

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
June 22nd, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on June 22nd, 2026, 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, Brennan, Trustees Gillis, O’Connell, Keskitalo, Vazquez, and Village Clerk Castellano

Absent: Trustee Bachner

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Police Chief James Greenwood, Deputy Police Chief Michael Swierczynski, Police Commander Martin Grill, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, HR Manager Trish Ivansek, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella, and Assistant to the Director of Public Works Seth Jansen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Grant made public comment on a variety of topics, noting that he was speaking in his role as a resident, not as a member of the Park District Board. He thanked the Village for its work on multiple programs and projects and highlighted areas for potential improvement across Village departments.

Administrator Walsh noted that the Village has been exploring potential messaging systems to alert residents of various possible urgent situations.

Multiple members and a resident representing the local charity America Cares Too made public comments regarding the organization's mission, the quality and scope of its work, and requested Village support in relocating to a more suitable property along Madison Street.

President Adduci thanked the group for attending and requested that the owner of the charity contact Village Administrator Matt Walsh to schedule a meeting to discuss potential steps the Village could take to assist with the possible relocation.

4.ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Gillis wished everyone a happy Father's Day and thanked residents who brought to the Village's attention that a Village-hired contractor was using gas-powered leaf blowers. She noted that the contractor was cited.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on the incident and confirmed that a citation was issued.

Trustee Gillis asked what steps the Village has taken to enforce the ban.

Administrator Walsh provided information on the Village's code enforcement processes that have been utilized to date.

Trustee Vazquez wished everyone a happy Father's Day and an early happy Fourth of July.

Trustee Brennan highlighted the recent Pride event and thanked everyone involved in planning the Village and Library's Juneteenth Flag Ceremony. She recognized Village staff members who assisted with event activities, including raffles. Trustee Brennan also announced an upcoming kickball game between the Village of Maywood and the Village of River Forest, encouraged Board members and residents to save the date, and invited those interested in participating to contact Deputy Clerk Luke Masella.

Trustee Keskitalo began her comments with a land acknowledgment and thanked those who attended and helped organize the Village's Pride event. She recognized the Public Works team for their efforts during the recent storms throughout the Village and highlighted the Police Department's E-bike enforcement efforts, thanking officers for their work.

Trustee O'Connell highlighted the Memorial Day Parade held in May and thanked everyone who helped make the event a success. He also encouraged residents to remain vigilant for children riding bikes and e-bikes during the summer, particularly in the evening hours.

President Adduci noted the many great events taking place throughout the community and highlighted her participation in the recent "Village President for the Day" fundraising event. She shared her appreciation for the enthusiasm and passion of the student who won the raffle. She also reminded parents to wear helmets and encourage their children to do the same when riding bikes.

Trustee O'Connell reminded residents to purchase their Village vehicle stickers.

Trustee Gillis congratulated Joy Tea on the opening of its brick-and-mortar location. She also noted that businesses along Lake Street are excited about the upcoming pocket park at Lake Street and Park Avenue.

5.CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Recognition of Michael Trucco – Resolution
- b. Proclamation Recognizing Pollinator Week
- c. Purchase Approval – Wing Plow – Monroe – \$30,258.00
- d. Purchase Approval – Front End Multi-Purpose Bucket – McCann – \$14,675.00
- e. Purchase Approval – SCBA Air Packs – Air One Equipment – \$34,700.00
- f. Purchase Approval – First Due Records Management – \$25,228.00
- g. Purchase Approval – Turnout Gear – Air One Equipment – \$14,512.00
- h. Purchase Approval – PD Men's Locker Room Renovations – SMB Contracting – \$100,000.00
- i. Purchase Approval – Replacement/Upgrades to Street Camera System – Avigilon – \$163,500.00
- j. Purchase Approval – 5 Tri-Band Squad Radios – Motorola – \$51,270.55
- k. Award of Contract – 2026 Village Hall Permeable Paver Parking Lot Phase I – Construction MYS – \$491,340.30
- l. Award of Contract – 2026 Village Hall Permeable Paver Parking Lot Phase II – CBBEL – \$32,980.00
- m. Accounts Payable – May 2026 – \$3,255,297.69
- n. May 2026 Financial Report

- o. Administration Department Report
- p. Monthly Department Reports
- q. Ordinance Reassigning Parking Spaces at 418 Franklin
- r. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2026

Trustee Keskitalo requested that Items D and I be pulled for separate consideration.

Trustee O'Connell requested that Items K and L also be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell, seconded by Trustee Keskitalo, to approve Consent Agenda Items A–C, E–H, J, and M–R.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

President Adduci read aloud and then presented Michael Trucco with a copy of the resolution honoring his service. The Police Department then recognized Mr. Trucco with awards commemorating his years of dedication and contributions to the Board of Fire and Police Commission.

Mr. Trucco shared remarks about his time serving on the Commission and expressed his appreciation for the Village and the opportunity to contribute to the community.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- d. Purchase Approval – Front End Multi-Purpose Bucket – McCann – \$14,675.00

MOTION by Trustee Keskitalo, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve item D.

Trustee Keskitalo asked clarifying questions regarding the bids included in the

packet.

Director Bielak provided an explanation of the differences between the bids and clarified which vendor the Village would be utilizing for the purchase.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

i. Purchase Approval – Replacement/Upgrades to Street Camera System – Avigilon – \$163,500.00

MOTION by Trustee Keskitalo to approve item I, seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Trustee Keskitalo asked whether this project includes all street cameras within the Village's system. She also asked how the Village's number of cameras compares to surrounding communities, where the camera data is stored, and who has access to it.

Chief Greenwood explained which cameras will be replaced as part of this phase and noted that the Village has more than 70 cameras. He stated that the Village has more cameras than some surrounding communities, but he could not speak to the specific number of cameras maintained by other municipalities. He also explained that the Village maintains control of its own data and that footage is only shared when authorized, such as when another law enforcement agency requests footage related to a criminal matter.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

k. Award of Contract – 2026 Village Hall Permeable Paver Parking Lot Phase I – Construction MYS – \$491,340.30

Trustee O’Connell asked that Item K and L be discussed and voted on together.

l. Award of Contract – 2026 Village Hall Permeable Paver Parking Lot Phase II – CBBEL – \$32,980.00

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell, seconded by Trustee Gillis, to approve items K and L together.

Trustee O’Connell highlighted the quality of the Village’s permeable paver alleys and asked whether the Village should consider purchasing equipment to clean them rather than contracting out the service.

Director Bielak explained that, while the idea has merit, the current technology is not reliable enough, as the equipment can be fragile and prone to breakdowns. He recommended that the Village continue contracting out the service at this time.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O’Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

7.RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

a. Zoning Board of Appeals

i. Request for Zoning Variation – 846 Forest Avenue

MOTION by Trustee Keskitalo, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variation to Section 10-9-7 of the Zoning Code for the property located at 846 Forest Avenue.

Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer provided an overview of the

project and answered questions from the Board.

Trustee Gillis asked for confirmation that the project would not expand beyond the existing footprint and would only add additional height. Assistant Village Administrator Spencer confirmed that was correct.

Trustee Brennan asked whether neighbor notification was required for the variation and if any neighbors provided feedback. Assistant Village Administrator Spencer explained that all variations require neighbor notification and that the applicant received a letter of support from a neighboring property owner.

Trustee O'Connell reminded staff to include the plat of survey and other relevant planning documents with future items to assist the Board in its review.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Lake Street Traffic Calming Improvements Joint Funding Agreement (IDOT Safe Walking to School Grant)
- b. Award of Contract – Lake Street Traffic Calming Measures at William & Jackson

The Board agreed to review and vote on these items together.

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez and seconded by Trustee O'Connell to approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of Joint Funding Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for Lake Street Intersections Improvement Project and approve a contract for Lake Street Traffic Calming Measures with Acura, Inc. of Bensenville, IL in the amount of \$242,112.00 plus a 10 percent contingency of \$24,211.20, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$266,323.20 and authorize the Village Administrator to execute the contract.

Trustee Bielak provided background information on these agenda items.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of Waste Services Contract Extension with Lakeshore Recycling
– No Action

Director Bielak provided a presentation on potential updates to the Village's contract with Lakeshore Recycling and answered questions from the Board.

Administrator Walsh provided additional feedback on potential options for the Village moving forward.

The Village Board and staff discussed multiple potential scenarios related to the contract, including opt-in versus opt-out options and the specific services for which residents currently pay, including e-waste, hazardous waste, and compost collection. The Board also discussed comparing the costs of the existing services to the potential costs of expanding compost collection.

The Board requested that staff investigate consolidating e-waste pickups into one or two designated dates annually, rather than the multiple monthly pickups currently offered, as a way to simplify the process. The Board also requested possible considerations related to the tiers proposed that evening.

- b. Presentation on Performance Management System – No Action

Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek presented information on the Village's updates to its performance management system and answered questions from members of the Board.

Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek also provided information on the system, noting

that the Fire Department has already implemented it, and answered questions from members of the Board.

10.EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez, and seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. The Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O’Connell, Vazquez, Gillis, Brennan, and Keskitalo

Nays: None

Absent: Bachner

Motion Passes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee O’Connell, seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees O’Connell, Brennan, Vazquez, Gillis, and Keskitalo

Absent: Bachner

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Date: _____