

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
May 12th, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on May 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 7:03 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Police Chief James Greenwood, Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bochenek, Deputy Police Chief Michael Swierczynski, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Police Commander Martin Grill, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Dzuryak provided a public comment regarding an upcoming Memorial Day event scheduled to take place at Roosevelt Middle School. He extended an invitation to all attendees to join the event.

Tom Cloud made public comment about the fire suppression and warning system installed at his home, voicing concerns about the Village's prior communications concerning the requirements for these systems. He asked that the Village notify other residents of the problems he has faced.

President Adduci thanked Mr. Cloud for his public comment and noted that Village staff will continue to investigate the concerns he raised and help disseminate the information.

Village Administrator Walsh apologized to Mr. Cloud and thanked him for attending tonight's meeting. He stated that staff are currently researching the appropriate steps and avenues to ensure other residents in the Village are made aware of the issues Mr. Cloud addressed.

Village Clerk Keller shared a personal experience related to Mr. Cloud's concerns and encouraged the Village to help raise awareness among other property owners.

Trustee Johnson also shared a similar experience and echoed the request to inform additional property owners.

Trustee Bachner requested clarification on the concerns raised by Mr. Cloud. In response, Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, speaking via Zoom, explained the issues related to the systems Mr. Cloud described.

President Adduci suggested that the Board address the concerns raised by Mr. Cloud at a future meeting.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell shared that he is looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade and noted that the Park District and Kiwanis Club are seeking volunteers.

Trustee Johnson reflected on his time serving as a Village Trustee and expressed gratitude to those who have supported him throughout his tenure. He finished his comments with a land acknowledgment.

Trustee Brennan highlighted the upcoming 4th Annual Juneteenth Flag Raising Celebration.

Village Clerk Keller shared remarks about his time on the Village Board and encouraged other residents to become involved in local government.

Trustee Vazquez had no comments.

Trustee Gillis had no comments.

Trustee Bachner extended Mother's Day wishes to all and reported attending a Community Connections Leadership event. She also highlighted the upcoming Pride event scheduled for June 2nd.

President Adduci shared that she attended the Explore Oak Park and Beyond event and expressed enthusiasm about the potential for increased tourism in the area.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 28th, 2025
- b. Monthly Department Reports
- c. Administration Department Report
- d. Accounts Payable – April 2025 – \$1,941,885.34
- e. Change Order Request – Fire Department Officers Remodeling – \$5,590.00
- f. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 1126 Forest Avenue
- g. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 1410 Franklin Avenue
- h. Contract Approval – Village Hall Internet Services Renewal Contracts – AT&T and Comcast – Resolution
- i. Purchase Approval – Sewer Televising Equipment – Standard Equipment Co. – \$125,828.50
- j. Purchase Approval – Mobile Police Radios – Motorola Solutions – \$47,360.90
- k. Purchase Approval – Fire Department Extraction Equipment – Equipment Management Company - \$68,371.00
- l. Purchase Approval – Springbrook Software Maintenance – Springbrook Holding Company LLC – \$39,803.15
- m. Purchase Approval – Two 2025 Dodge Durango Police Pursuit Vehicles & Upfitting – Thomas Dodge – For a Cost not to Exceed – \$154,868.00

Trustee Gillis asked that Consent Agenda Item A be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Items B through

M. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Gillis, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 28th, 2025

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Items A. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Abstain: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes

6. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS – CLERK JON KELLER & TRUSTEE KEN JOHNSON

President Adduci presented plaques to Clerk Keller and Trustee Johnson.

Trustee O'Connell thanked Clerk Keller and Trustee Johnson for their contributions and wished them the best of luck in the future.

Trustee Brennan shared memories of working with Trustee Johnson and extended her best wishes for his future endeavors.

She also reflected on her experience working with Clerk Keller and wished him all the best in the future.

Trustee Vazquez thanked Trustee Johnson for his service on the Village Board and highlighted several areas where he made a positive impact. He then

recognized Clerk Keller and thanked him for his dedicated service as Village Clerk.

Trustee Gillis thanked Trustee Johnson for his service on the Board and acknowledged his contributions to improving Village communications. She also recognized Clerk Keller for his presence and involvement on the Board and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Trustee Bachner thanked Clerk Keller for his service on the Board and remarked that the Village was fortunate to have him. She also thanked Trustee Johnson for their collaboration and highlighted their shared experience as Co-Chairs of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Board.

President Adduci reflected on her time working with Trustee Johnson, commending his professionalism, and thanked him for his service on the Village Board. She then thanked Clerk Keller for his work on the Board.

7.ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

- a. Swearing-In of Elected Officials by Honorable Judge Marcia Conway – President Catherine Adduci, Clerk Rosa Castellano, Trustees Lisa Guglielmone Gillis, Megan Keskitalo, and Respicio Vazquez

Honorable Judge Marcia Conway swore in the newly elected officials.

8.CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Keskitalo, Brennan, Bachner, Vazquez, O'Connell, Gillis, and Village Clerk Rosa Castellano

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Police Chief James Greenwood, Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bochenek, Deputy Police Chief Michael Swierczynski, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Police Commander Martin Grill,

and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

10. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Keskitalo thanked the residents for electing her and expressed enthusiasm about serving on the Board. She also reminded everyone about the upcoming Pride Walk."

Village Clerk Castellano shared her excitement about joining the Board and thanked the residents for their support.

President Adduci spoke about her recent re-election and shared her enthusiasm for the upcoming term. She emphasized her ongoing commitment to the Village and its objectives, expressing determination to build on the work already accomplished. She also welcomed the new Board members and expressed her eagerness to collaborate with them.

a. Swearing in of Chief of Police James Greenwood

Village Clerk Castellano swore in James Greenwood.

Chief Greenwood expressed his gratitude to the Village Board and the community for their trust in him as he steps into his new role, adding that he is excited about what the future holds.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Water and Sewer Rates Amendment – Ordinance
- b. Recognition of Older Americans Month – Resolution
- c. Recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month – Proclamation
- d. Recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month – Proclamation
- e. Recognition of Pride Month and Flag Raising – Resolution
- f. Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Week – Proclamation
- g. Recognition of National Public Works Week – Proclamation

MOTION by Trustee Gillis to approve Consent Agenda Items A through G.
Seconded by Trustee O’Connell

Trustee Brennan asked if staff could explain the difference between a proclamation and a resolution.

Administrator Walsh explained that resolutions typically signify that an action will be taken, whereas proclamations are generally used for ceremonial or recognition purposes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O’Connell, Gillis, Bachner, Brennan and Keskitalo

Absent : None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

12. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Honoring Frank Bertolli and Designating the 7900 Block of Lake Street as “Frank Bertolli Way”

MOTION by Trustee O’Connell to approve a Resolution Honoring Frank Bertolli and Providing an Honorary Designation of the 7900 Block of Lake Street as “Frank Bertolli Way.” Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Gillis, Brennan and Keskitalo

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion passes.

President Adduci read the proclamation aloud and offered remarks highlighting Bertolli's Pizza and its longstanding presence in the neighborhood.

Mr. Bertolli then reflected on his time in the Village and thanked the Board for both the resolution and the commemorative sign.

Trustee Bachner also shared personal anecdotes about Bertolli's and expressed appreciation for Mr. Bertolli's contributions to the community.

b. Presentation Regarding Climate Action Plan Implementation

The Village Board agreed to postpone this agenda item to a later date.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, Gillis, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Keskitalo

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Date: 06-09-25