent positions. The County's position count is now under 22,000 employees for the first time since President Preckwinkle took office. This means departments are being asked to do more

with less during these exceedingly difficult times. Additionally, the County is relying on a one-time transfer of \$77 million from its General Fund reserves that under normal circumstances would not be touched.

Preckwinkle also highlighted the fact that Cook County has provided supplemental pension payments of almost \$1.6 billion dollars above the required contribution since 2016, significantly reducing the unfunded pension liability with another supplemental pension payment of over \$300 million this year included in the budget. Last week, Moody's and Fitch both re-affirmed the county's stable outlook and credit ratings at A2 and A+, respectively.

Preckwinkle highlighted a number of important items and investments in the budget that will be moving forward over the next two years:

- The Bureau of Economic Development will be investing an additional \$20 million over the next two years in aid to our business communities and residents in greatest need, with \$5 million to expand support for small businesses, increase coaching and training for M/WBEs, build an integrated small business ecosystem, and catalyze innovation in manufacturing. \$2 million of the additional investment will go towards workforce training to meet the needs of high demand occupations and upskilling displaced workers. \$13 million is going to expand housing assistance and support for legal aid and foreclosure mediation while providing residents with food, utility and direct cash assistance.
- Cook County will invest an additional \$20 million over the next two years for programs related to justice reform through the Justice Advisory Council (JAC). \$5 million will go to anti-recidivism, violence prevention, restorative justice and youth development programming. \$5 million will go to housing for those being released from the jail population and on electronic monitoring and \$10 million to additional investments in access to justice programs and services.
- \$5.8 million in capital investments for the continued development of an integrated property tax system that will make doing business with the County a lot easier for taxpayers.
- With approvals from the Cook County and Metra Boards, we are targeting January for the fair transit pilot program launch to assist residents in the southern portion of our County with more frequent, affordable and accessible transportation options and ensure that residents on the South Side of Chicago and in the south suburbs have better access to transit.

“During the challenging and extraordinary times, I am proud of putting forward a budget addressing the fallout of the pandemic and increasing equitable investment in Cook County without increasing taxes,” Preckwinkle added.

CLERK’S REPORT:

Clerk Chavez had the following to report:

- Cook County Board of Commissioners today voted to waive late fees for two months on both property tax installments due in 2021.

PUBLIC EDUCATION, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE: None

*Covid-19 testing at Community Center on November 28th -11 to 2 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS:

Trustee Travis Claybrooks mentioned the following:

- Please rake the leaves towards the parkway-make sure no vehicles are in front of leaves

ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION AND PLANNING: None

FINANCE:

1. Motion made by Trustee John Cap Jr. and seconded by Trustee Travis Claybrooks approve on authorizing the payment of this month's bills.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer

PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Trustee Carmella Richardson had the following to report:

- Com Ed -\$500.00 grant approved by CEDA
- Everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday

PARKS AND RECREATION: None

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS: None

COMMUNICATIONS, MEMORIALS

AND REMONSTRANCES: Trustee Bonner mentioned -Officer Pudowski Sr. passed away

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *Mayor stated surprise would come in January

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Trustee Denise Bonner and seconded by Trustee John Cap Jr. to adjourn.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks


NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Trustee Brenda Greer



 Mayor



 Village Clerk