

SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 21, 2022 - ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kolosh called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:02 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and sign in/introductions in the chat box.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kolosh asked for a motion to approve the January 20 and March 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Mayor Reinbold moved to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Mayor Curry, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Kolosh reported that a memo was issued 2 weeks ago notifying members of the Nominating Committee consisting of Mayors Alsberry, Eidam and Reinbold. If you would like to be considered for one of the open positions, please let us know by April 28. We hope you consider getting more involved with SSMMA governance.

Positions available for Mayors/Village Presidents include:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Cook County At-Large – 2 Positions
- Will County At-Large

B. Kolosh gave a report for Calumet City Police Chief Kevin Kolosh and the South Suburban Associations of Chiefs of Police in his absence: the annual Michael J. O'Connell Executive Development Conference is being held May 5 - 8, 2022 at Eagle Ridge Resort in Galena, Illinois. The training conference includes a presentation by the FBI Vehicular Hijacking Task Force and will highlight the progress made on fighting this current crime trend and the resources provided by the FBI to assist law enforcement partners in successfully tracking, apprehending and prosecuting the offenders. Additional training includes a presentation by Concerns of Police Survivors, this presentation will provide guidance and assistance to law enforcement agencies in the planning of a line of duty death. On behalf of the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police, I would like to thank you for the support you provide to our association. We value our relationship with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers and look forward to your continued support.

C. Kolosh encouraged all to participate and attend SSMMA's first annual Celebrate the Southland Gala on Friday, June 17 at Idlewild Country Club. This will be a special evening celebrating the accomplishments as a region over the last few years. This event will replace our golf outing and will be the main fundraiser for SSMMA. We are asking members to donate a themed raffle basket in support of your local town or vendors.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director DeLaurentiis echoed Mayor Kolosh in support of the upcoming gala event. County, state, and federal dignitaries, and public and private sector leaders have been invited in addition to all of you. We want to celebrate our successes and recognize several special guests for their contributions to our region. We hope everyone can attend and participate and donate a raffle basket. This is a ticketed event, registration is required and no walk-ins are allowed. Contact Melissa Doud for questions or visit ssmma.org/gala for more information.

B. DeLaurentiis reported that SSMMA's legislative initiative the Southland Reactivation Act has passed both chambers. Thanks to all of you and especially Representative DeLuca and Senator Joyce for their commitment to get this bill passed in the shorted session. The bill still needs to be signed by Governor Pritzker.

Some key points:

- Creates a tax abatement incentive to property developers who purchase commercial and industrial property in the Southland.
- Targets commercial and industrial properties that have shown a clear pattern of economic stagnation or decline of real estate taxes as a result of depressed conditions.
- Property must be located in Bloom, Bremen, Calumet, Rich, Thornton or Worth Townships in Cook County.
- Identified qualifying properties would be assessed at 50% of the last known equalized assessed value.
- For the 1st year, a certified property's aggregate tax bill liability for the property cannot exceed \$100,000.
- Discounts on the liability would decrease gradually but continue for a total of 12 years.

The information/fact sheet can be found on our website and information sessions will begin in May. Stay tuned for more details that will be emailed to municipal members.

- C. DeLaurentiis reported that ARPA reporting sessions are scheduled for April 25 and 26. You may ask questions or listen to the dialog. The ARPA report is due April 30.

GIS Consortium members or CDBG eligible communities are eligible for direct GIS technical assistance. SSMMA's website has plug and play tools and apps and will schedule a training in June. Apps created by staff include Abandonment, Cannabis viewer and soon to be Southland Reactivation viewer.

- D. Kolosh asked for a motion to approve SSMMA Resolution 2022-003 Cook County CDBG application for the 2022 CDBG Planning Grant submitted last week. Mayor Eidam moved to approve Resolution 2022-003 and it was seconded by Manager Mick, motion was approved.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:

1. The spring session had some wins and losses: The Southland Reactivation Act has passed but LGDF only had a small incremental increase not the 8% partial restoration we'd been working for. Thanks to Kristi and Anderson Legislative for the 3 year process working towards the bill. SSMMA issued a summary last week and IML has the full list on their website.

Bills that passed both chambers that may impact your municipality:

- SB 0658, TIF Contiguity/Extension Omnibus - In addition to approving TIF extensions for numerous cities and villages (Chicago Heights) it also provides that parcels are also considered to be contiguous if they meet the criteria for annexation under specified provisions of the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides the changes are declarative of existing law and are retroactive with regard to pending actions. This was in relation to legal battle in Crest Hill.
- HB 1321 (Hastings), First Responder Mental Health Grants - Provides that, subject to appropriation, there is created within the IDHS a First Responder Behavioral Health Grant Program to provide grants to the following recipients: units of local government; law enforcement agencies; fire protection districts; school districts, etc.
- HB 4489, GATA Applicability - Amends GATA law and provides that the requirements established under the Act do not apply to awards made by the Department of Transportation to units of local government for the purposes of transportation projects utilizing state funds, federal funds or both state and federal funds.

- HB 5532, Land Bank Exemption – Provides that notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, all properties owned and held for future development by specified entities are exempt from property taxes.
2. The final LGDF bill increased distribution level from 6.06% to 6.16%. It's not what we wanted but it's a start. SSMMA, COG's, the Mayors Caucus and IML will work together to develop a strategy for Veto session or the 2023 Legislative session.

There will be a committee meeting before Veto session to identify regional priorities including fighting any TIF reforms; pursuing LGDF increases; internet sales tax distribution corrections; 9-1-1/9-8-8 sweeps and other unfunded mandates; advocating for the South Suburban Airport.

3. SSMMA is processing all Capital Bill Awards and Reappropriations. It seems to be mostly reappropriations but anything new will be added to the workbook and sent out once complete. It is your municipality's responsibility to know what line items/projects have been committed and start advocating with your legislators to get them funded. A discussion followed.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Kolosh reported on the following topics:

1. COVID-19 update-SSMMA region 3.61% positivity rate, up from 1.7% in March. Governor Pritzker lifted the mask mandate on public transportation, stations and airports. Each municipality can establish their own mitigations. The CDC recommends that vulnerable citizens should continue to wear masks.
2. As a follow up to Kristi's report on ARPA funds earlier, please join the information sessions on reporting. Unless you received more than 10 million in funds, the reporting deadline is April 30. A discussion followed.

C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn and Leslie Phemister reported on the following topics:

1. The STP-L call for projects closed March 22, 2022. There were 50 projects submitted and will be reviewed in public comment July.
2. The next meeting, scheduled for May 3 has been canceled, next meeting is June 7.
3. The South Suburban truck route focus group will be meeting on May 19 at 10 am via Zoom.
4. The Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) closes June 17 with a 90/10 match.
5. IDOT is accepting applications for Transit 5311 Procurement Program that provides federal funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase ADA accessible transit and paratransit vehicles, application period March 11 – May 2.
6. RTA Access to Transit small scale capital projects call for projects due May 20.
7. The IJJA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for major infrastructure projects-regional/national significance due May 23.
8. RISE in Illinois to spur economic recovery local and regional planning grant due May 9.

D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Mayor Vanderbilt was not in attendance, Sarah Kobetis reported on the following topics:

1. At the last committee meeting in April, Kristi gave a presentation on the Southland Reactivation Act.
2. IDHA Homeowner Assistance fund is open to help homeowners with their mortgage/property tax payments due to COVID-19, applications opened April 11.
3. Please join us or send a proxy for the next Housing Committee meeting on June 9 at 9:00 am via Zoom.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood was not in attendance, Xiaofan Liu reported on the following topics:

1. Home Depot and SC Johnson have taken major leases in our region. We are working on a summary with more details and we will continue to promote available sites on social media with the focus on recruiting business from Florida, California and Texas.
2. We plan to attend the Select USA meeting this year for the US Department of Commerce to promote foreign direct investment to the US. We will join the Intersect IL team for electric vehicle usage study.
3. CSEDC has been awarded \$307,000 for 4343 Ascending House from Congresswoman Kelly's earmark. We will purchase computers, 3-D printers and other equipment to live-stream events and the learning center.
4. The hiring event partnering with OAI and South Holland was held on April 14 with 320 in attendance and 700 registered online. There will be another regional job fair event on July 30 with Victory Apostolic Church.

6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

Terri Winfree from the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce reported there is a Zoom legislative series event on May 10 with Representative Meyers-Martin and Senators Joyce and Hastings reporting on their views of the Spring Session. Terri welcomed new Prairie State College President Dr. Michael Anthony and wished him well. Please email Terri your thoughts about the Chicago Southland Fiber Network expansion as she is doing research before supporting the initiative, thank you.

7. OTHER

Director DeLaurentiis recognized Matthew Pittman from Senator Sims office and Commissioner Morrison's office Kathy Hilton.

Jim Garrett from the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau commented that the Visitor's Guide will be shipped out this week. The Ukraine effort phase I helped to collect 1600 pieces of supplies-blankets, first aid kits, etc. and there are plans for a phase II effort with Amazon. Thanks to all that donated and helped. Their open house reception is June 22 in Olympia Fields. Cook County awarded 1 million dollars for distribution purposes for marketing. Also working with Will County on distribution. 75 Million dollars has been allocated to hotels for the Hotel Job Recovery Act. Worked with IL Hotel Restaurant Association for the restaurant employment stabilization act and secured 50 million dollars.

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Jim Valleyfield, IBEW Local 134 reported that they will be volunteering in Chicago Heights on April 30 working with Rebuilding America and Cook County Building Trades updating 25 homes with electric, painting and new carpeting. They will be at the Homewood Science center updating electrical on June 4-5. They are working on 35 homes in Englewood on April 30.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Kolosh asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved and, meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.