

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 7:04 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, O'Connell, Bachner, Johnson (7:02) and Village Clerk Keller

Absent: None

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella, and Public Works Analyst Seth Jansen.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Megan Keskitalo made public comment in support of the proposed Pride Resolution.

**4.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee O'Connell noted being excited about the Memorial Day Parade and gave thanks to the organizations who are putting on the Parade. He also reminded everyone to be careful when traveling around town in the various construction zones. Trustee O'Connell then asked Village Administrator Walsh to provide clarification on how the Board and Commissions agendas are created.

Village Administrator Walsh explained the process of creating an agenda for a Board and Commission meeting.

Trustee Johnson reminded everyone about the Village's hazardous waste collection sign up. He also noted being in support of the public comments made by Ms. Keskitalo earlier in the meeting.

Trustee Brennan reminded everyone about the Village's upcoming Juneteenth Event. She then also gave thanks to Ms. Keskitalo for her comments and other work she has done in the Village.

Village Clerk Keller had nothing to add to the record.

Trustee Vazquez noted being in support of the Older Americans Month resolution on the agenda.

Trustee Gillis congratulated the local school graduates.

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment. Trustee Bachner wished everyone a belated happy Mother's Day. She also reminded everyone of the Pride Walk event on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and thanked Ms. Keskitalo for her work and public comments. She also promoted the upcoming Juneteenth Event. Trustee Bachner also reported attending various events at Oak Park River Forest Highschool. Trustee Bachner also reported that she will moderating an event for the Oak Park Area Gay & Lesbian Association+(Opalga+). Finally, Trustee Bachner asked Village Administrator Walsh for an update on the Northeast Corner Traffic installations.

Village Administrator Walsh noted that the Illinois Department of Transportation raised concerns about the designs and that the Village is working to resolve the issues.

President Adduci noted being proud of the upcoming events in the Village. She then reported that she will be hosting a Meet and Greet event at the River Forest Community Center on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **5.CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 29th, 2024
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – April 29th, 2024
- c. April 2024 Accounts Payable and Payroll – \$2,183,542.78
- d. Administration Department Report
- e. Monthly Department Reports
- f. Change Order – 2023 Water Main Improvement Project – Resolution
- g. Authorizing an Amendment to Water and Sewer Rates – Ordinance
- h. Contract Approval – Lexipol, LLC – Annual Police Policy and Procedures Subscription – \$54,917.00
- i. Emergency Medical Services Week – Proclamation
- j. National Public Works Week – Proclamation
- k. Arbor Day – Proclamation
- l. Older Americans Month Flag Raising – Resolution
- m. Pride Flag Raising – Resolution
- n. Juneteenth Flag Raising – Resolution

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve Consent Agenda Items A-N. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

None.

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

None.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. Contract Approval – Nexamp Solar, LLC – Community Solar Anchor Account

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez approve a contract with Nexamp Solar, LLC and authorize the Village Administrator to execute the contract agreement. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Public Works Analyst Jansen provided background on the agenda item and fielded questions from the Board regarding the item.

Trustee Brennan thanked Mr. Jansen for the in-depth memo and raised questions regarding the contract's credit system.

Analyst Jansen provided clarification on the solar credits system in the contract and noted that the credits would roll over from month to month.

Analyst Jansen provided a sample bill to the Board for further clarification on the credit system.

A representative from Nexamp provided further explanation on the sample bill via Zoom.

Trustee Bachner asked if currently enrolled residents electrical bills look similar to the example bill.

Analyst Jansen confirmed yes.

Trustee Bachner asked if there was a way for this information to be distributed to residents to spread the word.

Trustee Brennan stated that the Village used to provide sign ups for various green resources to residents who were hosting block parties, but it is her understanding that that is no longer the practice.

President Adduci asked for an explanation on how this works in relation to the Electrical Aggregation program the Village is working on.

Analyst Jansen provided clarification on how the various green electrical programs work in the Village.

Trustee Johnson asked if the Village expects to make another marketing push for Community Solar.

Analyst Jansen stated the Village will continue to put it on social media and in the newsletters.

Trustee Bachner asked if the Village could inform the residents currently enrolled about the long wait time.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Introductory Presentation of University of Illinois Chicago Climate Action Plans

Analyst Jansen presented a summary of the presentations the Village received from the University of Illinois Chicago students.

Trustee O'Connell asked if these presentations are related solely to Village properties or the entire community.

Analyst Jansen stated the Village as a whole.

Trustee Bachner asked what a, "heritage growth tree" is.

Village Administrator Walsh noted that term is generally related to the diameters of trees.

Trustee Gillis noted that many Villages have ordinances restricting the removal of older trees in the Village.

Trustee Brennan asked how the Village could implement some of the suggestions from the students.

Analyst Jansen stated that many of the suggestions were rather ambitious goals, but one thing that they recommended was for the Village to continue sharing information about green incentives and policies available to residents.

President Adduci suggested the Village categorize the suggestions based on difficulty.

Trustee Brennan encouraged the Village to act based on the recommendations from the students and turn the plan into actual action.

Trustee Bachner asked how much funding the Village has received regarding transportation services and how funding is looking in the future.

Analyst Jansen noted that determining that dollar amount would be difficult but there are always opportunities to increase partnerships with local transportation groups.

Administrator Walsh also reminded everyone about the North Avenue Street Scape improvement projects.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to discuss: The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

### **Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes at 7:55pm.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **Roll call:**

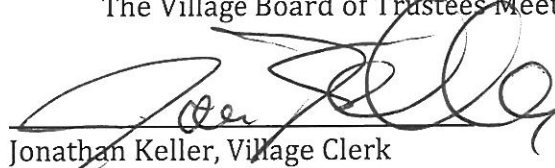
Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis

Absent: None

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Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

  
Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

Date:                     07/08/24                    

07/08/24