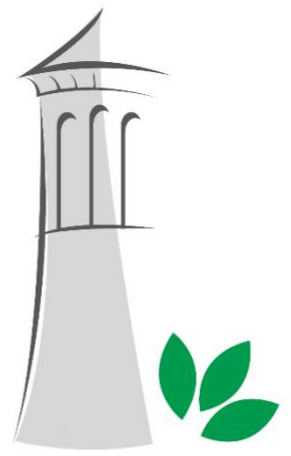


Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



March 2, 2023

February 27, Board Meeting (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

This meeting departed from normal procedure with two public comment sections instead of just one. During the first, general public comment period, a resident representing the District 101 School Board citizens group encouraged residents to become informed regarding the referendum appearing on the April ballot. More on the second public comment period follows in the Small Cell section of this report.

Following public comment, the Board concluded a public hearing regarding right-of-way property sales, that was continued from the last meeting. Attorney Jurusik reported that the property sales should be finalized in March.

Small Cell/5G

Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the Village's special attorney, Michael Marrs, and industry consultant Stu Chapman gave a comprehensive report to the Board regarding updates on the [small cell](#) application from Crown Castle that was originally submitted to the Village on June 21, 2022. The application and related documents are available on the [Small Cell page of the Village's website](#).

Attorney Marrs led with a brief history of the various federal and state legalities on small cell regulations. Essentially, these laws and regulations limit a municipality's authority to control the placement of small cell sites in Village right-of-way to certain aesthetic standards only. Given this limitation, in October of 2019 the Village adopted a robust resolution identifying strict design standards. However, the Village Board understood that these standards could not and would not prevent the permitting of small cell sites within our borders. One important aspect of the standards identified the Village's preference to co-locate small cell sites on existing ComEd pole's when feasible.

Fast forward to today, and Attorney Marrs described the significant progress Village staff made in negotiating co-location of the equipment on ComEd poles, including potentially de-commissioning certain existing ComEd streetlight poles to be replaced by taller poles that accommodate the small cell equipment, and would be maintained by Crown Castle. This approach achieves the Village's stated goal of substantially reducing the proposed number of new poles to be installed. It is anticipated that a proposed settlement agreement on outstanding issues will be finalized and brought to the Village Board for consideration in March. Mr. Marrs advised that Crown Castle is likely to pursue litigation if the Village does not reach an agreement once all regulatorily-supported aesthetic measures have been met, and the law is currently in Crown Castle's favor. While some residents have expressed concerns regarding the safety of radiofrequency emissions from small cell sites, federal regulations and state law make it clear that municipalities have no power to address these issues directly.

Village industry consultant Stuart Chapman provided detailed background on the technology aspect of the application and answered questions posed by the Board and residents. Several residents spoke during the public comment section of the meeting and made inquiries about the specifics of the proposed pole locations and functions; the specifics of "de-commissioning" a streetlight; the number of and initial proposed locations for small cell locations; as well as suggesting resources for those seeking additional information about small cell technology; and expressing concern about the potential health effects of the small cell sites.

Residents are encouraged to register to receive updates about small cell and other important Village news by going to wsprings.com and click on the "Stay Informed" icon. You may then choose how to receive information (email or text) and which information you'd like to receive (news flashes, community alerts, job postings, etc.) and on which subject matter (police, fire, public works, small cell, etc.). To receive small cell updates, scroll down the News Flash category and select "5G News and Permit Applications."

If you'd like to watch the entire presentation directly, please view the meeting video [online](#) – the small cell presentation begins at 7:45.

Additional Items

Following the small cell discussion, the Board continued with the regular meeting agenda and approved an ordinance approving a change order for the Rose/Grove water main project. The Board also approved a resolution authorizing V3 Companies to oversee the installation of public improvements in Timber Trails. These items were both proposed and discussed at the last meeting.

Next, the Board voted in favor of an omnibus bill that included a number of items, such as: declaring a FD conference table as surplus property; a professional services contract for Phase I Engineering for the [Lead Service Line Replacement Program](#); authorization to submit a nomination for an IEPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan nomination for the Lead Service Line Project; and various annual service contracts and equipment and material purchases. All items were previously reviewed and discussed by the Board during at least one prior meeting.

January 2023 Financial Report: Trustee Rudolph reported that sales tax and Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenues are slightly higher than the same period last year. Distributions from the county for revenue received from the payment of 2nd installment property taxes that were delayed in 2022 continue to be received. Water/sewer consumption was 11% higher than the same period last year.

I publicly thanked Congressman Casten for taking the time to meet with me and members of Village staff at Village Hall. It was a productive meeting focused primarily on the looming Village-wide need to repair and maintain critical infrastructure and the Village's need for federal financial support to address this issue. To better understand regional stormwater conveyance and how it impacts our own stormwater management, the Village's Engineering Department and I attended a joint Township and MWRD flood mitigation meeting, which included discussions of flooding issues in the region and cooperative efforts to find solutions for stormwater management.

Finally, I introduced Phil Nawrocki, who attended the meeting. Mr. Nawrocki is on the ballot for Village Trustee in the election on April 4, along with Trustee Al Fink and Trustee Nicole Chen. Please be sure to vote on April 4. For more information on the election, please visit the Western Springs Caucus Party website at: <https://wscaucus.wixsite.com/caucus>.

The meeting then moved to closed session to discuss a pending litigation matter.

Please note that the March 27 Board of Trustees meeting has been rescheduled to March 20. Upcoming Village Board meetings will be held on March 13 and March 20.

Stormwater Utility Fee:

- The Village created an [interactive Stormwater Utility Fee \(SWU\) Lookup Map](#) that allows the public to search most addresses and view the proposed monthly fee estimated for that property. The map includes visual data on what is considered impervious area for each property, and the resulting estimated monthly fee. To learn more about the proposed Stormwater Utility, visit www.wsprings.com/stormwaterutility.

Capital Plan Information and Survey:

- Please view the informational video that details the Village's Capital Infrastructure Plan. The video is available on the Village's [website](#). Infrastructure issues include things like water main breaks, stormwater conveyance and flooding, incomplete sidewalks, etc. If you have ever had a problem with any of these concerns or other infrastructure needs, please take the time to offer your feedback on Village infrastructure by completing the [survey](#) referenced at the end.

Illinois Tollway Continues Pedestrian Bridge Removal:

- The Illinois Tollway is [removing the existing pedestrian bridge](#) located west of Maple Avenue and Western Avenue. The removal of the bridge is part of the I-294 Reconstruction Project. The Tollway relocated the pedestrian bridge to the west end of Spring Rock Park in collaboration with the villages of Western Springs and Hinsdale. The bridge connects Spring Rock Park and Veck Park and is now open for public use.

Cook County Delays First Property Tax Installment Until April 3:

- The Treasurer's Office has delayed the first property tax installment by one month, to April 3. Tax bills are available online and are expected to be mailed out in late February/early March. Learn more on the [Village website](#).

Cook County Board of Review Tax Appeal Information Session:

- The Cook County Board of Review is open for property valuation appeals for Lyons Township from February 27 to March 28, 2023. The evidence deadline is April 11, 2023. The Cook County Board of Review offers an [outreach program](#) to explain the property tax appeal process and work directly with homeowners to prepare appeals.

Upcoming Dates for the Calendar:

Here are some upcoming event dates in Western Springs that you may wish to add to your calendar:

- [Consolidated Election Day](#), Tuesday, April 4
- [Touch-A-Truck](#), Saturday, May 20
- [46th Annual Tower Trot Fun Run/5K/10K](#), Saturday, May 27
- [Memorial Day Parade/Services](#), Monday, May 29
- [Household Clean-Up Day](#), Saturday, June 24

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,
Village President