

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, April 24th, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 24th, 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 7:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, Bachner, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: Trustee O'Connell

Also Present: Interim Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Finance Director Rosemary McAdam, Village Attorney Michael A. Marrs, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella, HR Manager Trish Ivansek

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - HARRIET HAUSMAN PROCLAMATION

President Adduci read and presented a proclamation to Harriet Hausman.

Ms. Hausman gave thanks to the Village Board for the proclamation.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

President Adduci invited Rene Hermes up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Hermes spoke in favor of the traffic installations and asked the Village Board to consider installing further installations.

Mr. Hermes also noted that the future construction of the Rush Oak Park facility may create traffic conditions that will call for further installations.

President Adduci invited Dan Wasiolek up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Wasiolek stated he is in favor of all future traffic installations in the northeast section of River Forest.

President Adduci invited Ron Krause up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Krause stated that he is in complete support of the current traffic installations and supports further traffic measures as well.

President Adduci invited Robert Armalas up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Armalas spoke in favor of the current traffic installations and listed multiple additional potential changes he would like to the Village to consider.

President Adduci reminded Mr. Armalas that there is a 5-minute limit for public comment.

Mr. Armalas asked that the Village Board take the citizens' comments in support of the installations seriously.

President Adduci invited Sam Ramli up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Ramli spoke in favor of the traffic installations and reported on instances of unsafe driving conditions in the area due to cut through traffic.

President Adduci invited Monica Vukotich up to the podium to give public comment regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. Vukotich asked that the traffic installations close off LeMoyne and Bonnie Brae return.

Ms. Vukotich reported on her experiences with the traffic installations as a business owner on North Avenue.

President Adduci invited Andrea Morowcynski to give public comment from Zoom regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. Morowcynski made remarks supporting the traffic installations and reported examples of past traffic accidents in the area.

President Adduci invited George Vukotich to give public comment from Zoom regarding the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Vukotich spoke in favor of the traffic installations and also stated he would support further measures.

President Adduci invited a resident who identified himself as Charlie to give public comment from Zoom.

Mr. Charlie spoke in favor of the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

He stressed the importance of safety in the community and commented on how these traffic installations improve safety. He asked that the full barriers be re-installed at LeMoyne and Greenfield.

President Adduci gave thanks to the residents for giving public comment.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh stated the Next Traffic and Safety Commission meeting will be May 17th, 7:30pm at Village Hall.

5. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment. She reported on the status of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group.

Trustee Gillis reported attending the 3rd annual River Forest Bike Exchange on Saturday, May 22nd and noted some highlights from the event. She also reported attending a Kiwanis bowling event.

Trustee Vazquez reported attending Lobby Day in Springfield on April 19th. He stressed the importance of in person appearances when lobbying.

Clerk Keller reported having nothing additional to add to the permanent record.

Trustee Brennan gave an update on the Juneteenth Flag Raising Event. She also noted she is working on an additional Juneteenth event with the West Communities Collaboration.

Trustee Brennan requested an update on the Lake and Lathrop Property and asked that staff continue to ask the developers to meet with the Village Board.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh gave an update on the property and contact between Village Staff and representatives of the project.

President Adduci reminded residents to stay up to date on the website for updates regarding the project.

Trustee Johnson asked that fellow Board members keep the DEI advisory group informed of any potential events so as to spread the word.

President Adduci reported attending the Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce Health & Wellness event. She also reported attending the Kiwanis bowling event with Trustee Gillis.

President Adduci reported attending lobbying events in Springfield with Matt Walsh and Trustee Vazquez. She noted the importance of lobbying for restoring the Local Government Distribution Fund.

Trustee Bachner asked President Adduci to gauge the reception from state representatives regarding the Local Government Distribution Fund.

President Adduci commented that she felt the state was more open to increasing municipal funding than in years past.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2023
- b. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2023
- c. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes - April 10, 2023
- d. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Compensation Plan - Ordinance
- e. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Fraternal Order of Police.
- f. Administration Department Report
- g. Revision to Ordinance # 3866 - Charges for Ambulance Service and Prehospital Care

Interim Village Administrator Walsh announced that Consent Agenda Item c. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes - April 10, 2023 had been pulled from the agenda that evening as it was not shared with the board in time for their review.

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve consent agenda items a-b & d-g. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget - Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing on the 1st Day of May, 2023 and Ending on the 30th Day of April, 2024 for the Village of River Forest, Illinois. Seconded by Johnson.

Trustee Brennan noted that she is appreciative of the action the Village took to freeze compost rates.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Contract Renewal with Thrive Counseling Services for Crisis Intervention Services

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to approve and authorize execution of an agreement with Thrive Counseling for Crisis Counseling Services. Second by Trustee Gillis.

Police Chief O'Shea reported on the changes to the contract as compared to previous years.

Trustee Vazquez asked for confirmation that the fees between 2009 and 2020 were the same.

Chief O'Shea confirmed that yes, they were the same.

Trustee Vazquez asked if the services were pro-rated to the increases of the contract.

Chief O'Shea stated that the entirety of the services are available throughout the entirety of the contract.

Trustee Bachner noted that she appreciated the staggered fee schedule. She asked that the benefits of Thrive be communicated to the residents.

Trustee Bachner also asked if there were any grant opportunities to pay for these services. She also asked for clarification on the “recommendations” that the Thrive counselors will offer to police.

Chief O’Shea reported that Thrive does offer a statistical report on their services between the police department and Thrive. Chief O’Shea then gave additional explanation of the Police Department’s usage of Thrive.

Trustee Brennan asked if Thrive services are available to River Forest first responders as well as residents.

Police Chief O’Shea responded that some of the services are available to the first responders.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: O’Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- c. Appointment of Matt Walsh to the Offices of Village Administrator, Zoning Administrator and Budget Officer for a Term Through May 12, 2025

MOTION by Trustee Brennan to approve the Village President’s Appointment of Matt Walsh to the Offices of Village Administrator, Zoning Administrator and Budget Officer for a Term Through May 12, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: O’Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- d. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement for the Village Administrator (Matt Walsh)

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Employment Agreement for Village Administrator Matt Walsh. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan
Absent: O'Connell
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

e. Swearing in of Village Administrator Matt Walsh

Village Clerk Keller swore in Matt Walsh.

Village Administrator Walsh gave thanks to the Board for their support over the past three months.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez. Second by Trustee Gillis

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, Bachner

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.


Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk