

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, January 9, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: Trustee Bachner

Also Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Commander Jim Greenwood, Detective Sergeant Justin Labriola, Eugene Wood (Cook County State's Attorney's Office), Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

James R Godlewski of 1531 William made a statement that during the morning hours, eastbound traffic from North Avenue spills into the Village and travels quickly down William Street and the alley. He wanted the Board to be aware of his safety concerns.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell wished everyone a happy New Year. O'Connell reminded everyone that new smoke alarm requirements began on January 1st and that there are recycling bins for old smoke alarms at Village Hall. He also congratulated the Kiwanis Club for their Christmas lights program. Finally, Trustee O'Connell would like to remind everyone that January is National Blood Donation month and that there is a blood shortage currently.

Trustee Johnson wished everyone a happy New Year and asked Trustee Gillis to explain the holiday light recycling situation.

Trustee Gillis stated that the lights recycling bin is currently out on Central Ave and will be out until January 15th.

Trustee Brennan stated she had nothing to add.

Clerk Keller stated he had nothing to add.

Trustee Vazquez wished everyone a happy New Year and noted that the Village is collecting holiday evergreens on every Tuesday of January.

Trustee Gillis reminded residents to remove all ornaments and metals from holiday evergreens before putting them out for collection.

President Adduci wished everyone a Happy New Year and announced that Village Administrator Brian Murphy will be resigning from his position due to personal matters, effective January 27th. President Adduci explained that the trustees will discuss and plan next steps forward during executive session.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2022
- b. Accounts Payable – December 2022 - \$2,013,541.28
- c. Department Reports
- d. Village Administrator's Report

MOTION by Trustee Brennan to approve consent agenda items A-D. Second by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell

Absent: Bachner

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.a.1 SAFE-T Act presentation by River Forest Police Department

Police Chief James O'Shea explained that the SAFE-T ACT stands for the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act. Chief explained that the act reforms multiple areas of the judicial system such as: pre-arrest diversion, policing, pretrial sentencing, corrections, cash bail, use of force standards, complaint procedures and standards, certification and decertification processes and trainings. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has been tasked with implementation of many of the provisions.

Commander James Greenwood gave a presentation on the background of the bill and its new requirements. He explained that the River Forest Police Department has been preparing for the bill since July 2021. Commander Greenwood also explained that the River Forest Police Department has already been following many of the requirements of the act. Additionally, he reported that while the Village is required to get police body cameras by 2025, the department is already in the process of obtaining the infrastructure needed for them. The Act also outlined use of force standards for departments, lawsuit guidelines, reporting standards, disciplinary guidelines for officers, rights of individuals who are in custody, etc.

Commander Greenwood also explained how the act created a statewide decertification process for Illinois Officers. This will also allow for the investigation of anonymous complaints towards officers and complaints that do not have supporting legal documents such as affidavits. He pointed out that one of the goals of the act is to make sure that all Illinois departments have uniform training standards.

Detective Sergeant Labriola gave a presentation on the portions of the bill relating to pre-trial fairness act and some of the controversial portions of the act. He noted that pending the Illinois Supreme Court decision, cash bail is still in effect. Labriola explained that only class C & B misdemeanors will be given a "Cite and Release" on the street. Class C & B misdemeanors are non-violent offenses. He also explained and gave examples of some of the class A misdemeanors and forcible felonies that will not allow a "Cite and Release" with the suspect being detained.

Trustee Johnson asked for clarification on the differences between the class of crimes that are considered misdemeanors.

Sergeant Labriola gave additional explanation on the differences between the crimes and explained that shop lifting would be a class A misdemeanor.

Trustee Johnson asked if there are any punitive repercussions for the new Peer Bystander Interventions requirements?

Chief O'Shea explained that there are repercussions if an officer were to not act, which would potentially launch an internal investigation.

Eugene Wood, from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, explained that this act is under constitutional review by the Illinois Supreme Court and stressed that this act is the first of its kind in the nation. Oral arguments are set for mid-March. He stressed that any individual posing a threat to the public or him/her self, an officer can bring them into Court.

He explained that while the class B & C misdemeanors are the crimes that will be given citations on the street and released, officers have the authority to apprehend the suspect and take them to the courthouse if they feel it is needed.

Trustee Brennan asked for clarification if it is the entire SAFE-T ACT being put on hold by the Illinois Supreme Court Case or just the cash bail element.

Mr. Wood confirmed that it was just the cash bail portion of the act.

A member of the public asked a question regarding how crimes such as assault or sexual assault will be handled under the law. The resident also asked the officers what they saw as their biggest challenge due to the implementation of the act.

Mr. Wood explained that sexual assault and domestic violence are detainable offenses, but ultimately be up to the Judge. He went on further to reiterate that class B & C misdemeanors will get released on the scene while certain class 4 felonies and class A misdemeanors will be brought into the station.

Commander Greenwood explained that the biggest challenge will be getting used to the new procedures in the pretrial fairness act.

Trustee Johnson asked if there is an anticipated roll out date/best practices for sharing this information with the public when the Act is confirmed.

Commander Greenwood reported the anticipated best way to spread the news is through forums such as village board meetings and city hall meetings.

Chief O'Shea added that the Village's Community Safety Meetings will be a good forum to discuss the SAFE-T ACT changes and other judicial system changes.

Village President Adduci commented that it is comforting to know that most of the requirements of the act have already been implemented by the village police department for some time.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village, and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell

Absent: Bachner

Nays: None

Motion Passes at 7:37pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk