

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

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

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

a. Police Department Commendations

Police Chief Greenwood read the commendations aloud and personally presented them to members of the Police Department staff.

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Phyllis Rubin addressed the Village Board during public comment, reminding them of the results of the term limit referendum. She requested that all members of the Village Board be present when the referendum is discussed. Additionally,

she asked the Board to grant the Ethics Commission the authority to review potential conflicts of interest.

Mark Hosty provided public comment regarding the proposed leaf blower ban, urging the Village Board not to approve the ban.

Dr. Ray McDonald also spoke during public comment, expressing support for the proposed leaf blower restrictions and encouraging the Village Board to implement them.

Tom Cloud addressed the Village Board concerning the ADS sprinkler issue discussed at prior meetings. He outlined the costs he has personally incurred and requested that the Village send an updated letter to residents clarifying the associated expenses.

Cary Mclean provided public comment regarding the recent term limit referendum and urged the Village Board to implement its results.

Jan Saeger offered a public comment, commending the Village Board for their efforts. She expressed her appreciation for the volunteer boards and commissions and acknowledged the work of various Village departments, thanking them for their contributions. Ms. Saeger also emphasized the need for regulations and rules regarding e-bikes and e-scooters in the community. She concluded by requesting an update on the report prepared by Nova Collective.

Ethics Commission Chair Peggy Daley provided public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Village's Ethics Ordinance. She offered background on the development of the original Ethics Ordinance and the establishment of the Ethics Commission. Chair Daley highlighted the Commission's efforts and the specific revisions being presented to the Village Board. She also expressed concerns about aspects of the current ordinance and voiced her support for the proposed changes under consideration.

Ms. Daley then read aloud a letter of support from fellow Ethics Commissioner Greg Ignoffo.

Trustee O'Connell expressed discomfort with voting on the proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance without a Commission member present to address questions from the Village Board.

Margie Cekander provided public comment, expressing her support for the revised changes to the ethics ordinance. She also reiterated concerns she has previously shared with the Board regarding the handling of past ethics complaints and the development of the original ordinance. She encouraged the Village to reconsider its partnership with Jones Lang LaSalle and inquired about the criteria used for their selection.

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

Trustee Bachner began her remarks with a land acknowledgment. She then referenced a recent article in the Wednesday Journal highlighting the recent Pride event and expressed gratitude to all who contributed to its success.

Trustee Gillis commended the River Forest Police Department for their work and encouraged community members to continue looking out for one another.

Trustee Brennan acknowledged the recent 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Flag Raising event and thanked all those who contributed to its success, despite the inclement weather. She then emphasized the importance of clearly communicating any changes to the Village Board meeting schedule and requested that such changes be made only with advance and prominent notice. Additionally, she asked that the Board receive the meeting schedule for the first six months of 2026 as soon as possible to assist members in planning around their professional and travel commitments.

President Adduci clarified that only the summer meeting dates are subject to change, while the dates for the early and later months remain fixed. She encouraged Board members to be mindful of this when scheduling their plans.

Trustee Brennan reiterated her request for improved communication regarding schedule changes and noted that she is unavailable on the proposed August Board meeting date to discuss term limits.

President Adduci responded that staff will work on developing a more effective method for highlighting any changes to the meeting schedule.

Administrator Walsh added that the next Board meeting is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Keskitalo thanked Trustee Brennan for her efforts on the Juneteenth event and expressed appreciation to the Village Police Department for their commendation-worthy service. She also suggested that the Village consider holding more meetings during the summer months to help avoid overly full agendas, such as the agenda for that evening.

Trustee O'Connell reminded residents that today is the deadline to purchase vehicle stickers. He also highlighted several items in the meeting packet that reflect the significant efforts of Village staff, including Fire Department programs and Public Works projects. Additionally, he encouraged parents to keep reminding their kids to wear bicycle helmets while riding around town. He also gave a shoutout to the 7/11 Slurpee partnership and the River Forest Chocolates helmet initiative.

President Adduci expressed gratitude to everyone who helped organize and staff the recent community events in June. She also recognized the volunteer efforts of the Village's boards and commissions, thanking them for their dedicated service.

## **6.CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- c. Monthly Department Reports
- d. Administration Department Report
- e. Accounts Payable – June 2025 – \$2,248,086.07
- f. June 2025 Financial Report
- g. Purchase Approval – Axon Air Skydio X10 Drone – Axon Enterprise – \$29,000.00
- h. Purchase Approval – Police Department Women's Locker Room Renovation – Bradford Systems – \$32,000.00
- i. Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District – Village Hall Permeable Parking Lot Project
- j. Award of Contract – Engineering for Design of Permeable Paver Parking Lot – Christopher B. Burke Engineering – \$73,890.00
- k. Change Order – Harlem Right-In Right Out Traffic Installation Project – \$4,310.80

- l. Change Order – 2025 Curb and Sidewalk Replacement Program – \$32,214.00
- m. Award of Contract – Water Main Engineering Design Keystone & Franklin – V3 Companies LTD – \$52,705.00
- n. Amendment to Village Code Section 9-7-2 Vehicle Use – Regarding Administrative Tows – Ordinance
- o. Amendment to Village Code Section 8-1-6: Additional Regulations – Prohibition of Fireworks and Explosives – Ordinance

Trustee Brennan asked that Consent Agenda Items G, I, and O be pulled for separate consideration.

Trustee Keskitalo asked that Consent Agenda Item N be pulled for separate consideration.

**MOTION** by Trustee O’Connell to approve Consent Agenda Items A through F, H, and J through M. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

- g. Purchase Approval – Axon Air Skydio X10 Drone – Axon Enterprise – \$29,000.00

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

Trustee Brennan requested clarification regarding the total cost of the project, noting a discrepancy between the figures presented in the memo and those listed in the agenda title.

Police Chief Greenwood clarified the pricing of the purchase, explaining that the higher overall cost includes software licensing fees distributed over four years.

He noted that the amount listed on the agenda reflects only the initial cost of the drone.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent : None

Nays : None

Motion Passes

- i. Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District – Village Hall Permeable Parking Lot Project

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve Consent Agenda Items I.  
Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Trustee Brennan asked how the number of parking spots in the lot and the fire department training structure would be affected by the new parking lot.

Public Works Director Bielak stated that the number of parking spaces will remain the same and that the new lot will accommodate the training device.

Trustee Brennan requested clarification on the reimbursement the Village receives from MWRD for retaining water rather than returning it to the stormwater system.

Director Bielak explained the calculation method used.

Trustee Bachner asked if this grant program is similar to the one used for the green alleys.

Director Bielak confirmed that it is.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent : None

Nays : None

Motion Passes

- n. Amendment to Village Code Section 9-7-2 Vehicle Use – Regarding Administrative Tows – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve Consent Agenda Items N. Seconded by Trustee Keskitalo.

Trustee Keskitalo asked how the new rules would apply in the case of a minor accident, such as a fender bender or small crash.

Chief Greenwood stated that the Police Department will not tow vehicles in cases of delayed hit-and-run reports. Vehicles will only be subject to towing if the incident resulted in \$500 or more in damage to the other vehicle, as such cases meet the threshold for mandatory reporting to insurance providers.

Trustee Keskitalo asked whether action could be delayed if a report was filed at a later time.

Chief Greenwood responded that it typically would not be taken.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent : None

Nays : None

Motion Passes

- o. Amendment to Village Code Section 8-1-6: Additional Regulations – Prohibition of Fireworks and Explosives – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve Consent Agenda Items O. Seconded by Trustee Gillis.

Trustee Brennan noted agreeing with this agenda item but stated that she felt there are some drafting issues that should be cleaned up.

President Adduci suggested that, with the Board's and Trustee Brennan's agreement, the item could be removed from tonight's agenda, allowing Trustee Brennan to share her comments with staff so it could be properly presented at

the next meeting.

Trustee Vazquez withdrew his motion.

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

### **a. Zoning Board of Appeals**

#### **i. Consideration of Special Use Permit – Diamond in the Ruff – North Avenue**

**MOTION** by Trustee O’Connell to approve the Special Use Ordinance for Pet Care (except veterinary) Services for Diamond in the Ruff of River Forest, Inc at 7355 North Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Gillis.

Trustee O’Connell asked if the business is taking advantage of the Village’s Small Business Improvement Grant Program.

Administrator Walsh stated they are not.

Trustee Brennan noted she was unable to listen to the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting audio on the website. She requested that, moving forward, no items be placed on the agenda unless all supporting documentation is fully available. She also mentioned that the Dropbox link for additional materials did not work on her end, preventing her from accessing all necessary documents related to this agenda item.

Trustees Keskitalo and Bachner also noted they were unable to access the Dropbox link. Trustee Keskitalo added that she had attempted to access the Zoning Board of Appeals audio as well but was unsuccessful.

Trustee Brennan asked if the Board could postpone the vote until all materials were available.

Trustee Gillis responded that, given the business has been in the community for nearly 30 years, she felt comfortable proceeding with the vote.

Trustee Brennan then asked if the applicant could address the concerns raised by the Zoning Board Chairman regarding their application.



Ann Vacherlon, the owner and applicant, provided background on an altercation involving one of her employees and a neighboring business owner. She noted that she is moving as well because her rent is increasing.

Trustee Bachner asked the applicant if she had any comments regarding the altercation involving a hammer.

Ms. Vacherlon provided background information on the incident.

Trustee Keskitalo then asked whether she had spoken with her neighbors about the parking situation.

Ms. Vacherlon responded that she had not yet discussed parking with them.

Trustee Keskitalo suggested reaching out to neighbors, noting that parking could become a concern.

Trustee Brennan asked if the Village reaches out to neighboring properties with notification about potential special use permits.

Administrator Walsh stated that letters were sent to all property owners within 500 feet, and over 60 letters of support were received and included in the Dropbox link. He also noted that no opposition to the application was submitted to the Village or voiced during the public hearing. He also clarified that two rounds of notification letters are sent: one prior to the Zoning Board of Appeals hearing and another before the Village Board meeting.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: Trustee Bachner

Motion Passes.

b. Ethics Commission

i. Consideration of Amendments to the Ethics Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 "Ethics" of the Village Code contingent on the edits made that evening.

Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

President Adduci reminded everyone that the Ethics Commission is a volunteer body and expressed pride in the Commission's work on this ordinance.

Trustee O'Connell expressed hesitation about voting on the Ethics Ordinance, citing concerns that the language was too broad. He said he would prefer the ordinance include clearer deadlines and greater specificity.

Chair Daley responded to questions from the Village Board and explained the Commission's rationale for the ordinance's wording. She noted that, while timelines are ideal, they may not always be realistic given that the Commission is composed of volunteers.

Trustee Bachner asked how the proposed Ethics Ordinance would impact employees in light of the Villages own personnel policies.

HR Manager Trish Ivansek explained how the Ethics Ordinance aligns with the Village's existing personnel policies, noting that it will complement and work in tandem with the employee handbook.

Administrator Walsh noted that the Village's collective bargaining agreements have set timelines for grievances.

President Adduci noted that all Village covered individuals are subject to the Ethics Ordinance.

Trustee Brennan asked why contractors are included in some portions of the proposed code and not in others.

Village Attorney Malina explained that the exclusion may have been due to the high number of short-term contractors and frequent turnover, which could have contributed to their omission. He noted that a requirement to read and acknowledge the Ethics Ordinance could be included in larger contracts or requests for proposals.

Trustee Brennan noted being in support of adding that language.

The Village Board and Chair Daley discussed how anonymity is addressed in the proposed ordinance.

President Adduci expressed concern about how the waiting period might affect business owners and individuals seeking building permits.

Chair Daley emphasized that government processes take time and careful consideration and should not be rushed. She clarified that the four-week timeline applies to when the Commission would hold a hearing, which would only happen after determining that a complaint is worth investigating. She then suggested the Board could consider adding a timeframe to first decide whether there is a reasonable basis for the complaint. However, she encouraged the Village Board to be mindful and cautious when instituting deadlines.

The Village Board agreed to establish a 10-business-day time limit for making an initial determination on the basis of complaints.

Trustee Bachner asked Village Attorney Malina to review the entire ordinance to ensure the 10-business-day time limit is consistently reflected throughout the code.

The Village Attorney provided background on how certain types of deadlines are handled from a legal standpoint.

President Adduci inquired whether a complaint determined to be unfounded following the initial review would be disclosed to the public.

Chair Daley responded that the complaint would remain anonymous, but the Commission would keep records.

Administrator Walsh added that, according to the code, the Commission must contact the complainant, if their information is provided, to inform them of the determination.

Trustee Vazquez noted that the Commission's documents may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Village Attorney Malina confirmed that the documents would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, and the Board, together with Chair Daley, continued discussing anonymity.

Trustee Gillis requested that the updated ordinance clearly distinguish between business days and calendar days.

Village Attorney Malina provided background on how the state statutes handle the word “days.”

Trustee Gillis asked what would happen if the Chairperson, as the sole point of contact for complaints submitted online or by email, were to go on vacation.

Chair Daley explained that email submissions ensure accessibility, and complaints can also be submitted through any other method, as long as they reach someone within the Village.

President Adduci expressed support for the proposed changes while acknowledging that further adjustments may be necessary in the future, as was the case with the changes made this evening.

Chair Daley agreed.

Trustee Brennan pointed out some scriveners’ errors in the definition sections.

Trustee Bachner asked how advisory groups or ad hoc commissions and committees would be handled by the ethics ordinance.

Attorney Malina stated he will update the language to reflect advisory groups or commissions.

President Adduci asked the Board if they are comfortable with voting on this item, subject to the changes made that evening.

Trustees Bachner, Keskitalo and Brennan stated they are ready.

Trustee O’Connell noted that he will defer to the Village Attorney whether it is ready to vote on.

Village Attorney Malina stated there was no issue with calling the question on the matter and reminded everyone that this is not a final action; it can easily be added to the next Board agenda if further changes are needed.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

c. Sustainability Commission

i. Consideration of Leaf Blower Restrictions – Ordinance

Peter Chien thanked the Village Board for their work and for allowing community input. He then expressed his support for the proposed leaf blower restrictions. Additionally, he requested a faster phase in period than is being proposed in the ordinance.

Larry Raymond spoke in opposition to the proposed leaf blower restrictions, describing them as government overreach that could increase costs for residents. He encouraged the Village to collaborate with landscape suppliers to help residents better understand potential higher costs.

**MOTION** by Trustee Keskitalo to recommend the Village Board adopt an ordinance regulating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within the Village and incentivize the use of electric leaf blowers by landscape contractors operating within the Village. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Public Works Analyst Jansen provided background information on this agenda item and fielded questions from members of the Village Board.

Trustee O'Connell asked what feedback they have received from landscaping contractors and other municipalities that have implemented the leaf blower bans.

Analyst Jansen noted that many contractors are concerned about the battery life of electric leaf blowers and shared feedback he has received from other municipalities.

Trustee O'Connell expressed that he felt the proposed ban was unrealistic and was skeptical that battery-powered leaf blowers could be effective enough.

Analyst Jansen noted that the proposed ban was designed to start in the summer as that is the time leaf blowers are at their lowest need for contractors.

The Village Board discussed whether battery-powered leaf blowers are powerful enough to meet the needs of the River Forest.

Trustee O'Connell asked Analyst Jansen to contact a landscaping company in the North Shore area to learn how the implemented bans have affected their business.

Trustee Bachner asked whether the proposed ban would apply to everyone or only to commercial landscaping companies, and how it would impact other institutions such as colleges and the Park District.

Analyst Jansen responded that the ban would be universal, including residents, and that institutions like colleges, the Park District, and the Village's Public Works Department would also need to comply.

The Village Board reviewed the results of the Village's survey.

Administrator Walsh reminded the Board that they could choose to extend deadlines if battery-powered equipment proves unable to meet demand.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**9.UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**10.NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Consideration of Amendments to Sign Regulations – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve an Ordinance amending the Village

Code regarding Sign Regulations. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on this agenda item.

Trustee Bachner asked if this would allow for 24 hours a day usage.

Administrator Walsh stated that illuminated signs cannot operate between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., and flashing lights are prohibited. He added that the sign will be placed on the corner of the building and noted that the Village has not received any negative feedback from nearby residents about the proposed sign.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Consideration of Amendments to Liquor Control Ordinance – First Watch Restaurant – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance amending the Liquor License Code and increasing the number of Class 1A licenses by one (1). Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on this agenda item and fielded questions from the Village Board.

Trustee Bachner expressed concerns about a section of the ordinance that prohibits customers from purchasing drinks without also buying food.

Village Attorney Malina explained the background and purpose of liquor license restrictions.

Assistant Village Administrator Spencer clarified parts of the proposed ordinance.

Administrator Walsh reminded everyone that this license permits the sale of beer, liquor, and wine, should the restaurant choose to offer them.

Trustee Bachner read aloud the section of the proposed ordinance that would limit certain types of outdoor alcohol consumption.

The Village Board agreed to remove the sentence that Trustee Bachner had highlighted from the proposed ordinance.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

c. Consideration of a Minor Amendment to Keystone Park Planned Development – Turf Infield

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to authorize the Village Administrator to approve the Park District's request as a Minor Amendment to the Keystone Planned Development Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

River Forest Park District Board President Lynn Libera and Commissioner Mike Grant presented the proposed amendment and answered questions from the Village Board.

Trustee Brennan inquired whether a stormwater engineering study had been conducted for the project.

Administrator Walsh responded that such a study would be required as part of the permitting process for the proposed work.

The Village Board and representatives from the Park District discussed the color of the proposed baseball diamond.

Trustee Brennan read a statement aloud outlining the health and safety risks associated with astroturf fields, while also highlighting the inconsistency of the Village promoting environmentally friendly practices yet permitting developments that she states contradict those values. She expressed her intention to abstain from the vote due to these concerns.



Park District Commissioner Mike Grant responded to the environmental concerns by addressing them directly, saying that if he believed the fields posed any risk to children, he would never have recommended the project in the first place.

Trustee Brennan requested that it be noted for the record that she is abstaining due to moral and ethical reasons.

Village Attorney Malina provided background information on how an abstention is officially recorded and its technical implications on the vote.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Brennan

Motion Passes.

- d. Consideration of an Amendment to Village Code Regarding the Regulation of Bicycles and Motor Scooters – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve an ordinance adopting the revised Chapter 4: Bicycles and Motor Scooters of the River Forest Municipal Code, which incorporates relevant provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/Chapter 11 Article XV) by reference and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith, subject to the proposed changes this evening. Seconded by Trustee Keskitalo.

Police Chief Greenwood provided background information on this agenda item and answered questions from the Village Board. He noted that the ordinance would bring the Village into alignment with state regulations.

Trustee Keskitalo inquired whether the use of all E-bikes could be restricted to individuals over the age of 16.

Village Attorney Malina stated that he will review the ordinance passed by the Village of Hinsdale.

The Village Board, Attorney Malina, and Chief Greenwood discussed the possibility of implementing stricter restrictions.

Trustee Keskitalo voiced concerns that parents might buy e-vehicles under the proposed changes, only for the Village to prohibit them in the future.

President Adduci emphasized the importance of collaborating with community organizations, such as District 90, to help disseminate this information.

Administrator Walsh highlighted some of the feedback the Village received from the Park District concerning complaints about e-vehicles.

Village Clerk Castellano noted some scrivener's errors in the proposed document.

Trustee Brennan expressed concerns that the proposed ordinance might conflict with other existing Village regulations concerning bicyclists.

Chief James Greenwood noted that staff will investigate to ensure that existing regulations align with the proposed changes.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

e. Settlement Approval – Settlement Agreement with Union Pacific

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to authorize the execution of the proposed settlement agreement with Union Pacific railroad subject to final amendments. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Village Attorney Malina provided background information on this proposed settlement agreement and fielded questions from the Board.

Trustee Brennan raised concerns about some of the language in the first whereas

clause of the agreement and asked if the language could be changed.

The Village Board and Attorney Malina discussed the wording of the first whereas clause and the possibility of revising it.

A majority of the Board agreed to pursue the removal of the word "necessary" from the first "Whereas" clause.

Trustee Bachner inquired whether future complaints should be directed to the Police Department and whether residents are aware of the appropriate channels for filing such complaints.

Administrator Walsh confirmed that residents should file complaints by calling 911 and that they are aware of this protocol.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

f. Discussion Regarding Village of River Forest Affordable Housing Plan  
Updates – No Action

Administrator Walsh provided background information on the Village's Affordable Housing Plan and outlined the current percentage of the Village's housing stock that qualifies as affordable. He then presented a potential framework for the next steps related to the plan.

Trustee Brennan requested clarification on whether the Village Board adopted an actual plan or just pieces of a plan.

Administrator Walsh noted that the Village Board adopted an Affordable Housing Plan in 2020 and subsequently referred certain elements of the plan to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He reported that the Village is required to submit an updated plan this year; however, there is no penalty for a late submission.

Trustee Bachner asked how the numbers and percentages in the plan are

determined.

Administrator Walsh noted that it is challenging to determine which data sources the Illinois Housing Authority uses to derive the information reported to the state.

Trustee Keskitalo requested a status update on the implementation matrix of the current Affordable Housing Plan.

Jack Morrissey made a public comment regarding the Village's Affordable Housing Plan and encouraged the Village Board to adopt policies that support a variety of housing types within the Village.

g. Discussion Regarding Future Public Use of Village-Owned Property at Lake Street and Park Avenue – No Action

Administrator Walsh introduced the concept of a potential park at the Village-owned parking lot along Lake Street, provided background information on how the Village arrived at this idea, and responded to questions from the Board.

## 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn by Trustee O'Connell. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.



Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Date: 08/25/25