

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, July 10th, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 10th, 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 6:59 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees O'Connell, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, Bachner, Gillis (Virtual)

Absent: Village Clerk Keller

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Police Commander Michael Swierczynski, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Village Attorney Lance Malina, HR Manager Trish Ivansek, Public Works Director Jeff Loster, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to allow Trustee Gillis to attend the meeting by Zoom due to work. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

President Adduci invited Heidi Kieselstein up to the podium to give public comment.

Ms. Kieselstein stated that on the night of July 3rd, her basement began flooding due to a plumbing issue and she called the Fire Department for help. She thanked the Fire Department for their response.

Phyllis Rubin gave public comment regarding the large number of migrants that have entered the City of Chicago, some of which are being sheltered in the Austin neighborhood Police Station.

She asked if the Village would consider taking any action to help the migrants and if any elected officials or staff would like to have a meeting surrounding this situation.

President Adduci stated she would be interested in having a meeting and suggested the possibility of the River Forest Citizen Corps and the River Forest Township being utilized.

Trustee Bachner asked if there had been any existing communications surrounding this situation between the Village and other governments.

Village Administrator Walsh reported that there has not been any dialogue to this point.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell noted being excited for the promotion of Officer Ransom to Sergeant.

Trustee Johnson reported having no comments.

Trustee Brennan reported having a recap meeting with Shiela Radford Hill and Village staff surrounding the Juneteenth event. She commented that in the future, the Village should consider the DEI Committee to help organize these events.

Trustee Brennan asked Village Administrator Walsh if staff has invited the developers from the Lake and Lathrop project to attend the meeting.

Mr. Walsh confirmed that they had been invited to attend the meeting.

Trustee Vazquez gave a shoutout to the Northwest Housing Partnership for receiving an award.

Trustee Bachner gave a land acknowledgement and wished everyone a happy summer.

Trustee Gillis had no comments.

President Adduci reported meeting with the State Director of the American Association of Retired Person (AARP) to discuss the possibility of the Village becoming an age friendly community by AARP standards.

President Adduci asked Deputy Clerk Masella to swear in Officer Ben Ransom to position of Sergeant.

Deputy Clerk Masella swore in Sergeant Ransom.

Police Chief O'Shea gave background on Sgt. Ransom's tenure with the Village of River Forest and congratulated Sgt. Ransom.

President Adduci thanked the family and friends of Sgt. Ransom for attending.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - June 26th, 2023
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes - June 26th, 2023
- c. Accounts Payable - June 2023 - \$2,030,533.54
- d. Administration Department Report
- e. Monthly Department Reports
- f. Village Hall Fire Department Apparatus Bay Roof Improvement - Garland/DBS Inc - \$172,291.35
- g. Purchase of Street Camera Storage Server – Dell Technologies - \$44,875.90
- h. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 1018 Park Avenue

Trustee Brennan asked that item f be pulled from the consent agenda for further consideration.

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell to approve items a through e and items g and h. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- f. Village Hall Fire Department Apparatus Bay Roof Improvement - Garland/DBS Inc \$172,291.35

MOTION by Trustee Brennan to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Sections 10-8-7, 10-9-5 and 10-9-7 of the Zoning Code at 7616 Vine Street. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Trustee Brennan asked for clarification on the structure of the companies involved in the bid.

Public Works Director Loster offered clarification on the contract and noted this is the third or fourth project the Village has agreed to with this contractor.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None

8.UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution in Support of House Bill 2376 and Further Legislation Reducing or Eliminating the use of Polystyrene Foam Foodware.

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to adopt a resolution in Support of House Bill 2376 and Further Legislation Reducing or Eliminating the use of Polystyrene Foam Foodware.

President Adduci reminded everyone that this was a follow up from the last Village Board meeting.

Trustee Brennan asked that a typo in the first line of the resolution be corrected.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

- b. Motion to Authorize Village Staff to procure and install a second flagpole at Village Hall.

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to authorize Village staff to procure and install a second flagpole at Village Hall.

President Adduci invited Mindi Credi up to the podium to give public comment.

Ms. Credi made public comment in support of the purchase of a second flagpole for the usage of flags outside of state and federal flags. Ms. Credi also asked questions surrounding the usage of the second pole, the types of flags flown on the pole, and the potential costs surrounding the project.

Trustee Johnson stated that the current motion is solely related to the installation of a second flagpole and that discussion outside of the topic would need a separate motion.

Trustee Vazquez reminded everyone that the Village currently does have a flagpole policy.

Trustee O'Connell asked for more information surrounding cost and maintenance before voting.

Village Attorney Malina explained the possibilities of voting on this item at a later date with the additional information as requested by Trustee O'Connell.

The motion was withdrawn by Trustee Johnson.

Trustee Bachner noted that she agrees with the idea of a second flagpole but not the dialogues and reasoning from members of the public who suggested it is needed. She withdrew her second to the motion.

Trustee O'Connell asked that staff share the flagpole policy with the other board members.

President Adduci asked Village Administrator Walsh to gather information for the Trustees surrounding the cost of an additional flagpole.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) & 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss: pending litigation and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes at 7:39 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn was taken by voice vote.


Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk