

SSMMA BUSINESS MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2021 - ZOOM  
MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kolosh called the ZOOM meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions in the chat box.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kolosh asked for a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Mayor Reinbold moved to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Administrator Wiszowaty, motion was approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Kolosh welcomed the new Executive Board Officers for a one year term, beginning today. The new Board members this year are Matteson Mayor Sheila Chalmers-Currin, Cook County at Large; University Park Mayor Joseph Roudez, Will County at Large; Park Forest Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Housing Collaborative Chairman; Matteson Village Manager Anthony Burton, Management and Finance Co-Chair.

B. Kolosh asked for mayors and managers participation in SSMMA committees: Transportation; Legislative; Housing; Public Safety. The work and policy direction for SSMMA starts at the committee level.

C. Thank you to Tinley Park Administrator Dave Niemeyer, Matteson Manager Anthony Burton, Odelson, Sterk, Murphy, Frazier and McGrath Attorney John Murphy, Comcast and MWRD for their contribution to last week's Newly Elected Officials Workshop. Thanks also to Melissa Doud for her efforts in setting up the event. The successful event had over forty participants and all positive comments. The full recording, materials and other newly elected resources are now available on our [website](#).

D. Please save the date for our annual Vendor Fair/Member Appreciation Event to be held at Glenwoodie Golf Club on September 16, 2021. We are looking forward to finally seeing everyone in person and supporting our Associate Members! Registration information will go out in August.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director DeLaurentiis recognized the Newly Elected Officials Workshop presenters for their impressive knowledge, Comcast's Yohan Fernando for being a great partner to SSMMA and sponsor, and to MWRD for their donation of the rain barrel raffle.

B. DeLaurentiis emailed information on the American Recover Plan's awards to individual municipalities and guidance on eligible expenses. SSMMA communities will receive over \$90 million total. Funds may be used:

- To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during COVID-19 by providing premium pay;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue;
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

SSMMA will continue to provide assistance and updated information on revenue and coordinate webinars/information sharing regularly. We are also working with Cook County on special programs including repayment of past due water bills from March 1, 2020. Please contact us if you have any questions. A discussion followed.

- C. Due to COVID-19, not all projects from the 2019 Capital Bill list were re-appropriated. SSMMA has been in contact with Senator Sims that 11 municipalities lost projects, hoping to get a correction in Veto Session. While SSMMA has notified all Southland legislators of previous awards that did not get re-appropriated, effected municipalities need to reach out to their House and Senate members to help try to get them reinstated. Thanks to Leslie Phemister for all her work on this.
- D. Commissioner Cam Davis gave a short presentation on MWRD and its mission to reduce flooding and improve water quality. Flooding is a huge issue in the Southland including Flossmoor, Ford Heights, Midlothian and other communities, and happens more than it should. Therefore, MWRD projects in the south suburbs from 2019 into 2020 have doubled to address this flooding. The Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) recognizes disproportionately impacted areas and over time should reduce the downstream impacts. We need water and sanitation to survive, more initiatives and the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan can be found at [mwrld.org](http://mwrld.org). He is there to help with any and all issues that come up in your neighborhoods, email [Cameron.davis@mwrld.org](mailto:Cameron.davis@mwrld.org) or Chief of Staff Dawn Walker at [walkerd@mwrld.org](mailto:walkerd@mwrld.org).

## 5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor Reinbold reported on the following topics:

1. Thanks to Kristi and Taylor Anderson for their hard work this legislative session.  
End of Session Recap:
  - Good-No cuts to LGDF;
  - SB 2800-BIMP Bill, full funding for local government pass through revenues, \$1.1 billion dollars total;
  - Good-GATA Bill passed, will reduce the reporting burden;
  - Not Good-Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT), increased diversions by \$37 million to \$349 million;
  - Southland Reactivation Act unfortunately did not get considered, stay tuned for further action;
  - TIF legislation-Hoping to be active participants in working group.
2. SSMMA, working with the COG Coalition and MMC on Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) will continue pushing for full restoration. Planning to hold a strategy session later this summer with Representative DeLuca and a meeting with the Governor's office and mayors.
3. SSMMA has issued the new legislative district maps, contact Kristi for questions or assistance. Thanks to staff Freddy Segura for his work on these maps.

### B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mayor Kolosh reported on the following COVID-19 topics:

1. Illinois currently has 1.39 million cases and a .7% positivity rate. Localized vaccination clinics are being set up in Harvey, more information will be in our newsletter. Over 12 million vaccinations have been administered.
2. Phase 5 Reopening guidance:
  - Those fully vaccinated do not require face coverings or social distancing in both indoor and outdoor settings, businesses and municipalities can require them as they seem appropriate.
  - Those unvaccinated should wear a face covering and practice social distancing but does not have to wear a face covering outdoors. Mask are still required in medical

- facilities, nursing homes and public transportation.
  - Face coverings are recommended for the health compromised and unvaccinated persons.
3. SSMMA is continuing to update the one stop COVID-19 Dashboard [website](#) by zip code. Please contact SSMMA if you need assistance, thanks to staff Kai Funahashi for his work.
  4. MMC Regional Task Force is continuing to meet. Discussion was had on how people were complying with the reopening. Most municipalities are holding regular Fourth of July festivities. A discussion followed.

#### C. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Einhorn and Leslie Phemister reported on the following topics:

1. The next committee meeting will be held on September 7.
2. The CN/KCS merger is expected to be a 2 year process. There was some push back from Canadian Pacific. Although there may be additional trains through the Chicago Heights area, it doesn't seem to be affecting Matteson. Mayor Chalmers-Currin spoke later in the meeting about the trains and the information being inaccurate, that there will be 4 crossings affected. A discussion followed.
3. Local governments are required to have an ADA Transition Plan, making communities accessible for all users. FHWA is wondering who has a plan and wants to make sure everyone is in compliance. Fewer than 50 employees are not required to comply. Leslie will be sending information out requesting information on this.
4. SSMMA is looking for a representative for the CMAP's Council of Mayors Executive Committee in addition to Mayor Einhorn. Let us know of your interest and it will be discussed in the Executive Committee. A discussion followed.

#### D. HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Mayor Vanderbilt and Sarah Kobetis reported on the following topics:

1. Mayor Vanderbilt is excited to be chairing the committee and thanked former chair Mayor Ford for all of his work.
2. The Emergency Rental Relief Program landlord application period has ended but IDHA will be opening a new application period for tenants, anticipated starting June 28.
3. Please join us or send a proxy for the next Housing Committee meeting on September 9 at 9:00 a.m.

#### E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/CSEDC

Reggie Greenwood reported on the following topics:

1. The e-commerce shared office space, 4343 Ascending House, in Matteson is looking for tenants and partners. Funders include Nicor, Comcast, SET Grant, and State of Illinois. There will be an ecommerce course run in conjunction with Governor State and Amazon soon.
2. The industrial development community is still healthy and are looking for sites for major developments all over the region including projects in Country Club Hills, Tinley Park and a site along the 394 corridor.

6. REGIONAL AGENCY REPORTS

Pat Eaves of Nicor mentioned the flood impact and customers' equipment, they will be sending out information on how to be safe in restoring this equipment. She will send over information.

7. OTHER

Patrick McDermott from Congressman Rush's office gave a list of 7 projects totaling \$22 million in the Southland that have been approved by the committee under the Invest in America Act:

- 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tinley Park, \$1.5 million
- I294, Crestwood/Robbins, \$4.8 million
- Pace Pulse South Halsted, Riverdale/Harvey \$900,00
- Pulaski Rd, Alsip/Crestwood/Midlothian/Markham/Robbins, \$2.5 million
- 79<sup>th</sup>/Stoney Island, \$800,000
- Western Ave. Grade Separations, Posen/Dixmoor, \$4.5 million
- Zero Emission Locomotive Commuter Rail Pilot, Blue Island/Joliet/Midlothian/Mokena/New Lenox/Oak Forest/Robbins/Tinley Park, \$7 million

Contact their office at 773-779-2400 for more information. Their office is planning to host pop-up events in the Southland for resident's concerns/questions beginning June 28.

Commission Jeff Morden from the Lincoln Lansing Drainage District commented that MWRD is doing a great job with the Small Stream Maintenance Crew, if you have creek blockages call MWRD and they will address the issues. The Lynwood ditch project is now complete and he worked closely with Commissioner Davis and he is for the Southland.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Kolosh asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Administrator Wiszowaty and seconded by Mayor Gardiner, meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.