

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, June 22, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 22, 2020 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 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, 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**

Deb Wolkstein, 1130 Franklin. Ms. Wokstein expressed her support for the Twin Village Covenant with the Village of Maywood. She stated that if passed, it would be a robust and meaningful action. She expressed her excitement at this partnership with Maywood.

Christian Coon, Pastor at United Methodist Church. Mr. Coon stated he was heartened to hear about the Twin Village Covenant and urged the Board to affirm the covenant. He suggested the Board create a commission and offered his time and efforts.

Megan Keskitalo, 8125 Lake. Ms. Keskitalo urged the Board to support the Twin Village Covenant to foster a more collaborative relationship with Maywood and commended the Village for taking this step. She also urged the Board to establish a board or commission to support this effort.

Dan Lauber, 7215 Oak. Mr. Lauber urged the Board to continue to allow people to participate in public meetings remotely so that it does not put older people in the position to have to go to Village Hall. He stated that the Affordable Housing implementation plan illustrates his concern about rushing into things and expressed hope that the Village would not rush through the action plan. He also expressed concern about the Twin Village Coveneant and the Resolution regarding the relationship between the community and law enforcement,

stating that the community has not had an opportunity to review these. He asked that the Village hold off on the Resolution until after the policing forums.

Diana Lauber, 7215 Oak. Ms. Lauber stated the Resolution is premature, constrained and predisposes a direction in which the Community has had no input. She suggested the Village form a commission to oversee the police and how much money is budgeted compared to social services.

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks. Ms. Cekander expressed concern about a construction project at 515 Auvergne. She discussed the impact of the project to neighbors regarding drainage, sewer backup, and flooding. She stated the Village is in need of drainage code with clearly defined allowable drainage methods.

Administrator Palm stated Staff is aware of and reviewing the project.

President Adduci read a letter submitted by Jessica Iverson, who expressed her support regarding the law enforcement Resolution. Ms. Iverson also urged the Board to establish a commission to develop a regional commercial/residential investment plan and to collaboration efforts.

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

Trustee O'Connell reflected on the past few weeks, and he stated that his takeaway is that the last meeting was proof that the democratic process works. He stated that knowing something was done for the community is what makes this job worth doing, and he expressed his congratulations to the Board and residents for their engagement on all the topics.

Trustee Henek stated she hoped all the fathers enjoyed Father's Day. She stated she had also done a lot of reflecting on their role at large and the impact on black and brown communities with regard to the pandemic, the Jewel incident, and police killings. She noted the incredible support from residents during the Black Lives Matter march and shared how moving an experience it was. She reflected on things the Village is doing right but that the march also affirms a lot of things the Village could be doing better. She stated they are at a point in time where they have to look at things through a different lens. Trustee Henek shared that because of the recent discussions and events, she has started new friendships, and she stated she is excited at the prospect of what the Village will be doing moving forward.

Trustee Brennan stated she and her daughter participated in the Juneteenth event, and she thanked neighboring communities for inviting River Forest. She stated it was impressive and impactful, and that we are continuing to listen and learn as we go forward.

Trustee Vazquez wished everyone a belated happy Father's Day. He noted that trustees attended the Black Lives Matter march on June 14 and echoed Trustee Henek's observations and thoughts. He stated he was glad to have joined and be part of that. He reminded everyone about the Police Department's forums on June 24 and July 8 at 6PM.

Trustee Cargie stated the Deer Management Committee approved the final version of their questionnaire and post cards will be send to all households to advertise it. He noted that any resident over 18 is welcome to complete it, and that the questionnaire will run through August.

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 thanked the Village of Bellwood and Maywood Trustee Isiah Brandon for organizing the Black Lives Matter march on June 14 and Senator Kim Lightford for the Juneteenth march. She stated her child participated in it as well and that she was gratified to see an event like this in her own backyard. She cautioned everyone to remember that as people share their stories, they are sharing their and their families' trauma, and asked that everyone listen and acknowledge the stories and be better about the way we do our work. She expressed appreciation for Maywood Trustee Miguel Jones' leadership for the Twin Village Covenant, stating she is thankful for the bridge building and seeing each other as one community. She noted the issue of policing is significant when it comes to equity, and she thanked the residents who spoke tonight. Trustee Bachner stated this is a process and that the next step is to identify members of a working group. Additionally, she discussed the continued high risk of COVID-19 for the elderly and immunocompromised. She also highlighted that the Census group is working on new ideas to use the rest of their funding to get self-response rates above 80%.

Assistant to the Village Administrator Pape noted they are at 80.6% for the self-response rate and that follow up enumeration will commence in late August.

Trustee Henek asked that the Board clarify when written public comments would be read into the meeting record, and President Adduci stated that they can consider a policy at the next meeting.

President Adduci discussed Phase 4 of the State's reopening plan and noted that she and Staff are working on an E-News to detail what it means for the community. She stated the Senior Task Force is still in place and can assist seniors with daily tasks so they can stay home. She read a letter from a resident named Harriet who thanked the Village for this service, stating it has made the days of isolation tolerable. President Adduci commented that she was touched and pleased by this letter and thanked Staff and Helen Kwan for helping the community's most vulnerable and isolated, and she noted the Village's commitment to taking care of seniors. Additionally, she stated that she would like to amend the May 26, 2020 meeting to add (regarding the Affordable Housing discussion) "also asked that the plan be on the agenda for approval at the regularly scheduled meeting on June 8." President Adduci also thanked Maywood Trustee Isiah Brandon for inviting trustees to the Black Lives Matter march, noting that it made them feel very welcome as part of the march and message.

- a. Village President – Resolution Affirming the Village of River Forest's Principles Regarding the Relationship Between the Community and Law Enforcement

President Adduci noted the Board could discuss Trustee Brennan's additions but asked that the Board pass the Resolution as is with the exception of typos, noting that it is the beginning of a journey. She stated she saw it as a precursor to the forum and read the Resolution in its entirety. Per Trustee Brennan's suggestions, she recommended including the report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing and the following replacements: "community members and officers" with "all" in Section 3-1, and adding "existing" to clarify the Crime Prevention program in Section 3-7. She stated she did not support Trustee Brennan's other suggestions, stating they are unfounded and do not fit: "WHEREAS, the Village wishes to explore reallocating and redirecting municipal funding from police to other government agencies and programs that can address issues such as school discipline, mental health, addiction, eviction enforcement, and homelessness, with the goals of decriminalizing and destigmatizing people with mental health, poverty and addiction problems, reducing officer workload, and making more efficient use of taxpayer money;" and "The Village and the RFPD recognize that a more diverse police department provides advantages, including increased empathy and relatability, bridging of communication, narrowing of disparities, greater ease in forming community partnerships, and increasing public trust, and share therefore share the mutual responsibility to work together to recruit, promote and retain and diverse police department."

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell to approve a Resolution Affirming the Village of River Forest's Principles Regarding the Relationship Between the Community and Law Enforcement with changes requested by President Adduci.

Trustee Brennan thanked President Adduci for accepting some of her revisions. She explained the reasoning behind her suggestions. In discussing the clause related to reallocating funding, she explained the intention would be to reallocate funding from the Police Department to programs that have not been funded and the second half would explain the reasoning as the shifting responsibility from law enforcement to reduce officer workload. Regarding the other suggestion, she stated she thought it made the resolution richer to include the advantages of a more diverse department.

Trustee O'Connell stated the Township has mental health, youth, and elderly services and discouraged reallocating Village funds to other taxing bodies, noting they can make it a part of their levies to perform these services. He stated he believed the Department receives training from Thrive Services to help handle specific situations and asked whether normal policing would suffer by taking on additional services.

President Adduci stated her opposition to defunding the Police Department and reallocating the money to other organizations. She stated funding primarily goes to salaries and pensions. She commented on the amount of unfunded mandates from the State regarding training, and she stated the Department is probably underfunded.

Trustee Cargie stated relocating funds means getting rid of officers. He stated his understanding is that the Department is at minimum staffing and he did not know what funds to cut other than losing Staff.

Trustee Vazquez stated this would be taking away and that he believes the Village is short officers. He emphasized respecting other entities in terms of what they do and not to overlap other organizations. He stated the Village would be burdening taxpayers by funding roles and responsibilities that are assigned to others and that the Village should not be taking away from the Department to fund others.

Trustee Henek stated she understood the importance of the Resolution and having this sooner than later, but that she was not clear on what was being amended. She asked to have a clean amendment to vote on at the July 13 meeting. She encouraged having discussion at one meeting and a vote at another meeting to have time to reflect.

The Board continued discussing Trustee Brennan's proposed language and compared the words "reallocating" and "defunding."

In discussing how to approach shifting responsibilities, Trustee Bachner stated she sees the answer to the fourth whereas clause in Section 3 "requiring transparent review of RFPD policies," noting that this could include a substantive review of where and when the Police Department is called upon for these types of services.

Trustee Vazquez expressed his discomfort with the proposed language and stated his reading is that there are certain things the Department is being asked for and tries to accommodate but it is not their responsibility. He compared it to the Dementia-friendly training, stating the training does not mean taking on additional responsibilities. He noted the Village's sister agencies take care of that.

Trustee Henek stated that though it is not on the officers to further work with these individuals, by default officers often end up dealing with people who have these types of issues since officers work 24/7 and other agencies have set hours. She emphasized the importance of continuing to provide resources and training to officers but asked how to treat mental health. She commented that to say mental health is on other agencies is not a fair statement.

Trustee Vazquez clarified that he is not saying that other agencies are not doing their jobs, just that it is not on the police officers, and Trustee Henek stated there would have to be a bigger change in how mental health is treated outside River Forest. President Adduci concurred expressed caution about unfunded mandates.

Trustee Henek recommended that the Resolution be amended accordingly if things come up in the policing forums.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Village President – Twin Village Covenant with the Village of Maywood

President Adduci stated she is pleased that this is on the agenda and thanked everyone for their work. She welcomed Maywood Trustee Miguel Jones to the meeting.

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the Twin Village Covenant with the Village of Maywood.

Trustee Bachner read the Covenant aloud and thanked Trustee Jones for his leadership on this partnership and discussion.

President Adduci reviewed Trustee Brennan's proposed changes to the Covenant, which included removing the reference to the hate crime that occurred at Jewel on June 3. She stated she likes the way it reads now because it was an element of how this came together and that it should be acknowledged.

Trustee Brennan stated a resident expressed concern to her that the Covenant highlights an incident by one resident, whose actions should not be reflective of the whole community.

Trustee O'Connell concurred, stating they should let the community heal from the incident and this should not drive them as to why they are doing it.

Trustee Henek disagreed and stated she agrees with President Adduci to keep the language as is. She stated that while this was the action of one resident, the reality is that this shows that bias, hatred, and racism does exist in our community and that this is what we are doing in response.

Trustee Vazquez concurred with Trustee Henek. He stated it is an embarrassing and deplorable situation, and that the Village acted appropriately and promptly to address it. He stated his understanding is that this incident is what inspired Trustee Jones to turn something good of it. He encouraged working together and that the incident did occur, so he is in favor of leaving it in.

Trustee Henek stated that they want to be reminded that the incident happened and that this is what is being done to prevent it.

Trustee Cargie stated that he is concerned that the way it is written reads that the Villages are only doing this because of the incident but that he is fine with it either way. He stated he agrees with Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee Jones stated he is honored to join the meeting and send his greetings from the Village of Maywood trustees and Mayor Edwenna Perkins. He introduced himself and stated his comments were his own. He shared what energizes him and that as neighbors, this covenant is a relationship between partners and commented on including the principles of humanity, equity and inclusion. He stated that the image of the River Forest trustees holding the banner with them at the Black Lives Matter march made his proud. He stated he drafted the

Covenant in response to an older woman who commented to him about her safety, and he stated discussions about the feedback received have warmed his heart. He stated he is proud of the villages and that this will shock the Chicagoland community. He expressed hope that this will redefine what the Oak Park-River Forest- Maywood area looks like. Trustee Jones discussed the effect of globalization and economic change, and emphasized doing something substantive. He further expressed hope that this relationship will lead to a template on how to partner and address issues.

President Adduci thanked Trustee Jones and stated the Board is proud to adopt the covenant, proud to stand next to and for the Village of Maywood. She stated the Village must do this and must do it now. She thanked Trustees Jones for bringing this forward.

Trustee Henek expressed appreciation for Trustee Jones and thanked him. She shared some of the conversations she has had over the past few days, stating they were energizing and hopeful. She encouraged residents and anyone who hears of this to get their wheels turning to incorporate and build on relationships with Maywood. She suggested inviting Maywood to join for the Des Plaines River clean up and the potential for 5ks. She stated that before they do anything big, they must build relationships. Trustee Henek stated she would like concrete next steps to maximize this and suggested creating a commissioner task force. She recommended looking at ways to consider memorializing this, including in the Village's Comprehensive Plan. She further expressed her support for this, stating she is proud and honored. She also stated that Maywood should be in the forefront of when the Village plans things, big or small.

President Adduci stated the Village of Maywood will be meeting in July and that once their Board supports and approves this, the next step would be to sit down together to begin thinking about how to celebrate and memorialize it.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Jones thanked the Village Board and commented on this as an indication of relationship building. He stated he is excited to work with the Village and Administrator Palm as well.

c. Village President – Proclamation Designating June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

President Adduci read the Proclamation aloud and stated she is proud of it.

Trustee Bachner thanked President Adduci again for putting this forth, stating it is another step in the recognition and contribution of LGBTQ+ communities in River Forest. She commented that this is celebrated in June because of these communities fighting for their

rights and their struggles to get to this point and continued struggles. She identified as being part of this community along with family and friends and stated she is thankful for this Proclamation at this point.

Trustee Vazquez commented that the Supreme Court of the United States recently came down in favor of LGBTQ+ rights by including this community under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

President Adduci stated they will speak with Village Administration about creating a flag policy.

Trustee Henek thanked Trustee Bachner for suggesting and bringing this forward, as well as for providing historical context. She stated that as the goddaughter of someone in this community, she is very proud that River Forest is supporting this.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020
- b. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2020
- c. Authorization to Sell Surplus Property – 2006 Ford F350 Super Duty Truck – Ordinance
- d. Financial Report – May 2020
- e. Village Administrator’s Report

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

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, President Adduci stated the minutes containing revisions would be the version for approval.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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

None.

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

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals – Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance and Village Code Regarding Home Baking Operations - Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek to approve an Ordinance amending the Village of River Forest Zoning Ordinance, and Trustee Vazquez made a motion,



seconded by Trustee Cargie to approve an Ordinance Amending the Village Code Regarding Home Baking Operations.

Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner reviewed the proposed ordinances, noting that the Zoning Code text amendment proposes to allow home baking operations to mirror home occupation uses within residential districts and that many conditions are already built into the home baking operation definition. She also noted the Village Code ordinance modification includes recommendations from the Village's sanitarian.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Ms. Scheiner stated the food handling license is good for five years and its expiration would be flagged when renewing the annual business license.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Henek, Ms. Scheiner stated the Village would adhere to the honor system regarding the maximum allowable sales and that if complaints were received, the Village could use that as a mechanism to try to address it.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner about collecting taxes, Village Attorney Smith clarified that if customers purchase items at the subject property, the Village's sales tax would be collected. However, he noted that shipped products would be collected by the jurisdiction of the recipient's address. He stated that for farmers' markets, it would be where the point of sale occurs.

Trustee Brennan noted Chairman Martin's no vote due to the Special Use process allowing neighbors an opportunity to weigh in on the impact of the business, and she asked whether there would be other opportunities for neighbors to have their concerns addressed. Ms. Scheiner stated Staff can inspect and address concerns through code enforcement.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Plan Commission – Appoint Jane McCole – (Kirk vacancy) – Member, 4 Year Term Expiring 4/30/24

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Jane McCole to the Plan Commission to the remainder of the term expiring 4/30/24.

President Adduci stated that Ms. McCole has many ties to and cares about the Village, and that Commissioner Kirk was stepping down after many years of volunteering. President Adduci stated that she does not know Ms. McLean well, but that she spoke to her and Ms. McLean was very enthusiastic. She noted Commissioner Basney was stepping down for personal reasons.

Trustee Henek thanked Commissioner Kirk for her work on a number of boards. She stated she knows both Ms. McCole and Ms. McLean and that they would be good additions to both commissions.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- c. Sustainability Commission – Appoint Cary McLean – (Basney vacancy) – Member, Remaining Term Expiring 4/30/23

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Cary McLean to the Sustainability Commission to the remainder of the term expiring 4/30/23.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion: Affordable Housing Plan Action Matrix

Administrator Palm reviewed the matrix, explaining that the first and second items related to TIF fund allocation and preservation of existing affordable housing are somewhat interconnected as they relate to programs and initiatives. He stated the Economic Development and Plan Commissions would weigh in on those items and the organizations brought up during public comment. For item 3, he reported he had a conversation with Phil Carmody, executive director of Opportunity Knocks, related to integrative supported housing and that Staff will continue working with him to better understand their initiatives as the Village moves forward to see what can be integrated. In relation to items four and five, Administrator Palm stated amending the Village's Zoning Code related to Accessory Dwelling Units and standards for Planned Developments are items to seek technical consulting assistance on through an RFP, noting that outside organizations as well as internal commissions would also review. He also discussed the two remaining items related to housing density and Affordable Housing tracking/metrics, stating Staff's recommendation to get through items 1-5 first and then to tackle these as larger discussions to complete a

comprehensive review of the Zoning Code and to develop a better system to track affordable housing units.

Trustee Henek stated it is good to have these action items in place. In response to her question about integrative housing, Administrator Palm stated the conversation could start with Opportunity Knocks for guidance and then expand to other organizations.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek about a third party planning consultant, Administrator Palm stated they will complete an RFP to see what firms respond and to cast a wide net. He noted that the contract would likely be over \$20,000, requiring Village Board approval.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell about community organizations, Administrator Palm explained that an outside consultant could help in being thoughtful about having the two universities in town and not inadvertently and unintentionally creating affordable housing for students, rather than residents, with regard to Accessory Dwelling Units.

President Adduci clarified that the Plan Commission's recommendation was to use ADUs for people, such as seniors, with fixed or modest incomes, rather than just student housing.

Trustee Henek expressed some concern about being careful with parameters around ADUs.

In response to Trustee Vazquez's concern about people constructing ADUs to use as short term vacation rentals, Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner noted the Village Code prohibits short term rentals of 30 days or fewer.

Trustee Bachner suggested giving organizations and consultants the opportunity to offer ideas and make additional recommendations around the Affordable Housing Plan.

- b. Approval of an Automated Traffic Law Enforcement Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. d/b/a Verra Mobility – Resolution

Trustee Henek made a motion to discuss this item and vote on it at the July 13 meeting. She stated she has not had an opportunity to review the data she requested from Staff.

President Adduci noted that this discussion is related to the contract, which Staff was authorized to negotiate after the Village Board agreed to go to RFP for a new vendor earlier this year. She stated a representative from Verra Mobility is available to answer questions about the contract but that this is not a discussion about red light cameras more generally.

Trustee Henek stated there were also discussions and questions about what red light cameras would look like in general given the uncertainty of what the State would allow, and she reiterated her earlier comments about the need to look at things through a different lens given the current climate. She stated she appreciated the safety component and budget impacts but that there should be some consideration in whether to move forward, noting that other

communities have opted to no longer have a red light camera program. She stated she had concerns about the data and reiterated that she would like to discuss red light cameras but table the vote until the July 13 meeting.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Administrator Palm stated the current vendor's contract ends June 30.

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve a Resolution authorizing the Execution of an Automated Traffic Law Enforcement Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, inc DBA Verra Mobility.

President Adduci recused herself from the conversation, noting that she has family who lobbies for automated traffic enforcement though not with this company.

Administrator Palm reported that the Village went to RFP for this item after the Board opted to not renew the contract with their current vendor. He stated the technology is similar and that the Village was looking for a turnkey solution. He stated Staff recommends awarding the contract to Verra, stating that their model is for fee-for-service. The current vendor, he explained, assesses a per ticket fee in the more traditional model. Administrator Palm clarified that the amount of tickets issued versus daily traffic counts and overall traffic volume is very small. He also remarked on the number of pedestrians at Lake and Harlem.

Trustee Henek commented on the number of tickets contested versus dismissed, expressing concern that some people may end up paying a ticket unfairly because they are unable to take off work to contest a ticket. She asked whether residents or non-residents are getting the tickets and who ends up being hurt the most from unfair citations. She stated she appreciates the benefits of the cameras but asked how many accidents would have received citations or would the camera not have prevented the accident anyhow, and the extent of repeat offenders. She emphasized her concern for people blowing through red lights and acknowledged the safety perspective and value as a revenue source.

Trustee O'Connell stated violators are breaking the law and there is no reason to analyze whether they are residents or not. He stated the alternative is to take a police officer and have them monitor intersections. He emphasized that it is clear to him the Village has people who run red lights.

Trustee Henek noted that is not what she was saying and stated her concern is that people may have to contest a ticket they should not have received. She emphasized she believes that is a valid and important data point, as well as having information about these types of accidents.

Village Attorney Smith stated that all red light camera programs, including the Village's, allow for contest by mail and that no one has to physically come into Village Hall to contest a ticket. He explained that there are three levels of review before someone is found liable: the company first reviews the footage to determine if an individual plausibly violates the law,

then a River Forest officer reviews it and the ticket is issued, which triggers the right to a hearing where the finding of liability by an independent law judge is upheld.

Trustee Henek shared a story of a parking ticket she received by mistake, emphasizing her concern for jumping through hoops to prove someone else's mistake.

Administrator Palm stated that the reviewers do not see the address of the individuals in these situations and emphasized that he would not advise that they do. He shared that he occasionally receives letters from people, noting that many do not understand the rules of the road and that they need to come to a complete stop at a red light.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Administrator Palm clarified that the Village was not seeking termination of the contract with SafeSpeed but rather let it expire.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Cargie, Village Attorney Smith explained that sometimes the judge will, for example, dismiss three of five tickets and have the violator pay two.

Trustee Vazquez concurred that the number dismissed may not necessarily be because the individuals were innocent but for other reasons, such as settlement conferences or if an officer is unavailable to attend a hearing.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Administrator Palm explained the law has changed and red light camera tickets are no longer eligible for collections through the comptroller's' office but that the Village still has a collection service for fines/fees owed.

In response to a follow up comment from Trustee Brennan regarding other municipalities cancelling their contracts and pending State law related to non-home rule communities, Administrator Palm stated there have been various such bills throughout the years, and Village Attorney Smith stated the General Assembly will not meet again until November to consider that legislation.

Trustee Brennan asked if Staff has looked into studies exploring whether right turns on red reduce accidents and expressed concern about rear-end collisions related to right turns.

Administrator Palm stated the idea is that law enforcement can be conducted through the use of an officer or camera and that they are trying to get people to change their behavior, and they compel that through issuing tickets. He acknowledged that crashes do still happen but the intent is to reduce them by reminding people of the law, similar to speeding. He emphasized the importance of the amount of pedestrian traffic at the Lake and Harlem intersection. Administrator Palm noted that there are many organizations trying to discredit the program and that depending on what information is being sought, there would likely be a study to support it. He also remarked that the camera footage serves as an additional set of eyes for the police department and that it has been used for other investigations.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Brennan about changing the timing of the yellow and the ability to only issue tickets for going through a red light as opposed to turning right on red, Administrator Palm stated light timing is handled by IDOT and that the person reviewing the footage is determining whether a violation has occurred. He stated he would be uncomfortable if a violation was occurring that was being ignored.

Trustee Brennan asked if the contract is not approved tonight, would there be a time period where the Village does not have cameras.

Administrator Palm stated they could potentially have a time with no violations or they could go back to the existing vendor to request an extension.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Administrator Palm stated there would be similar levels of review: first the vendor reviews then a Village employee would review. He commented that the Village only currently issues tickets for 40-50% of the violations received from the vendor.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Bachner about bundling tickets, Village Attorney Smith stated each municipality runs an administrative adjudication system and that the judge does not consider tickets from other municipalities.

David Mast, Verra Mobility. Ms. Mast stated it has been a pleasure to sit through the meeting and watch history being made with the Village of Maywood, noting that it is a client. He commented that Chief Talley in Maywood could serve as a reference for what type of vendor they are, noting that there are some who have tainted the market for everyone and that Verra Mobility has not been in the news. He explained that they are priced differently because they feel it is most ethical to be a fixed fee and not based on a per ticket fee. He discussed the intention of changing behavior and emphasized that the cameras do not care about the color of the drivers' skin. He noted that a major difference with red light camera violations is the 12 seconds of footage to review the violation and that the technology provides a better evidence package. Referring to the study Trustee Brennan discussed earlier, Mr. Mast stated rear-end accidents are related to the use of mobile devices, which have changed everyone's behavior. He also noted that rear-end collisions are not typically fatal and that t-bones are more dangerous. Mr. Mast reiterated his appreciation for being able to participate in the meeting on a historic evening.

Trustee Henek stated she is voting no because she does not feel comfortable going into a five-year contract without the information she is looking for.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: Trustee Henek

Abstain: President Adduci

Motion Passes.

- c. Update: Next VBOT Meeting Slated to Take Place In-Person (Phase 4) & Summer VBOT Schedule

President Adduci and Village Attorney Smith explained that only a gubernatorial emergency declaration allows the Board to hold remote meetings under the Open Meetings Act. President Adduci stated, however, that the meetings would continue to be available to the public via remote participation.

The Board briefly discussed this, and it was noted that face coverings and social distancing would be required for those participating in person.

Administrator Palm stated that the next Village Board meetings would be July 13 and August 10.

In response to Trustee Henek's request, President Adduci stated that a discussion about written public comments will be on the July 13 meeting.

#### **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 10:37p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk