

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
February 12th, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 12th, 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 Vazquez, O'Connell, Brennan, Bachner, Johnson and Village Clerk Keller

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Chief Greenwood, Police Commander Mike Swierczynski, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Assistant Finance Director KeKe Boyer, Public Works Analyst Seth Jansen, Superintendent of Public Works Brian Skoczek, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to allow Trustee O'Connell to attend and participate in the meeting virtually due to work matters. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Brennan, Johnson

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

President Adduci invited Patty Henek up to the podium to give public comment. Ms. Henek stated that she was speaking at the meeting to amplify a recent letter to the editor in the Wednesday Journal proposing a postmortem on the Lake and Lathrop Development. She shared hard copies of the letter with the Village Board.

Ms. Henek also addressed statements the Village has made regarding the project that she stated were disingenuous. She also stated that the Village Board's actions have enabled the development to be in the current state it is in today.

President Adduci invited Margie Cekander up to the podium to give public comment.

Ms. Cekander made public comment regarding statements and actions the Village has made surrounding the Proposed Text Amendments to the Commercial District Zoning Regulations that have gone before the Economic Development Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Cekander also stated that the Village should and could do more to notify residents surrounding these proposed changes. Ms. Cekander also reported that some of the comments made by the Village about the Lake and Lathrop property are misleading and stated that the Village cannot afford another Lake and Lathrop misstep.

President Adduci invited William Belke up to the podium to give public comment.

Mr. Belke provided public comment surrounding the Lake and Lathrop development. Mr. Belke reported on the losses that have occurred due to the Lake and Lathrop project and suggested the Village conduct a review of the project to determine what went wrong and what could have been done better. He also stated that the Village needs to provide information regarding the Village funds that were used for the project.

President Adduci invited Mindy Credi to the podium to give public comment.

Ms. Credi thanked the Board and Administrator Walsh for including the flagpole item on the agenda that evening. Ms. Credi stated she was grateful that the policy maintained that a Village Trustee will represent the supervision of flags and maintained respect for current flagpole codes. Ms. Credi also noted being excited about the various possible flags and communities that could be represented on the second flagpole.

4.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell thanked the Board for allowing him to participate via Zoom.

Trustee Johnson had no comments.

Trustee Brennan asked Administrator Walsh to address some of the concerns raised by Ms. Cekander.

Administrator Walsh addressed the concerns raised by Ms. Cekander and noted that staff is having discussions about how to improve information sharing with the public.

Trustee Brennan asked what the best ways for a resident are to be informed of meeting topics and if there is a way for residents to learn what will be on the agenda earlier than a few days before the meeting.

Administrator Walsh stated there is not an official form of communication as agendas can be fairly fluid and difficult to document leading up to meetings. He reiterated that staff is investigating how to get the information out in a better manner.

Trustee Bachner asked if text amendments require mailing letters to impacted residents.

Administrator Walsh stated that mailing letters would not be realistic as text amendments essentially impact everyone, unlike a limited variation.

Assistant Village Administrator Spencer provided information on some of the actions the Village has taken to spread the word regarding meetings.

Trustee Bachner stated that this appears to be an issue and the Village should continue to research further ways to share information surrounding the amendment.

Assistant Administrator Spencer suggested the Village could provide information on water bills.

Trustee Brennan asked staff to share the names of the social media accounts.

Administrator Walsh provided the platforms of the four social media accounts.

Trustee Johnson suggested the Village provides residents with public notice procedures and information to residents so they can understand how meetings work.

Trustee Brennan asked if there were any updates on the Lake and Lathrop property.

Administrator Walsh provided an update on court happenings surrounding the project.

Administrator Walsh reminded everyone that the Village retains Zoning Authority surrounding any potential new developments at Lake and Lathrop.

Village Attorney Malina provided some background information on the Lake and Lathrop court cases.

Clerk Keller had no public comments.

Trustee Vazquez reported attending the West Central Municipal Conference Meeting with other Village Board members and Village Staff. He also gave an update on grants that have become available through the American Association of Retired Persons.

Administrator Walsh stated that Public Works Analyst Jansen has already been researching and applying for the grants.

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment. She had no further comments.

President Adduci reported attending the West Central Municipal Conference Meeting and encouraged others to attend in the future.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – January 22nd, 2024
- b. Administration Department Report
- c. Accounts Payable – January 2024 – \$2,779,276.13
- d. January 2024 Financial Report
- e. Department Monthly Reports
- f. Payment to Springbrook Holding Company LLC for Annual Maintenance – \$25,486.73
- g. Award of Contract – 2024 Asphalt Pavement Crack Sealing Project – SKC Construction, Inc – \$46,827.50
- h. Award of Contract – Street Patching Bid – Schroeder Asphalt Services – \$94,885.15
- i. Award of Contract – Street Improvement Bid – Schroeder Asphalt Services – \$612,486.30
- j. Award of Contract – 2024 Sewer Lining Bid – National Power Rodding Corporation – \$113,035.00
- k. Payment to Dell Marketing L.P. for Specific Computer Hardware – \$23,002.11
- l. Sustainability Commission Co-Chair – Ordinance
- m. Proclamation Designation Black History Month
- n. Village's Outdoor Flagpole Display Policy and Purchase of Second Flagpole

Trustee Bachner asked that Agenda item 5.N – Village's Outdoor Flagpole Display Policy and Purchase of Second Flagpole - be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Items A - M. Seconded by Trustee Brennan

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci acknowledged the Chairmen of the Sustainability Commission, Eric Simon, in the crowd and thanked him for attending.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

n. Village's Outdoor Flagpole Display Policy and Purchase of Second Flagpole

Trustee Bachner asked how many flags could be flown on the proposed second flagpole.

Administrator Walsh stated he thinks it should be able to hold three flags.

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve the updated Village's Outdoor Flagpole Display Policy and authorize Village Staff to execute the purchase of a second flagpole. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

a. Sustainability Commission – Student Commissioner – Manolo Avalos – term expiring September 30th, 2024

MOTION by Trustee Brennan to approve the appointment of Manolo Avalos to the position of Student Commissioner on the Sustainability Commission. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee O'Connell congratulated Mr. Avalos and asked about how the term period works for the Student Commissioner Position.

Mr. Jansen provided clarification on the position's term period.

Trustee Brennan inquired about Mr. Avalos's current academic year.

Mr. Avalos stated he is a senior in high school.

Trustee Vazquez and Trustee Bachner made comments in support of Mr. Avalos appointment.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Gillis
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Police Department Purchases

i. Approval – Police Body Cameras – Axon Enterprise, Inc – \$160,000.00

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter into a purchase contract for 33 Body Worn camera systems and associated hardware, software, and data storage for \$160,000.00 for FY24 from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Police Chief Jim O'Shea provided background information on the agenda items a.i and a.ii.

Deputy Chief Jim Greenwood gave a presentation on the camera systems.

Trustee Johnson asked if the department's rules need to be altered to reflect the implementation of the cameras.

Deputy Chief Greenwood stated some polices are still in place due to already existing in-car cameras.

Chief O'Shea stated that many rules are automatically required by Illinois State Statutes and the Village's insurance provider.

Trustee Vazquez asked if the motion should reflect the 5-year contract instead of the initial \$160,000.00 purchase.

President Adduci stated yes and asked if any grant money has been obtained for the cameras.

Deputy Chief Greenwood stated that the department has obtained grants and is continuing to look for more grant funds.

President Adduci asked if the costs are net of the grant money.

Deputy Chief Greenwood reported the grant money will be received after the initial purchase.

Trustee Bachner asked if the cameras will be implemented all at once.

Chief O'Shea stated they will be implemented all at once, subject to parts arriving.

Trustee Bachner asked how often the cameras are checked to be in working order.

Chief O'Shea stated before every shift the cameras are checked for functionality.

Trustee Bachner asked how long videos will be held in storage.

Chief O'Shea stated that the state law is 90 days outside of specific instances that are required such as videos for court cases.

Trustee Bachner asked if the audio from the cameras could interrupt the audio received through traditional radio forms, thus causing confusion.

Chief O'Shea stated it will be used as a backup feature.

Trustee Johnson asked how the public will be able to access the videos.

Village Attorney Malina stated that those regulations are spelled out in existing laws.

Trustee Brennan asked when the officers will have the cameras.

Chief O'Shea stated that the department should have the cameras prior to the mandated deadline.

President Adduci asked if the system is susceptible to hacking and what type of disaster recovery will this system use.

Chief O'Shea stated Axon is operating under Criminal Justice Information Services Security Policies.

Trustee Vazquez Amended his motion to reflect the cost of the entire contract with Axon.

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter into a 5-year purchase contract for 33 Body Worn camera systems and associated hardware, software, and data storage for \$270,458.99 from Axon Enterprise, Inc. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- ii. Approval – Police In-Car Camera Systems – Axon Enterprise, Inc – \$80,920.00

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter into a 5-year purchase contract for (8) dash mounted camera systems and associated hardware, software, installation, and data storage for \$100,406.40 from Axon Enterprise, Inc.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Capital Improvement Program - Presentation

Administrator Walsh gave the Capital Improvement Plan Summary presentation. He began by thanking Village staff for their work on the document. Mr. Walsh noted that no board action will be required, and the purpose of the presentation is to introduce the plan.

Trustee Brennan asked if the Village has applied for a grant for the Solar Flower installation.

Administrator Walsh stated the Village is exploring grant opportunities for the Solar Flower and nearly every other purchase in the plan.

Trustee O'Connell asked if there are any existing plans regarding Village ambulances.

Fire Chief Gaertner provided clarification on the ambulances and other Fire Department purchases.

Trustee Vazquez noted that in future presentations, Village staff should note on the slides which items have been paid for by grants.

Trustee Brennan asked if the Lead Survey Program has been shared with multifamily and commercial properties.

Administrator Walsh stated the program has been only shared on social media and newsletters.

Administrator Walsh encouraged the Village Board to review the document in its entirety and feel free to suggest any projects.

Village President Adduci reminded staff that the Village, if they do not have one already, needs to have a I.T. disaster recovery plan.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.


Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

Date: 02/26/24