

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, July 12, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 12, 2021 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 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Jonathan Keller

Absent: None

Also Present: Acting 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 Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sheila Harris, 1438 Monroe. Ms. Harris expressed frustration in regards to a hole in the asphalt in their street on the 1400 block of Monroe. She showed pictures of the hole and informed the Board that her sewer line was now severed from the main sewer line in middle of the street. She also indicated that this was also true for her neighbor across the street, the Goldstein residence. She was shocked to learn that the sewer line is the responsibility of the homeowner right up to the junction with the main sewer line even if it is past the property line and under the street. She stated staff explained Village ordinance, along with providing a list of licensed contractors capable of making the repairs. She was told to make the repair as quickly as possible to avoid further damage. Ms. Harris stated she agreed to obtain estimates for the repair and split the cost evenly between the two families. She stated the first estimate came in at \$9,500 with little detail, and future estimates were costlier. She recalled that a senior neighbor was told by her plumber that her sewer line needed rodding. She stated she shudders at the thought of seniors on a fixed income having to deal with such repairs. She stated they reviewed the issue with a series of “what ifs” – what if the recent flooding in their street caused the damage; what if the sandy soil in River Forest was the cause; what if the issue is due to previous sewer problems; what if the warranty expires after the work is done and the issue returns. She questioned where does the homeowner’s liability end? Ms. Harris stated she checked with neighboring communities like Elmwood Park & Forest Park and learned that any sewer repair past the curb is the responsibility of the

Village. She asked why is River Forest so different? She stated no one should be expected to know what the condition of the sewer line is 18' beyond the curb. She stated she felt that this issue beyond the curb should not be responsibility of the homeowner. She asked the Board to do two things: require the Village to take immediate action and repair the damage; and two, eliminate the burdensome ordinance. She stated that they have outlined many questions regarding the ordinance, one being a protracted delay by homeowners seeking solutions for the repair. Furthermore, she stated the cause of the issue is not covered by the ordinance by placing the burden of street repairs on the homeowners. She stated they want to understand all of this before proceeding. She also stated that most homeowners don't consider the street and what's below it as their responsibility. Ms. Harris thanked the Board for their concern on this issue.

Agnes Goldstein, 1439 Monroe. Ms. Goldstein stated she lives across the street from the Harris family. She stated she and her husband are also frustrated and agree wholeheartedly with Sheila's comments and believe that the homeowner should not be responsible for repair under Village streets. Ms. Goldstein commented about how to use suggested contractors for this repair as homeowners are not equipped to know about these issues. She stated she also learned that most contractors will not take on this type of work because it is under the street. She stated they have had contractors tell them they are too busy or they will have to wait 3 weeks for an estimate due to the recent heavy rains. She stated she has received estimates for \$10K-\$20K over the phone, and was told that since their sewer line is disconnected to the main line that the problem is likely with the main line. She stated that ultimately, there is just disbelief that homeowners are responsible for this type of repair and that the ordinance requires that the repairs are made within 72 hours to prevent further damage to the street and their homes. She stated that leaves the homeowners under a time pressured position, with little detail, to then somehow trust the contractor to do the work correctly. She also mentioned that when work is done on the street with heavy machinery, that homeowners are left with trusting the Village that their sewer lines were not damaged, but then left to fix them if they were. Ms. Goldstein then showed photos of how their street frequently floods with heavy rains. She stated that several years ago the NSMP project was designed to establish separate storm and sanitary lines. She stated her block was originally scheduled for phase 2, but then deemed unnecessary. Ms. Goldstein also discussed the past history of a sinking catch basin in their street. She stated the Village repaired that, but as homeowners they have no way of knowing whether it was repaired correctly and whether this current issue is related. She stated leaving these issues to homeowners slows down the process of getting them fixed, causing further damage. She stated Public Works officials have the experience and knowledge of this type of repair and relationships with contractors. She stated corrective and financial responsibility beyond the curb should lie with the Village. She asked three final questions: 1) did the Village receive federal COVID relief funding for infrastructure and can those funds be used for this? 2) Since phase 2 of the NSMP did not happen on this block, did the Village know that future problems might exist? 3) How soon can the Board provide them with answers for the sewer repair urgently needed in front of their homes. Ms. Goldstein thanked the Board for hearing their concerns.

Todd Moore, 1402 Monroe. Mr. Moore discussed his flooded basement, stating it happened three times over the past 15 months. He spoke about FEMA programs that would do 75-

100% cost share for flood mitigation and noted that he sent this information to the Village over a year ago. He asked if the Village had received this information? He commented that the Village was a bit lackluster in their response to the information he provided. Mr. Moore mentioned that he would be happy to pass along the information again as he has a working relationship with FEMA.

President Adduci remarked that she would look into the program that Mr. Moore discussed.

Anna Poulin, 1406 Monroe. Ms. Poulin stated that her concern is they have a lot of elderly people on this block, including her mother. Ms. Poulin stated she handles most of her mother's finances and that there's no way this cost could be taken on by seniors in the community. She remarked that the Village is trying to embrace keeping seniors in this community, and that she can't imagine any of them navigating anything like this. She stated she is here on their behalf.

Mark Tomassini, 1421 Monroe. Mr. Tomassini stated that the sinkhole was in front of his house 6-7 years ago and it grew over time. He explained it was the catch basin on the east side of the street and there was a hole in the catch basin, which was created as water rushed out and washed out the supporting sand. He suggested this caused the erosion and lead to the breakage of the personal sewer connection with the main sewer line for the two homeowners. He stated he would think that multiple houses have the same problem. He recalled the solution was to dump aggregate into the hole in the catch basin, but that there was no investigation to find the cause of where this water is causing the erosion.

Mark Shelsted, 1435 Monroe. Mr. Shelstad stated he was a witness to the sinkhole issue, and half of it was in front of his home. He stated the catch basin alone understates the issue as there was a big excavation to fix it. He noted the sewer main was exposed when this work was done. He stated his other concern is the ordinance that requires a 72-hour response or mitigation which he sees as beyond silly. He stated contractors are typically slowed for weeks and would be concerned with bearing a lot of risk with this work, too. He mentioned that those contractors who say they're ready to do the work next week are the ones you don't want to hire, so it may be a month or two before something gets done.

President Adduci mentioned that Sheila had called her and the whole thing surprised her, too. She stated that when you peel back the layers there is a huge mess, so revisiting the ordinance in a way that's practical makes sense. President Adduci stated she didn't want residents to leave here thinking the Board won't address the ordinance and the issue. She stated she felt that the COVID funding is for reimbursement of lost revenues, so it likely won't apply.

Ms. Scheiner stated that the clay sewer pipes that had collapsed are not atypical. She noted the section of the code for the quick response is 5-12-10, and that the Village is not enforcing it and nobody is being cited regarding the 72 hours. She stated no punitive measures are being taken against residents as they are working in good faith. She stated this is the Village ordinance, which was modified in 2011 and asked Director Anderson to respond.

Director Anderson stated that NSMP phase 2 is already designed and phase 1 doesn't connect to this area. He stated this situation could happen on a number of Village streets depending on the amount of rain. He noted the Village can provide any emergency contractors that the Village uses, and that he can get that information to them. He stated the flooding issue is not related to the sewer disconnecting at the main. He stated residents own their own sewer lateral, and the Village owns their own main.

Trustee Brennan questioned why other municipalities do not have this same type of ordinance and why this change was made back in 2011.

Trustee O'Connell asked if the entire ordinance was modified.

Ms. Scheiner stated that modifications have been made over the years, but this section was added or modified in 2011.

Trustee O'Connell asked if the liability of who owns the line past the curb was modified in 2011.

Ms. Scheiner stated residents own this, even if it goes into the street, and that residents are required to make the repairs.

Trustee Bachner asked how often does this happen?

Director Anderson stated that fortunately these occurrences are pretty rare. He stated it doesn't happen often, but that he could research exact numbers.

Trustee Johnson asked why would the Village would make that residents' responsibility?

Director Anderson stated it's a question of ownership and those lines are only there to serve their home or business, so they're responsible for maintaining it. He stated if there is damage to it and it happens to be under the street, they are responsible for that as well.

Trustee Johnson commented that the residents could also block the street to repair it.

Director Anderson remarked that that is probably why there is a 72-hour requirement to fix it.

Trustee Vazquez asked if Staff can also look at the history of why that was changed?

Ms. Scheiner stated Staff can come back to the Board with more information, but it may take some time.

Clerk Keller stated they can also check municipal law regarding ownership beyond the property line.

Trustee O'Connell remarked that it be important to research since 2011 until today, how many residents have had the issue and what that cost was to residents.

Ms. Scheiner stated \$10-\$15K is not an unusual number to hear for this work. She noted that in 2011, the section that covers the responsibility and the timing was added to the ordinance in 2011.

Trustee Brennan asked to clarify that this breakage and the repair is not happening on residents' property but in the street.

Ms. Scheiner stated it's in the street, but the line exists to serve residents' property according to the ordinance.

President Adduci stated seniors could never possibly afford this or know how to solve it. She stated there are so many questions about other municipalities and what they do and how they do it. She stated they have to do some research so the Board knows what they're doing before changing anything.

Clerk Keller asked if there is any mechanism to help these homeowners now?

President Adduci asked what would be the timing to remedy this now?

Ms. Scheiner stated the sinkhole is there and sewer is disconnected, and the repair needs to be commenced as soon as possible because the sinkhole could potentially grow in size. She stated that if the Board wants to create a structure for assistance, Staff can research that. She emphasized that time is of the essence to get it repaired.

President Adduci stated because time is of the essence, she thinks they should consider as a Board to get this done by the Village.

Trustee Johnson asked are there other things the Village mitigates that are similar, any kind of plumbing that the Village already mitigates? He asked if the Village reimburses residents for other issues that are somewhat similar?

Ms. Scheiner replied that when it is the privately owned infrastructure, no.

Trustee Brennan commented about the lead water line reimbursement program being similar.

Director Anderson stated the Village reimbursement amount is capped at \$4,000.

Ms. Harris thanked the Board for listening to their requests. She stated she personally called the public works departments of other municipalities and stated they all cover this infrastructure to the homes that lies beyond the curb in the street. She stated that to expect a homeowner to come out of pocket, she doesn't want to pay a dime for anything beyond the curb. She stated it is ridiculous and asked they be honest with how this sounds coming from

the Board. She stated the street was flooding before this sink hole, and it has been flooding since the mitigation on other blocks. She stated that to deem phase 2 unnecessary was ridiculous. She stated no homeowner expects to check the line from their home past the curb into the street, even with a home inspection. She stated she is respectfully asking the Board to think about this as homeowners, and to consider this as trustees and residents.

President Adduci inquired about Mr. Moore's question on where can the Village get the money for FEMA.

Director Anderson stated he will look into it because he doesn't know of a FEMA program that would pay for a private repair of a sewer to a homeowner.

Trustee Vazquez suggested that Mr. Moore could work with Village staff.

Director Anderson stated he could look into this.

Trustee Vazquez asked Mr. Moore about the FEMA program.

Mr. Moore stated he produced the brochure for this program, and it starts with the State of Illinois. He stated he would be happy to work with Director Anderson.

Trustee Bachner stated if it was applicable, the Village could get reimbursed.

President Adduci stated there was a great FEMA program back in 2010. She agreed that the federal government works quicker than the state. She stated if there's possible funding, that takes time and energy and the sinkhole will still be there. She proposed that Board go ahead and fix this, then review the ordinance.

Trustee O'Connell asked how much liability does the Village have for homeowners that have done this over the last 10 years. He stated that should be part of the decision making process.

Mr. Moore stated the Village knows there's a flooding problem since there was a phase one. He stated that baseline, north of Greenfield was not taken care of in phase two.

President Adduci commented that what they did was an investigation that since Elmwood Park separated from the main sewer line, those blocks did not need phase 2 at this point in time.

Director Anderson commented that if the Village did phase 2, these sewers would still be in existence since phase 2 was for storm sewers and separated sewer water from rain water. He stated that would just separate storm sewers from the existing sewer lines, which would improve the flooding issue, but not the sanitary issue.

Mr. Moore stated with this known issue of flooding, that pressure from the rain water more than likely is the issue in breaking these old clay pipes. He stated this is clearly a Village issue with drainage of stormwater.

President Adduci stated she is interested in the cause and effect of the rain water.

Trustee Bachner stated someone said one of the people that bid mentioned that the issue was potentially the main line. She asked is that something the Village can also immediately check?

Director Anderson mentioned that is something the Village does as part of this process. He stated the main line is not broken and the break is past the main line.

President Adduci asked if the cause of these breaks is related to the rush of the rain water?

Director Anderson stated that is possible.

Ms. Harris stated she read on the Village website that 275 private lines were repaired or replaced in phase one.

President Adduci commented that the residents paid for part of it, about \$5,000.

Ms. Harris remarked that she would pay \$5,000 rather than what they are facing now.

Trustee Vazquez suggested that based on mitigation of damages, that the Village fix and repair the breaks. He stated he thinks there is some cost that would be the responsibility of the residents. He also suggested that the Village could provide expertise in dealing with the contractors for this work and possibly make a better deal for residents.

Trustee O'Connell asked how many houses are they talking about?

Mary Monahan, 1440 Monroe. Ms. Monahan stated she has been getting sewer water inside for the first time in 20 years. She stated she knows everyone is concerned about financial issues, but asked what about the health issues? She asked when they check the sewers are they going to check her line to the city? She asked how is she supposed to know she is ok? She stated she did have the sewers rodded recently, but asked if she is going to have a problem when all of this is repaired?

Ms. Scheiner asked is Staff is checking all connections along the way?

Village Engineer Loster stated as Staff runs the camera down the main, they can see where that connection comes in, but that's it. He stated that in this particular area, the break was beyond the main. He stated there are different types of obstructions and failures, noting it is tricky, and they can't always see the lines.

President Adduci asked so sometimes you can see, and sometimes you can't?

Ms. Scheiner stated any resident at any time can have a plumber come out and televise the line.

Mr. Loster said the Village presently is on an every five-year plan to televise every main. He stated they are not able to look at these on an annual basis.

Wallace Harris, 1438 Monroe. Mr. Harris said one of the contractors that submitted the most detailed report indicated that the ground underneath the break must be exposed to deal with the problem. He stated piping is one thing, but they are rebuilding sandy soil. He stated they are talking about repairing and filling gigantic holes which could be \$40K or \$50K. He stated they don't know the extent of the damage and they can't fix it until they know their liability. He stated this is a very expensive issue on a street that's been flooding for a long time. He stated they will answer the question what caused this before fixing it because they can't afford to take on that liability without knowing why. He asked to fix this problem. He stated there will be a bigger issue in the community if this continues to happen. He stated there are two blocks that haven't undergone any sewer repair, so when it rains heavily, they flood.

Trustee O'Connell said they are not talking about 2 houses, talking about 2 blocks. He stated the question is do they have to get Burke in to analyze what's going on? He stated they have to figure out how to approach this.

President Adduci proposed the Village fix and understand what caused the problem and find money for it.

Trustee Vazquez concurred, stated the Village fix these two now because they're broken. He stated when they open up the street they can discover what the situation is and how bad it is.

President Adduci asked Staff to provide a proposal back to the Village no later than tomorrow.

Village Attorney Smith said the Board can only take final action if the item is on the agenda, but that the Board could give final consensus and ratify it at a later meeting.

Ms. Scheiner asked if the Board would like Staff to waive the requirement in the code and if the Board would like to aid in the repair? She stated Staff needs to understand that the direction of the Village is that it is responsible for the street and material surrounding the pipe or and the pipe.

Mr. Loster noted they don't know how long the break is.

Ms. Harris stated that if the street is open, they want to take care of the repair at same time.

Trustee O'Connell asked what is the Board agreeing to fix?

President Adduci stated the portion to the curb.

Trustee Vazquez stated that what he heard is the residents were willing to pay up to the curb.

Ms. Scheiner stated what they need is consensus of the Board of the authorization of all portions of the repair. She stated they would come back on August 9th and ratify that. She stated in the meantime, Staff can research questions that have been asked. She stated that a possible solution is regardless of data, the Board can repeal the ordinance.

Trustee Bachner stated that as the Village is researching this and coming up with solutions, there may be other households in the same predicament. She stated that if it comes up that they're not just taking care of this group of people, there may be people who don't even know.

President Adduci stated she is amending the ordinance and that she is interested in FEMA, if they could find some money.

Trustee Gillis stated they have to fix the problem, and asked if they are going to have to cast a wider net and explore issues, for example catch basins? She stated they need to understand the cause and effect.

Ms. Scheiner said that is a near term issue and policy question.

Director Anderson stated as part of the Stormwater Management Program, Christopher Burke is going to look into this.

President Adduci stated the Board approved a long term sewer management project, and they will make sure to prioritize the best they can.

Clerk Keller stated he has concerns about tabling the issue.

Attorney Smith stated the Board cannot take action. He stated the Board can tell staff not to enforce it, and they would just be giving Staff consensus.

Mr. Shelstad suggested one of the things that would help here is the ordinance seems quite nebulous and ambiguous. He stated he had no idea of finding that line of demarcation, noting if the "T" is part of the main, not the lateral, then it needs to be defined.

President Adduci gave staff direction to fix this with residents and to come back August 9th.

Attorney Smith said the ordinance on August 9th will be to approve those expenditures and clarified that the Village Code won't be amended on the 9th.

Jan Saeger, 435 William. Ms. Saeger talked about pedestrian safety. She said the intersection at William and Lake is becoming more dangerous for pedestrians. She shared a story about a couple crossing Lake Street and shared it with President Adduci, who forwarded the story to Traffic and Safety. She thanked her.

President Adduci said they are going to keep researching it.

Phyllis Rubin, 411 Ashland. Ms. Rubin stated she was listening to what's going on with Monroe and the sinkhole, the sewer, the flooding, while knowing that this is not a multi-unit condo over this sinkhole. Ms. Rubin said the Village needs to look out for infrastructure so they won't worry with what happened in Florida. Ms. Rubin had questions and comments about Lake and Lathrop. She asked what's going on, and why didn't they start in June? She asked have permits been obtained? Ms. Rubin expressed concern about radon, and stated she would like to know about toxicity of the barrier. She stated people in the building are concerned about the site because it's an eyesore, noting that the fencing is coming down, and weeds are growing in the land. She stated this is a sad corner of the Village that is visible, and that it would be nice to get some answers and get it done.

Ms. Scheiner said the remaining issue to be resolved is regarding dryer vents and drawings are being updated to reflect the correction. She stated all other comments have been addressed and all remaining issues for the Village's building permit have been resolved.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner started with a Land Acknowledgment statement that this land was once and still inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She said she hopes that everybody had a safe fourth of July.

Trustee Gillis said they stopped doing the Recycling Extravaganza initially due to COVID and to the sheer amount of work to get it off the ground. She stated the Sustainability Commission decided they wanted to think about it differently. She stated that if the Village brings it back, it would have to be with resident volunteers.

Ms. Scheiner said if there are other recycling events, Staff can communicate that.

Trustee O'Connell said Burr Ridge was closed for a long time due to COVID and noted there is also another site in Elk Grove Village.

Trustee Gillis said E-Works is a great organization and they employ people with disabilities. She stated it covers electronic recycling. She said it is important to have residents do smaller events.

Ms. Scheiner said if they find a household hazardous waste facility that is still open, they will communicate it.

Trustee Vazquez stated he had no comments.

Clerk Keller stated he had no comments.

Trustee Brennan asked for a follow up on the EDC discussing the Dominican Priory property.

President Adduci said they can ask them and they can weigh in, noting if there are any

changes or discussion, it will have to be brought back to the Plan Commission.

Trustee Bachner said she thinks it makes sense to do that.

Ms. Scheiner stated they could have a joint meeting between EDC and the Plan Commission, and she noted any changes to the Comprehensive Plan is no small endeavor.

President Adduci stated there was consensus to do that.

Trustee Johnson said he hopes residents are enjoying the summer so far. He urged everyone to please be aware of the COVID variants as we decrease our social distancing. He encouraged residents to practice some of the protocols to the best of their availability.

Trustee O'Connell reported a postal service scam going around, noting it includes a \$4,900 check asking recipients to go to Walmart. He asked to make people aware of it.

Trustee Vazquez asked can the Village communicate that scam to residents?

President Adduci spoke regarding the July 4 incident at Washington & Gale, stating she talked to the parents and they were very grateful of the work officers did. She urged everyone to continue to be vigilant.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2021
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2021
- c. Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System Located at 825 Bonnie Brae
- d. Waiver of Formal Bidding Requirements and Award of Contract to GovHR for Fire Chief Recruiting Services in the Amount of \$22,500.00
- e. Waiver of Formal Bidding Requirements and Award of Contract to GovHR for Village Administrator Recruiting Services in the Amount of \$20,000.00
- f. Award of Bid and Contract to A. Lamp Concrete Contractors, Inc. for 2021 Green Alley Improvement Project in the Amount of \$797,190.60
- g. Receive and File: Resignation Letter of EDC Chairperson Lee Neubecker
- h. Monthly Department Reports
- i. Accounts Payable – June 2021 – \$1,419,779.53
- j. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-C, F, H-J.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda Item G.

Trustee O'Connell said he wanted to take a moment to recognize Lee Neubecker. He stated that he was a passionate person. He stated the Village really appreciates all the work he did. He stated that hopefully all he did and his spirit will carry past his term.

President Adduci concurred, noting she will be posting both for replacing the chair and member terms.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve the Consent Agenda Items D-E.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci introduced GovHR and noted she wholeheartedly supports their efforts. She stated the Village used GovHR to hire Eric Palm.

Heidi Voorhes introduced herself and stated she is the president and co-founder of GovHR. She stated she was being joined by Lee Szymborski, and noted that she worked on the recruitment back in 2010 when Eric Palm was hired. She stated she has also been a Village Manager in Wilmette, IL. She stated she has spent the last 20 years in recruitment and founded GovHR in 2009. She stated there are two proposals, one for the Village Administrator and one for Fire Chief. She stated she believes in a partnership with clients, and that they have consultants located across the country. She stated they have done 900 recruitments in 41 states. She stated they suggest advertising on websites that have national reach to attract people looking to come home. She expressed that clients have been satisfied with their service and emphasized it is important to know that consultants have experience in local government. Ms. Voorhes stated GovHR is ready to pick up with the candidates who applied through West Central Municipal Conference and carrying it forward.

Lee Szymborski stated that, presuming the proposals are approved, he would be the main consultant assigned to the Village Administrator search. He stated that prior to this he was in city administration in Illinois & Wisconsin, noting he has been with GovHR for 7 years. He provided an overview of what the Village can expect the process to include. He stated he

would begin with outreach to the Board members to develop a profile of what they are looking for. He noted the desire to have a diverse candidate pool, and stated their efforts will seek to meet those goals. He reviewed the candidate outreach and recruitment efforts and explained their tailored process. He stated GovHR will facilitate the selection of finalists, prepare interview questions, and aid in the negotiation of a contract.

Ms. Voorhes stated they would condense the Village Administrator search schedule and that the Fire Chief search would be more traditional. She emphasized their partnership with clients and stated they would help the Village find the Administrator they're excited about. She stated they have had a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion since the founding of the firm. She stated they offer a guarantee of 1 year and that they are accessible throughout the process. She emphasized GovHR's commitment to the profession of local government.

President Adduci stated she has been extremely pleased with GovHR in the past.

Trustee Brennan asked what is the timeline for the Fire Chief search and if Chief Bohlmann has committed to stay with the Village through the end of the search?

Chief Bohlmann stated his retirement date is September 19.

Ms. Scheiner stated the Village would work through that period with an interim Fire Chief.

Trustee Brennan thanked GovHR for their presentation. She asked what makes this decision to go with this firm a no bid contract? She asked how did the Village decide not to look at other options?

President Adduci stated there are a limited number of recruiting firms out there. She stated her commitment has been to wait until after the election to begin this process. She stated she felt the Board needed to do a lot of things before this process, and that it is prudent to move ahead.

Trustee Vazquez stated that because this firm has a good reputation, the Village is also paying for the database access that this firm has in terms of the candidate pool. He stated maybe it's worth a bit more.

Ms. Scheiner said in addition to using GovHR to hire the Village Administrator in 2010, the Village used GovHR to hire the Public Works Director and Finance Director. She stated they are a go-to government search company.

Trustee Bachner thanked GovHR for their presentation. She stated they seem to have made a commitment to DEI. She asked what changes have been made at their company to make sure they are inclusive?

Ms. Voorhes stated their whole firm underwent implicit bias training and brought on a consultant to do this training. She stated this is a space they have cared a lot about. She stated they are doing a number of DEI officer recruitments, and they have undertaken training so

they're prepared to do that. She stated they have deepened their relationship with the consulting firm National Forum for Black Public Administrators and that they have supported the firm for the last 10 years. She stated it made sense to co-propose on certain projects, and that GovHR is proud to be a part of those organizations.

Trustee Bachner asked if they have made any changes this year in terms of DEI?

Ms. Voorhes said they have undergone implicit bias training and added training components.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- f. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$63.00 (*Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gillis, to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$63.00.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Update: Lake & Lathrop

Mark McKinney provided an update regarding the weeds at the property, and he said they were out earlier today and that they will coordinate to get somebody out there for that. He stated there was a traffic study when the project had 30 units and it was acceptable, and that now there is the same amount of parking. He stated they addressed the traffic issue in the past through the Planned Development process. Regarding the question about radon, he stated he confirmed that Pioneer Engineer has not done a radon check specifically but the same vent system they are using would be the system used. He stated he is not aware of any radon concerns and emphasized the same barrier and vent system would be used, noting this

system is the industry standard for these types of conditions. He stated that last time they were in front of the Board, they had 8 unit sales. He stated there has been a lot more progress with commercial sales and there are two more residential sales that are in progress and under attorney review. He stated they have just under 14,000 square feet of retail space available and 17,000 square feet of interest, noting there are more interested retailers in the property than they have space.

Trustee Brennan asked if they are at the letter of interest stage?

Mr. McKinney said only one been accepted and that others are in various stages. It was clarified that they have a letter of interest from one tenant for a 2,500 square foot medical-retail type use.

Trustee Brennan asked why weren't they at the meeting last time?

Mr. McKinney said he had a conflict and couldn't make it at that meeting.

Trustee Brennan asked if they are committed to coming to the Board's future meetings?

Mr. McKinney said depending on schedules, but they are committed if possible.

Trustee Brennan said people need to see that they and the Village are prioritizing and focusing on the project.

Mr. McKinney agreed.

Trustee Brennan asked about the MWRD progress?

Mr. McKinney said it is between the engineer and the Village. He stated if the letter got out today, it could be finalized this week.

President Adduci asked why haven't they broken ground?

Mr. McKinney said they are searching for lenders and they don't have a permit to break ground. He stated there is a different landscape out there for lenders, and they are having to find out what makes the most sense and moves consistently through the process. He said they are eager to get started too, but a little surprised by the lending landscape. He stated they need to make the best decision for the holistic nature of the project.

President Adduci said the Board knows Staff will work with them and that they would like to see progress.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appointment/Reappointment of Village Officials All Terms Ending 5/12/2025

1. Village Attorney & Local Prosecutor – Gregory Smith (Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd)
2. Village Labor & Employment Attorney – Clark Baird Smith LLP

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to appoint/reappoint the Village Officials, #9A.1 - 9A.2, all with Terms Ending 5/12/2025.

President Adduci stated she wholly supports this, noting they run with the term of the Village President.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Scheiner announced that because the Board would be going into Executive Session, there would be no further discussion or action after Executive Session and that the Board would adjourn immediately after.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to go into executive session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village, including whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 10:06p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Brennan, Bachner, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Keller.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gillis, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 10:07p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk