

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, March 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 8, 2021 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 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

Absent: None

Also Present: Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Police Commander James Greenwood, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She wished everyone a happy International Women’s Day and encouraged everyone to choose to challenge themselves and the systems in place. She reminded everyone about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion application. Trustee Bachner also congratulated the Oak Park River Forest swim team on breaking school records. She also encouraged everyone to continue looking out for vaccination opportunities.

Trustee Cargie also congratulated the OPRF swim team. He reminded everyone they can register with the Cook County Department of Public Health for information about the COVID vaccine and to receive notification when they become eligible.

President Adduci stated a communication was sent out this evening about the United Center eligibility change and encouraged everyone to sign up for email alerts.

Ms. Scheiner also noted the newsletter is on social media and there are different sources residents can utilize to help find appointments. She stated residents can call for assistance.

Trustee Vazquez also congratulated D200 students for their swimming accomplishments. He thanked everyone who participated in second vaccination clinic, and stated that at the last Board meeting, they neglected to give kudos to Mario Ferro and the Citizens and Medical Reserves Corps for assistance in making the vaccination clinics a success. He reported that he and President Adduci attended the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Age Friendly Communities Collaborative meeting, and that the topic was accessibility and universal design.

Village Clerk Brand-White reminded everyone to be careful with kids riding bikes, and she stated the swim team's accomplishment is thrilling. She also reported that she was more than two weeks vaccinated and recommended that everyone who is able to get one do so when it is their turn.

Trustee Brennan echoed Trustee Bachner's comments and shared a personal experience about when she first celebrated International Women's Day and shared history about the holiday. She thanked Director Anderson for running point on a grant opportunity from Active Trans.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Director Anderson confirmed that he is planning on applying for a grant from Cook County for the next phase of the Bicycle Plan.

Trustee Henek echoed the comments related to International Women's Day and congratulated the OPRF swim team.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about the next steps for the boards and commissions conversation, Ms. Scheiner stated that she had asked for 90 days to conduct research, hold meetings, and come back to the Board with that analysis. She stated that once scheduled, the meetings will be communicated by the Village and that these will be public meetings. She noted other priorities and stated it is her hope to get this completed within the 90 days.

Trustee Henek requested an update on the Lake and Lathrop project at the next meeting, including the status, sales, report on the cleanup, and a confirmation of the developer's timeline. She stated her understanding from the most recent redevelopment agreement was the project would be completed in November 2021.

Ms. Scheiner confirmed the Board can be provided with an update at the next meeting.

Trustee O'Connell stated there was an update on the project on the Village website as of this afternoon and concurred that the Board should keep getting updated. He reported that he attended an International Women's Day celebration through his company. He noted the conversations about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at forums over the weekend and gave kudos to Trustee Bachner. He stated the Village moved along at rapid expedience. He also congratulated everyone on the success of the vaccine clinics, noting his positive experience

adding someone to the waiting list. He congratulated President Adduci, the Trustees, and all involved.

President Adduci honored International Women's Day, noting the contributions women have made social, economic, and political achievements and advancements. She noted women stand at the frontlines of the pandemic, which has highlighted the disproportionate burdens women carry. She pledged to work to make the changes that will allow every woman to fulfill their potential, and she called on everyone to stand up for women's rights. She echoed Trustee Vazquez' comments regarding the Age Friendly Communities Collaborative. President Adduci also congratulated the OPRF swim team on their achievement. She noted President Biden will sign the COVID relief package, and that the Village will see significant money coming from the bill, and she thanked representatives for their help getting municipalities relief. She announced she will be presenting about civic governance to third and fourth graders later this week.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2021
- b. Monthly Department Reports
- c. Accounts Payable – February 2021 – \$1,448,816.83
- d. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-D.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie about the 400 Ashland pending planned development permit, Ms. Scheiner stated the property was approved as mixed use under a planned development permit and that they are looking to add a second residential unit. She stated there would be no impact to the Village's property tax revenue, and that it is considered a major amendment to the existing planned development permit.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. February Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$73.53 (Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest)

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-D.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Waiver of Formal Bids (due to State contract quote) and Purchase of Portable Radios for \$139,159.15

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to waive formal bids due to a state contract quote and approve purchase of portable radios for \$139,159.15.

Chief Bohlmann reviewed this item and noted the Village received a grant for \$95,238, which would pay for a significant portion of the radios. He explained that with the grant, the Village must purchase these exact radios. He noted the Village's portion of the purchase would be \$43,921.15. He noted that these radios are necessary and that the current radios are still operating but past their useful life.

Trustee Vazquez congratulated Chief Bohlmann for financing this with the grant.

In response to questions from Trustee Cargie, Chief Bohlmann noted the limited number of vendors available and that the Village was able to save about \$17,000 by waiting to purchase until this year. He explained that the grant does not dictate which specific radios have to be purchased but that the grant application was for these radios, and the grant requires purchase of the requested radios.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Chief Bohlmann confirmed that grant covers all the radios the Fire Department intended to purchase over the next 5 years.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Chief Bohlmann stated that the grant only covers the 20 Fire Department radios and that the Police Department will purchase their 20 needed radios according to the Capital Improvement Project document.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Chief Bohlmann confirmed the radios will be able to communicate with the Police radios.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Chief Bohlmann stated the useful life of the radios is 10 years.

President Adduci thanked Chief Bohlmann for getting the grant.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

It was noted there would be a 6PM Committee of the Whole meeting on April 12 to discuss the FY22 budget.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:41p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOT](#)
Subject: VBOT Public Comment
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 8:51:30 PM

I fully support the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project to upgrade water meters throughout the village with state-of-the-art equipment that will allow residents to see actual consumption in real time with meter reads on a daily basis. In summer 2019 I had a water leak that was unknown to me and resulted in a bill 20x what was typical for my property. I was alerted by the village 87 days after the onset of the water consumption increase and 57 days after the meter reading. At the time, the village billed residents every two months, especially devastating in summer with higher resident consumption of water for lawn maintenance. I had a meeting with village officials and suggested monthly billing and adoption of a transparent process for capturing and reporting water consumption using real-time technology. While the village did not forgive any portion of my bill, I am glad they are including the AMI project in their capital improvement plan for River Forest residents.

Best,
Erin