
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF CICERO

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Cicero met Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., in the Town Hall Council Chambers, Town of Cicero.

On roll call there were present:

President: Dominick
Clerk: Punzo-Arias
Trustees: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso

Thereupon, President Dominick declared a quorum present and the meeting duly convened and requested that all present in attendance stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for the recent passing of Maria Elena Perez mother of Town Clerk Maria Punzo-Arias.

On motion of Trustee Porod seconded by Trustee Garcia, the minutes of the Regular Meeting held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., were approved, the reading being dispensed with, each member having received a copy.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

(29-25)

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, the list of bills itemized in Warrant #4, dated February 25, 2025, in the total amount of \$2,737,027.38, Payment Register dated February 11, 2025 thru February 25, 2025, in the total amount \$42,405.05, was accepted, placed on file and approved for payment; action taken by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(30-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, the list of bills itemized in Warrant #5, dated March 6, 2025, in the total amount of \$1,722,436.75, Payment Register dated February 26, 2025 thru March 11, 2025, in the total amount \$166,275.19; the list of manual checks dated February 6, 2025 thru March 6, 2025 in the total amount of \$51,252.50,

and list of online payments dated February 5, 2025 thru March 7, 2025 in the total amount of \$252.00, were accepted, placed on file and approved for payment; action taken by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(31-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, payroll (*Estimated Corporate \$1,847,431.56 & Library \$25,975.38*) was approved for the active employees listed on the printout dated 3-05-25; action taken by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(32-25)

By Trustee Virruso:

RESOLVED, that the list of medical claims and the stop loss insurance policy premium for the month of February/2025, prepared by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois, in the total amount of \$1,780,135.09, be accepted, placed on file and approved for payment.

Which was on motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(33-25)

By Trustee Garcia:

RESOLVED, that the list of HMO medical claims insurance policy premium for the month of March/2025, prepared by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois, in the total amount of \$36,173.69, be accepted, placed on file and approved for payment.

Which was on motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(34-25)

By Trustee Virruso:

RESOLVED, that the life and accidental death & dismemberment insurance premium for the month of March/2025, prepared by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois, in the total amount of \$6,643.05, be accepted, placed on file and approved for payment.

Which was on motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

PERMITS

(35-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, permission was granted the Office of 2nd District State Representative Elizabeth “Lisa” Hernandez to host an Eco Friendly Disposal Event at the 34th Street & Laramie Avenue Festival Grounds on Saturday, April 19th from 9 AM to 12 PM, contingent upon a copy of insurance naming the Town of Cicero as additional insured is provided.

(25-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, permission was granted the American Legion Cicero Post 96 to host a “Veteran Inspired Balance & Empowerment Mental & Physical Wellness Event” on Sunday, April 20, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM which includes the sale of food and beverages along with the give-a-way of crafts and clothing. Permission includes the closing of 58th Court from 35th Street to south side of alley approval contingent upon copy of insurance naming the Town of Cicero as additional insured be provided.

(36-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Porod, permission was granted Misericordia Heart of Mercy to conduct its annual Candy Day Fundraiser on Friday, April 25th from 9 AM to 6 PM and Saturday, April 26th, 2025 from 9 AM to 5 PM.

(37-25)

On motion of Trustee Vargas seconded by Trustee Garcia, permission was granted the St. Mary of Czestochowa Church to conduct a Flea Market on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025

and Sunday, March 23rd, 2025 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM, in St. Mary's Social Center located at 5000 W. 31st Street.

(38-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Porod, permission was granted UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago to host "UCP Seguin's Garage Sales" in the parking lot located at Central/Ogden & 31st Street on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00AM to 3:00PM from March 22, 2025 thru November, 2025 which includes authorization to have two (2) vendors to sell food during the event providing they obtain health clearance from the Health Department.

REPORT

(39-25)

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Collector's Office Report (\$943,710.33) and the Revenue Summary Report (\$662,101.51) for the month of February/2025, submitted by Fran Reitz, Collector, was accepted and placed on file; action taken by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

ORDINANCES

("O" 15-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Cava, the Ordinance authorizing and approving certain agreements for the lease of printers for the Fire Department of the Town (*One (1) Xerox EC8036H2 from Xerox Financial Services, LLC for a monthly rate \$650.00*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

("O" 16-25)

On motion of Trustee Vargas seconded by Trustee Virruso, the Ordinance implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the Town (*Effective January 1, 2026*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“O” 17-25)

On motion of Trustee Porod seconded by Trustee Garcia, the Ordinance authorizing a voluntary separation incentive for eligible employees (*Non-union, full-time employees with at least ten (10) year of service as of May 8, 2025*) for the Town of Cicero, was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(“O” 18-25)

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Ordinance authorizing and approving a loan agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency under the Public Water Supply Loan Program for the Town (*Allows for the upgrade of the Town’s water supply which includes but not limited to the replacement of lead service lines, the construction and installation of new lines according to the plans and specifications prepared by the Town’s consulting engineers*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(“O” 19-25)

On motion of Trustee Cava seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Ordinance amending Chapter 102, entitled “Vegetation”, Article III entitled “Trees” of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Cicero regarding trees and urban forestry for the Town of Cicero was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(Purpose of Ordinance)

(The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Chapter 102, Article III of the Town Code to update and clarify the Existing Regulations for the benefit of the Town, its residents, and the environment.)

ARTICLE III. TREES

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Section 102-61: ~~Commissioner of forestry- Protection and Preservation of Public Trees.~~

~~There is created the commissioner of forestry who shall be the superintendent of public works.~~

The Town of Cicero recognizes the importance of public trees to the community, and this Article sets forth the Town's jurisdiction and authority to protect, preserve and enhance the urban forest to ensure that trees are properly planted and maintained within the Town, and in particular, those trees located on Town owned property. Such preservation of the urban forest will protect, enhance, and preserve the quality of life for Town residents.

The Town hereby recognizes that trees are an integral part of the infrastructure of the Town, and as such should be preserved, protected and cared for as other critical Town infrastructure at all times and not merely during development within the Town.

Section 102-62: Commissioner of forestry; Forestry commissioner duties.

- (a) There is created the commissioner of forestry who shall be the superintendent of public works.
- (b) In addition to such other duties as may be assigned by ordinance or by the town president, the commissioner of forestry shall administer the town forestry program and shall approve or disapprove tree plantings on all property owned or controlled by the town and shall approve or disapprove tree and shrub removal and maintenance as required by ordinance. It shall be the duty of the commissioner to establish the town's urban forestry program and to provide for planting, pruning, cultivation, maintenance and removal of any tree, shrub or other plant material located on town property and, pursuant to such program, to prohibit and regulate the planting of certain variety of trees, shrubs and other plant material on town property in consideration of the adaptability of such tree, shrub or plant material to local weather and soil conditions; the effect of its root system on adjacent sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets, pipes and sewers; its effects on nearby vegetation; and its effects on nearby human and animal life. The commissioner will encourage the planting, maintenance and removal of trees and shrubs and other plants on private property in furtherance of the general program for optimizing tree, shrub and other plant resources of the town.

Section 102-63: Tree Maintenance and planting standards and approval.

- (a) No person except the commissioner of forestry or a contractor hired by the town may perform any of the following acts without first obtaining approval from the commissioner:
 - (1) Plant on town-owned property, spray, fertilize, prune, remove or otherwise disturb any tree or shrub located on town-owned property, except that this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit owners of property adjacent or appurtenant to town-owned property from watering without approval any tree or shrub located on such town-owned property.
 - (2) Trim, prune or remove any tree or shrub or portion thereof located on town property.
 - (3) Place on town-owned property, either aboveground or belowground, a container for trees or shrubs.
 - (4) Damage, cut, tip, carve or transplant any tree or shrub located on town-owned property.
 - (5) Attach any rope, wire, nail, sign, poster and other manmade object to any tree or shrub located on town-owned property.
 - (6) Make or cause to be made any tree well or sidewalk cut on town-owned property.
- (b) Standards.
 - (1) The Town hereby adopts the most current edition of the American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI) A300 Tree Care Standards as guidelines for the planting, care, maintenance, and pruning of trees.
 - (2) All trees shall be selected from Certified Nurseries and in accordance with the most recent edition of the ANSI Z60.1.

Section 102-64: Care of parkway.

The owner or person in control of property contiguous to the parkway shall be responsible for watering and fertilizing parkway trees and the routine care of the parkway lawn, which shall include watering, weeding and mowing.

Section 102-65: Protection during building operations.

During the erection, alteration, repair, demolition or removal of any building or structure or excavation in connection therewith, the owner of the affected property shall place or cause to be placed around such nearby public trees one or more protective devices sufficient to prevent injury to the trunk, crown and root system of each such tree, and the protective device shall remain in place for the duration of the work.

Section 102-66: Causing injury to public tree or shrub.

No person shall break, tear, paint, deface or damage any public tree or shrub, nor shall any person cause or allow any toxic chemical, gas, salt, oil or other injurious substance to be dumped, drained or applied to or to seep or drain upon or about any public tree or shrub or other plant materials. However, this section shall not apply to the salting of streets and sidewalks for the purpose of melting ice and snow.

Section 102-67: Removal.

Prior to the felling of any tree located on private property which, as a result of such felling, may reasonably be expected to fall upon or across town-owned property, there shall be deposited with the town clerk a liability insurance policy for bodily injury and property damage in an amount to be set by the commissioner of forestry.

Section 102-68: Elm tree disease.

- (a) *Infected trees declared nuisance.* All trees infected with the disease known and designated as the Dutch elm disease shall be declared to be a nuisance.
- (b) *Right of entry for inspection and testing.* If any town officer, agent, servant or employee has reasonable cause to believe, either by virtue of its appearance or otherwise, that any tree located within the town is or might be diseased with Dutch elm disease, such officer, agent, servant or employee is authorized and directed to enter on and upon any private or public property whereon such tree may be located for the purpose of inspecting the suspected tree and removing therefrom samples or portions thereof so that the samples may be tested to establish whether or not the tree is in fact diseased.
- (c) *Notice to owner of infection; removal of infected tree.* If, after due scientific study, it is determined that the tree from which the samples or portions have been taken is in fact diseased or infected with the Dutch elm disease, the town officer, agent, servant or employee shall immediately and forthwith notify the owner of the premises upon which the tree is located, in writing, and the owner so notified shall within 24 hours of such notification cause the tree to be removed, destroyed and burned.
- (d) *Abatement on failure of owner to remove.* When the owner, occupant or agent of the parcel of land on which the diseased tree is located cannot be found, or, if found and notified, the owner, occupant or agent neglects or refuses to abate the nuisance, it shall be lawful for the ~~board of trustees, by resolution,~~ commissioner of forestry to order the abatement of the nuisance by the removal, destruction and burning of the diseased tree. The commissioner of forestry may order a lien placed upon the property for the costs of abating the nuisance in accordance with applicable law.
- (e) *Definition of nuisance not limited.* This section shall in no way limit or determine the definition of the word "nuisance" ~~as may be provided in section 38-116 or in other town ordinances,~~ but shall be in addition thereto and shall be so construed.

Section 102-69: Arbor Day.

The Town hereby recognizes and proclaims the last Friday of April annually as Arbor Day.

Sections 102-70—102-95: Reserved.

(“O” 20-25)

On motion of Trustee Vargas seconded by Trustee Virruso, the Ordinance amending Chapter 2, entitled “Administration”, Section 2-465 entitled “Senior Advisory Board” of the

Code of Ordinances of the Town regarding the Senior Advisory Committee of the Town was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(Purpose of Ordinance)

(The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Chapter 2, Section 2-465 of the Town Code to increase compensation for the commissioners of the Advisory Boards.)

Section 2-465: Senior Advisory Board.

- (a) *Created.* There is created a senior advisory board consisting of six members to be selected by a majority vote of the board of trustees.
- (b) *Compensation; offices and equipment.* The commissioners serve without compensation but they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. The town shall provide the commission with such offices, equipment and space as may be suitable for the operation of the commission.
- (c) *Powers.* The senior advisory board shall serve as an advisory board to the president and the board of trustees and the department of senior services. The senior advisory board shall have the power and duty to:
 - (1) Promote, sponsor, organize, develop and foster civic, charitable and community service among the senior community of the town.
 - (2) Develop and foster strategies to address and solve community issues related to aging, the needs of the elderly and their care givers.
 - (3) To organize and encourage leadership training among the members of the community in order to develop strategies for combatting such problems.
 - (4) To sponsor, organize and encourage educational programs, seminars, lectures, workshops, panel discussions, discussion groups and meetings addressing issues of concern to the senior community.
 - (5) Work with the department of senior services to identify the need for senior services within the town.
 - (6) Assist in the preparation of programs for senior services and activities.
 - (7) Recommend ordinances for consideration of the board of trustees.
 - (8) Propose, create, implement and coordinate training, and educational programs for seniors.
 - (9) Negotiate intergovernmental agreements between the town, other local municipalities or other governmental entities for use of facilities for senior programs or for joint administration of senior programs.
 - (10) Perform all necessary duties essential to the effective operation of the commission.

- (d) *Senior advisory committee.* There shall also be created a senior advisory committee that shall advise the senior advisory board on issues related to senior life in Cicero. The members of the advisory committee shall be selected by a majority vote of the board of trustees. There is no specific number of senior advisory committee members; instead the size of the committee shall vary depending on current needs and interest. The members of the senior advisory committee shall receive compensation for their services in the amount of ~~\$1,200.00~~ \$1,800 annually.

(“O” 21-25)

On motion of Trustee Vargas seconded by Trustee Cava, the Ordinance authorizing and approving certain no cost increase change orders in connection with the construction of an Inclusive Park for the Town (*To effectuate change order(s) no. 004, 009, 011, & 012 as listed Exhibit “A”*) was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“O” 22-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Ordinance authorizing, approving and ratifying an intergovernmental agreement regarding the FY2024 Justice Assistance Grant (*JAG*) Award for the Town (*Allows the disbursement of portions of the Award to the Governmental Entities for law enforcements programs, court and corrections programs, drug treatment programs, victim assistance services and the upgrading of technology in connection with prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None.

(“O” 23-25)

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Ordinance granting a zoning map amendment from IC to MTO and parking variance for the conversion of commercial units into residential units at 2125 South Laramie Avenue was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

RESOLUTIONS

(“R” 10-25)

On motion of Trustee Cava seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing and approving a grant agreement from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for streetscaping for the Town (*Seeking grant funding from DCEO for the streetscaping of Cermak Road from Lombard Avenue to Central Avenue in the amount of \$340,500.00*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 11-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing and approving an invoice from Evidence IQ, Inc. for equipment provided to the Police Department of the Town (*Ballistics IQ ballistic imaging and comparison equipment in the total amount of \$15,692.21*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 12-25)

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing and approving a quote for the purchase of equipment from Elarasys Worldwide, LLC for the Cicero Police Department of the Town (*Purchase of Cisco switches for the Police Department, Cicero Real Time Crime Center, and Cicero Town Hall in the total amount of \$19,804.00*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 13-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing and approving the settlement of litigation and the execution of a certain settlement agreement in the case of *Patrick Sammon V. Town of Cicero* for the Town of Cicero, (*Case No*

2024 WC 014249), was accepted, placed on file and approved for passage by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 14-25)

On motion of Trustee Porod seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing and approving an invoice from the Cook County Sheriff’s Police Academy for the Town (*For tuition of nine (9) police recruits’ training for the Cicero Police Department in the total amount of \$32,175.00*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 15-25)

On motion of Trustee Porod seconded by Trustee Garcia, the Resolution authorizing and approving a certain partnership agreement with the Children’s Center of Cicero-Berwyn for the Town (*Allows for the Cicero Health Department to provide vision and hearing screenings to preschool age children*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

(“R” 16-25)

On motion of Trustee Garcia seconded by Trustee Vargas, the Resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds related to the Town of Cicero’s Vehicle Tag Notice Program for the Town (*Vehicle Tag Notice Program postage and mailing costs in the amount of \$21,000.00*), was accepted, placed on file and approved for adoption by the following vote:

Ayes: Cava, Cundari, Garcia, Porod, Reitz, Vargas, Virruso.

Nays: None

President Dominick opened the meeting to the public for their comments.

Resident Antonio Benavides congratulated the Town Board on their recent re-election(s) and expressed his support of Freedom of Speech.

Public Relations Director Ray Hanania congratulated the Town Board on their re-election(s) and President Dominick on his 20th anniversary serving the Town of Cicero as Town President. He highlighted on the many positive changes in safety, no property tax increases by the Town, increase of commercial development that provide additional sales tax revenues and new municipal development with state of the art complexes and services.

Resident Steve Walnigade expressed concerns with the increase of respiratory deaths in China and recommended the separation of sewer systems.

Resident Gabriela Rodriguez congratulated the Town Board on their re-election(s) and thanked them for all their efforts in correcting the stormwater issue.

Resident Oscar Ayala and his son requested permission to create a program to promote the appreciation of older films.

38 year Business owner Ben Borbor congratulated the Town Board on their re-election(s) and thanked them for the services and support provided to the Town Business owners.

Economic Development Director Craig Pesek congratulated the Town Board on their re-election(s) and highlighted on some up and coming commercial development along Cicero Avenue.

Trustee Vargas congratulated President Dominick and the Town Board on their re-election(s) and acknowledge Deputy Superintendent of Community Service Officers Christopher Tomascino and Town Clerk Administrative Assistant Iris Archilla for saving her life.

On motion of Trustee Virruso seconded by Trustee Garcia, the board then stood adjourned at 10:44 A.M. to meet on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., in the Town Hall, Town of Cicero.

MARIA A. PUNZO-ARIAS, TOWN CLERK