

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, January 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 23, 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, Bachner, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Fire Marshal Kevin Wiley, Fire Lieutenant David Bochenek, Police Chief James O'Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Lance Malina.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phyllis Rubin, of 411 Ashland Ave., reported on activity at the Lake and Lathrop site. She shared photos displaying the state of the fence and other areas on site that are not in good order. Phyllis also reported that two cars at her apartment building have been damaged by the site fencing.

Ms. Rubin additionally reported that there had been issues with obtaining a compost bin for the condominium complex that she lives in. And, that Lake Shore would not call the condo members back.

Trustee Gillis clarified that if her condo building would like a compost bin, they would need to work directly with Lake Shore Recycling on their own contract.

Trustee Brennan asked Ms. Rubin where residents have been submitting their claims for damage to their cars. Ms. Rubin responded that she thinks some residents may have contacted the company managing the site.

President Adduci directed the conversation regarding the damages to the Village Attorney Lance Malina as the car damage issue appeared to be a civil matter.

Village Attorney Malina explained the proper avenues village residents could take for submitting a claim.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment. Trustee Bachner then commented Happy New Year and Lunar New Year. She also explained the process the village could take to inform Google Maps about the new traffic restrictions the village has placed around town.

Assistant Village Administrator Matt Walsh confirmed that he had submitted a request with Google.

Trustee Gillis also wished a Happy New Year and Chinese New Year. Trustee Gillis reminded everyone that the C4 Green Town conference will be occurring this year on June 22nd. She also reminded residents to be careful when walking around town due to icy and snowy conditions.

Trustee Vazquez reminded everyone that the Quarterly Community Safety Meeting is Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm.

Clerk Keller reported that he attended a tour of the Oak Park River Forest High School with the Imagine Foundation and its executive director. The tour highlighted some of the required infrastructure needs at the high school and what level of funding is targeted to address it. Clerk Keller encouraged residents to pay attention to the discussions surrounding the improvement.

Trustee Brennan stated she attended a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation meeting at Dominican University. She also attended an MLK legacy brunch as a representative of the Village. Trustee Brennan thanked the Village for the updates on the Lake and Lathrop project and reiterated an invitation to the developers to attend these board meetings. Additionally, Trustee Brennan mentioned a letter from Deb Borman, a resident regarding the Madison Street TIF district and the project occurring in that area.

Village Administrator Brian Murphy explained that the village has not traditionally read letters into the record, however, Assistant Village Administrator Walsh has been in consistent contact with the resident and the surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Walsh confirmed that he was going to meet with the residents on that Wednesday night.

Finally, Trustee Brennan noted that the holiday lights collection sign is still up and that residents are piling up lights where the boxes used to be.

Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster confirmed that the lights and the sign had been picked up that morning and the project is done.

Trustee Johnson wished everyone a happy New and Lunar New Year.

Trustee O'Connell reminded residents that this was the last week for Christmas tree collection. Finally, Trustee O'Connell gave thanks to Village Administrator Murphy for his service to the Village.

President Adduci announced that she attended the inauguration of Speaker Welch and the 103rd General Assembly. She also attended an event in D.C with other mayors of neighboring towns, where River Forest, Oak Park and Broadview won a \$125,000 grant from the American Beverage Association and the U.S Conference of Mayors. President Adduci reported the money will be put towards C4, a collaborative environmental initiative between the municipalities.

President Adduci also thanked Village Administrator Murphy for his time at the Village.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2023
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2023
- c. December Monthly Finance Report
- d. Department Reports
- e. Village Administrator's Report
- f. Appointment of Matt Walsh as Interim Village Administrator
- g. Resolution in Support of Tax Increment Financing in the State of Illinois
- h. Change Order – 2022 Green Alley Improvement Project (Phase 1) - \$44,369.59

Trustee Brennan requested to pull Agenda item G from the Consent Agenda. Second by Trustee Bachner.

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell to approve consent agenda items A-F & H. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: NONE

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci congratulated Matt Walsh on being appointed the Interim Village Administrator.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- g. Resolution in Support of Tax Increment Financing in the State of Illinois

Trustee Brennan explained that they pulled the item from the agenda because there was no background information or explanation regarding the resolution. She guessed that the item was on the agenda as recently the Illinois Municipal League had been attempting to garner support for TIF practices to help prevent state legislation curtailing them.

Administrator Murphy stated that is correct and there may be additional legislation that could impact the usage of TIFs down the line. Administrator Murphy reminded everybody that the Village has utilized TIF districts properly throughout its history. Finally, he apologized for not including a cover letter for the resolution that would have given the necessary background information.

Trustee Bachner asked Administrator Murphy on what some of the potential upcoming challenges to the TIF district will be?

Mr. Murphy noted that he does not know what the future challenges may be.

Roll call:

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

Absent: NONE

Nays: None

Motion Passes

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

- A. Sustainability Commission

1. Appointment of Andrew Stierwalt (term ending August 2023)

Trustee Gillis noted that the job posting was in social media and that Andrew is in 8th grade where in the past most students have been in high school.

Trustee Johnson asked if local schools were notified of these job postings, and suggested that the local schools should be informed about the student commissioner position.

MOTION by Trustee Gillis to concur with the appointment of A.J Stierwalt to the Sustainability Commission. Second by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: NONE

Nays: None

Motion Passes

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Purchase of Fire Department Training Prop from Taylor'd Systems LLC - \$57,800.00

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell to waive the formal bidding process and approve the purchase of a fire department training prop from Taylor'd Systems LLC for a cost not to exceed \$57,800.00. Second by Trustee Vazquez.

Village Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner joined the meeting from zoom and briefly explained some of the benefits of the prop.

Fire Lieutenant David Bochenek stepped to the podium and gave further information on the prop. He explained that the prop starts as shipping container that is turned into a device that allows for improved Fire Department Training. It allows for in-house training vs sending off to other municipalities.

Trustee Brennan asked where the Fire Department will place the prop.

Lieutenant Bochenek responded that the prop may be able to be stored in the firehouse during the winter months and during the summer on the empty lot across the street from village hall.

Chief Gaertner explained that the prop is also on wheels so it can be towed around the Village and that the Police Department should be able to use the prop also.

Trustee Gillis asked why the prop is not being purchased through the standard bidding process.

Lieutenant Bochenek explained that this prop is new to the market and that it is becoming popular and is a single source item.

Village Administrator Murphy explained that some other Fire departments and districts actually assemble these props themselves.

Trustee Bachner asked if this prop could potentially grow.

Lieutenant Bochenek explained that he would like to see it get larger in the future, but at that moment they are just focused on the benefits it would add to police and fire training.

Trustee Bachner asked if the prop was custom ordered for the Village?

Lt. Bochenek explained that it was not, outside of some minor specifications.

Trustee O'Connell asked Finance Director Rosemary McAdams out of which fund the prop will be paid.

Director McAdams explained that it will come out the General Fund.

A member of the audience asked Lt. Bochenek what the life expectancy of the product is, and he reported around 20+ years at a minimum.

Trustee Vazquez added that if the prop and the training around it continues to grow, he would suggest getting into contact with Triton College as they may have access to resources the Village does not.

President Adduci asked if this will help the paramedics.

Lt. Bochenek added that is a possibility.

Roll call:

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

Absent: NONE

Nays: None

Motion Passes

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning, Trustee Brennan gave a statement thanking Village Administrator Murphy for his work at the Village and highlighting some of the projects/initiatives he has been a part of or led.

Trustee Bachner also noted Village Administrator Murphy has been a valued member of the Village staff.

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee O'Connell. Second by Trustee Bachner.

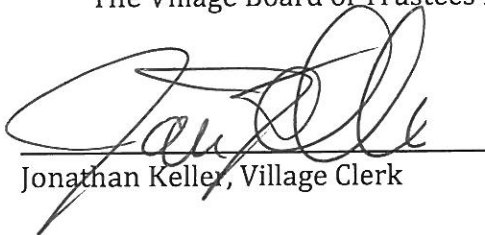
Roll call:

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

Absent: NONE

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk