

**August 19, 2014  
Executive Session**

**State of Illinois  
County of Cook  
Village of Stickney**

**The Board of Trustees of the Village of Stickney met in Executive Session on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 7:31 p.m. in the Stickney Village Conference Room, 6533 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, Cook County, Illinois.**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Morelli at 7:31 p.m.**

**The people in attendance were: Trustees DeLesch, Gomez, Lazansky, Savopoulos, Sleigher and White; Mayor Morelli, Clerk Audrey McAdams and Attorney Donald Kreger**

**The clerk reminded those in attendance that they cannot disclose ANYTHING that has been discussed in a closed session. It is unethical. She asked that they get rid of their phones. Phones can record event. Phones can listen to the event. Phones can be considered a meeting within a meeting.**

**Discussion concerning  
Stickney Recreation Center  
(Sokol)**

**Attorney Kreger asked if anyone knows anything about Sokol. Trustee Jeff White looked to Mayor Morelli and stated that she had contact with them because the Sokol people brought pancakes to music in the park. Attorney Kreger asked, "Does anyone know what they want to do about this." Mayor Morelli corrected him by saying, "No, What do we want to do with it." Trustee DeLeshe reminded us that the last thing that Attorney Kreger said about them is that the guy wouldn't tell you the personal things. Trustee Sleigher interjected this statement, "I would like to do two things." "The first thing is to change the locks." Some people in the meeting felt that the locks were already changed. Trustee White mentioned that he had seen multiple invoices for \$45 each from the locksmith. The assumption was that the locks were changed. Trustee Sleigher then went on to state that he wants a structural engineer to inspect the building. Trustee White is all for that but doesn't want anyone who is affiliated with the village. That way no one can say that there is nothing right about it. If we are going to have to pay the money, it should be to someone not affiliated at all. Trustee Sleigher reminded them that he had two outsiders that he gave to them that are not affiliated. One was for \$3800 and the other for \$4400. Trustee White told Trustee Sleigher that giving it to him is nothing. He has to give it to the committee. He gave it to everybody and didn't get any feedback. Trustee White said that Trustee Sleigher did the research on it and he didn't have any problem with anybody that is away from the**

Village and if the dollar amounts are close to the same. Trustee DeLeshe questioned if we had to call for a vote to spend the money.

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Attorney Kreger stated that eventually you get a bill and eventually you've got to vote to pay it. Trustee DeLeshe said that we have to have this place inspected. Attorney Kreger said that if that is what it is, then this closed session is not necessary. He just wanted to know and what we are going to do with these people and if it was going to wind up in litigation. Trustee Deleshe said that we don't know if there are life safety concerns. Trustee White said that public works does have those answers because it was inspected by the insurance company and there have been events there since then and they didn't have anyone there during the events. It was his understanding that there we no safety issues. Otherwise, we discussed before that they should have someone there along with the events that go on and we are not doing that.

Attorney Kreger reflected that there should be three submissions of costs. One is associated with the village and two that are not. The last two are two or three times as much. You may have to keep looking or be willing to pay more. Some cross talk was going on. Trustee Sleigher said to Trustee White that one of them was associated with the village. Trustee Gomez asked which one is on the outside. Trustee Sleigher said that it was Patrick Engineering. It had a cost of approximately \$3800.00. Trustee DeLeshe questioned about the one associated with Novotny Engineering. Trustee Sleigher said that that one is \$1360. The other engineering is \$4400. Trustee Gomez asked why couldn't we get an inside firm. Trustee White responded that he just didn't want any shadow cast. The people in there renting have been in this area a long time. He doesn't want any fingers pointed about anything. If they say it is not safe, I want someone to know for sure that it is not safe. Trustee DeLeshe stated that this is a group that has been here for many, many years. So, if they (Sokol) says that we have an in with Novotny and Novotny is saying to shut it down, then they will be pointing at us that we hired our own contractor. And if we go outside, we have no ties to these people and no communication with them what so ever. We are not responsible.

Trustee White questioned Mayor Morelli about having some conversation with them (Sokol) because they made the pancakes for that event (Police Association cookout). Mayor Morelli said that her kids go to Sokol. She is very familiar with those people. She has grown up with those people. You have too. We know all those people in the community. They are not foreigners. Trustee White asked, "Who has had communication with them." "Didn't you ask them any questions?" Mayor Morelli replied, "No." She went on to say that they asked her, "What does your board want us to do?"

Trustee Gomez suggested that we start all over and have the building inspected by an outside company that way we are not responsible. Trustee White suggested that we start with IRMA's report, which is the inspection we have had done. We just had it inspected last November. Again there was cross talk.

Attorney Kreger said this is not the reason he wanted this meeting. He explained it is that they have money they are not allowed to use. He doesn't know how much that money is. What he wants to know if you guys care. They have money they got from the government

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that they are required to spend it on that building (which is our building now) and they won't tell him (Kreger) how much they have. Trustee DeLeshe suggested that we give them (Sokol) the bill for \$3800 for the inspection and have them pay it. Cross talk again. Kreger told us that he asked the Sokol for their records and they said that they would give them to him. When it got down to it, they would not give them to Kreger. The Attorney said that it is political. He understands who they are, what they are, they have been here a long time.. . Longer then he has. They decided that they are going to take the political chance by saying, "No, I am not going to tell you, you are not entitled to it, it is personal to us." The Attorney thought it was the most ridiculous thing he ever heard. It was for a building we own.

Trustee White reminded us that the original agreement was that they had to spend money to fix the downstairs. The Attorney stated that he understood that it was \$30,000 back then. And, they are not. All he asked for is the contract they have with the government (FEMA).

Trustee DeLeshe said that the bottom line is that it is our building. He suggested that we take the name away from it. It isn't an attack on Sokol. This is a great program. His daughters love it. But, we own that building. So we give them until October's board meeting to provide us all the documents or we shut them down.

The Attorney asked if they wanted him to call them (Sokol) and ask them for the documents. Trustee DeLeshe stated that they have a federal loan on a building that we own. Kreger said he understood it and it is not worth going to court over. Trustee White interjected, "And, they told us that they had this money in an account that they could show us." Mayor Morelli said that it was in Rich's name.

Finally, Attorney Kreger said that he would call the individual again and try to be nice. He would say, "One more time, we would like to see the contract from the feds." "Please submit it to us." "We will wait until October."

Trustee DeLeshe said that we want to get the building safe and we want to get it fixed but we can't do that if we don't know. The attorney said that we want to know what you have

and what we have and we want to find out if that building is worth putting our money into it. He will tell them, "You need that building, we have to find out what it is, and you have got to be open with us." "You have got to be open with us." Trustee Gomez asked if they decline. The attorney said that you could close the door.

Trustee DeLeshe said that, "Make the building safe." "There are kids using it for God's sake."

Trustee Sleigher asked if they have any fire alarms systems in there. There are smoke detectors in the kitchen. Trustee White asked if their program is over at this time. Mayor Morelli voiced that her granddaughter is not in the program right now. She was not sure if

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they did anything over the summer. Again, there was much crosstalk. There was again talk about changing the locks. Trustee White said that he has keys to every lock in the whole village. If the locks have been changed, he will tell you right away. He felt that there are too many sets of keys.

Trustee DeLeshe wanted to get things rolling. They kids are starting. Let's not wait until December. Kreger suggested that we put this on the agenda. Discussion decided that we just do it to get things moving. Kreger said that he is somewhat agreeable with that but since they are not taking the low bid and you explained it. He didn't want it to come back and haunt anybody. Trustee Sleigher wanted approval to call an engineering company. Again crosstalk. Kreger said we would discuss that openly.

Mayor Morelli adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. No roll call was necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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Audrey McAdams, Clerk

Approved by me, this            day of            , 2014

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Deborah E. Morelli, Mayor