

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, April 12, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 12, 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 7:03p.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 Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Susan Macaulay, 310 Park. Ms. Macaulay stated she was excited when she heard about the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group and that she had applied. She asked about the next steps.

President Adduci stated she should have received a letter from her and apologized that Ms. Macaulay did not receive it. She stated there are still some administrative steps needing to be taken and that the applications will be distributed to the Village Board. She emphasized they are very excited about the Advisory Group as well, and that residents will be hearing about it shortly.

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks. Ms. Cekander stated an update on the Lake and Lathrop project was removed from the agenda and commented about the project status. She stated the updates on the Village websites are insufficient. She expressed concern about foregone taxes and stated the developer does not appear ready for construction. Ms. Cekander also expressed concern about comments made on social media during the recent election and criticized that style of politicking.

Phyllis Rubin, 411 Ashland. Ms. Rubin also commented about the project and stated residents are concerned it would not be built. She asked why the update was removed from

the agenda and stated the Board needs to find a way to hold the developer accountable. She expressed concern about trustees' relationships with the developer. She also requested the Village find a way of notifying neighboring property owners when something near them is on an agenda.

Lee Neubecker, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, provided an update about their recent meeting. He stated the Commission discussed how to help businesses during the COVID-19 fallout and reviewed COVID-19 data. He recommended the Village send a letter to Governor Pritzker and Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle urging them to keep indoor dining open for restaurants and to stay the course.

In response to resident comments, President Adduci stated the Lake and Lathrop project would be considered at the next meeting and that it was pulled from the agenda because the developer was not given enough notice. She stated they are continuing to make progress and there is no decision at this point, and she stated the developer is not in default of their contract. She emphasized that she still strongly believes the site will get developed. President Adduci also asked that everyone respect one another's relationships with community members and affirmed that the Board does respect what residents care about.

#### **4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee O'Connell stated Mr. Paris' parents live near him and assured that he never had conversations with him about the development. He asked that residents stop slandering the developer on social media and negatively impact his ability to work in the community.

Trustee Henek stated the community needed to denounce the actions of individuals who used tainted outlets and spread lies during the election. She stated this should not be tolerated and those involved should be held accountable. She stated she stands firm in her call for increased representation, inclusion, and accountability. Trustee Henek also commented about the Lake and Lathrop project, and she stated she has been asked about the project by residents and that she has repeatedly asked for information since November 2020. She stated that she found it unacceptable that the project update was pulled from the agenda after being agreed to on March 8.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about the project's stated completion date in the contract, President Adduci stated the contract is not in default.

Trustee Henek stated it is unfair to residents not to get answers about the project status.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Ms. Scheiner stated there are six units under contract and one pending.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Henek about when the public can expect a full update, President Adduci stated that the developer is making a lot of progress on their permits and that once there are more decisions to be made by the Board, that would be when they bring the issue to the table.

Trustee Henek stated that is unacceptable and that they need to have a full update at the next meeting.

Trustee Brennan commented about the Bicycle Plan implementation and explained that the new “sharrow” markings on streets guide bicyclists to the most visible location to ride with moving traffic that is outside of the door-zone of parked cars. She requested that a project implementation status be shared with the community. Trustee Brennan also asked that Ms. Scheiner look into the National Suicide Prevention and Action Month Proclamation project. She also commented about the Lake and Lathrop development and requested that they receive a full update at the next meeting and a written report a week in advance of the next meeting, noting that she is personally confused about the status and other residents are too. She stated that she would want to have the benefit of the outgoing trustees’ input at the meeting.

Trustee Vazquez reported that the Age-Friendly Committee met on March 10 and continues to work on the development of its survey, and is specifically working to condense it to a 10-15-minute survey so respondents would not be overwhelmed. He stated the Committee also heard from members of the Northwest Austin Council on their survey experience and stated it was an additional introduction to working with another community on senior citizen issues.

Trustee Cargie thanked everyone who ran in the recent election and congratulated the winners.

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 noted it was the first day of Ramadan and wished well to everyone who celebrates. She also acknowledged that April is Sexual Abuse Awareness Month and stated those who need help can contact 800-656-HOPE. Trustee Bachner also stated she has heard from residents that Zoom makes it easier to access meetings and that she hopes a Zoom option is available when they go back to in-person meetings.

President Adduci stated that there is legislation being considered in the State that would allow that, and that she supports it.

Trustee Bachner stated that residents are also interested in getting an update on disaster/emergency planning. She thanked Chair Neubecker for his update. She stated news she is seeing is that public health officials are concerned about a surge in the next few weeks and that she is in favor of following their recommendations. She stated she appreciated the Economic Development Commission’s creativity in finding solutions to help businesses and shared an idea about “shop summer” to promote safe shopping and eating in River Forest similar to a holiday program in Oak Park. Trustee Bachner also stated she was looking forward to an update on the Lake and Lathrop project and stated she is looking forward to having that at the next meeting.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2022 VILLAGE OPERATING BUDGET**

President Adduci called the Public Hearing to order at 7:53pm.

Ms. Scheiner stated that pursuant to State law, the Village is required to hold a public hearing on its annual budget prior to adoption. She noted that the budget has been available to the public for inspection at the Village Hall and on the Village website. She invited the public to make comment. She stated that the Board will consider final approval of the budget at its April 26 meeting at 7:00pm.

Dan Lauber, 7215 Oak. Mr. Lauber reiterated his comments from the previous meeting, emphasizing the need to invest in economic development with a full-time staff position, a technological investment opportunity with police vehicles, and expressed caution about replacing computers when the warranties expire.

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks. Ms. Cekander asked how many days from being published does the community have to comment before the budget is approved.

Director McAdams stated the Village must publish a notice about the public hearing 10 days in advance of the hearing and that the budget could be approved immediately after the hearing but that it would be considered on April 26.

Ms. Cekander reiterated her concerns raised in the previous meeting about debt spending and bond issuance.

In response to Ms. Cekander’s comments, President Adduci noted the discussion about the alleys occurred several months ago and that the Board agreed to move forward with a bond issuance for the project because of low interest rates. She stated it is normal spending and would not put a financial strain on the Village.

Hearing no further public comment, Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to close the public hearing.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021
- b. Library Budget Amendment – Ordinance
- c. FY21 Budget Amendment – Ordinance
- d. Authorization to Pay Accela, Inc. for Springbrook Annual Maintenance Fee in the Amount of \$22,016.40

- e. Approval of Payment to Clark Baird Smith LLP for Legal Services in the amount of \$22,228.45
- f. Approval of Payment to Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins Ltd for Legal Services in the amount of \$22,121.35
- g. Award of Bid and Contract of the 2021 Asphalt Pavement Crack Sealing Project to Denler Inc. in the amount of \$49,297.80
- h. Award of Bid and Contract of the 2021 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program to Strada Construction Co. in the amount of \$51,400.00
- i. Award of Bid and Contract of the 2021 Street Patching Program to Schroeder Asphalt Services in the amount of \$88,547.65
- j. Waiver of Formal Bid (Due to Competitive RFP) and Award of Contract to Siemens, Inc. for the Automatic Metering Infrastructure Project for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,028,343
- k. Intergovernmental Agreement with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for River Forest Accessory Dwelling Unit Support
- l. Monthly Department Reports
- m. Accounts Payable – March 2021 – \$1,307,658.62
- n. February Financial Report
- o. Performance Measurement Report
- p. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-B, E-J, L-P.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve the Consent Agenda items C, D, and K.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan about item C, Finance Director McAdams stated initially Staff was under the impression this revenue needed to be used like other Motor Fuel Tax revenues and determined that it could be used for maintenance and programs related to motor fuel.

Village Attorney Smith explained the distinction between use of the MFT funds distributed from the State and the \$.03/gallon tax.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan about item D, Director McAdams stated the Village would have to go out to RFP to change its financial software and that the Village will continue to negotiate with them on the maintenance fees.

President Adduci stated the negotiation may have been lifted given the age of the contract.

Director McAdams stated she will review with Springbrook and find out what the current term is.

Regarding item K, Trustee Brennan questioned the language in the contract and stated it appears CMAP retains the right to extend the agreement instead of it being mutual. She also stated the dates are inconsistent.

It was determined that the agreement could be approved with modifications subject to attorney review.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

None.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Sustainability Commission – Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Parkways for Pollinators Project – Resolution.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve a Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ComEd Green Region Program for the Parkways for Pollinators Project.

Sustainability Chairperson Lisa Gillis asked that the Board pass the resolution, explaining that the grant funding has already been used and that this resolution is to comply with the grant requirements. She noted it was submitted on March 18 with their final grant report and acknowledged the resolution got lost in the transition between Commission members.

In response to a comment from Trustee Brennan, Chairperson Gillis stated they used the recommend form that ComEd/OpenLands offered. She noted that as part of another grant requirement, the logos are now on the Village website.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:29p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

---

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk