

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 11th, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Brennan, Bachner.

Absent: Trustees Johnson, Gillis and O'Connell.

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Sgt. Ben Ransom, Ofc. Denisse Zermeno, Ofc. Daniel Humphreys, Ofc. Megan Drake, Sgt. Martin Grill, Village Attorney Lance Malina, HR Manager Trish Ivansek, Public Works Director Jeff Loster, Public Works Analyst Seth Jansen, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

President Adduci invited Phyllis Rubin up to the podium to make public comment.

Ms. Rubin apologized for some of her actions after the last Board Meeting. She also made public comment on the state of the sidewalks surrounding the Lake and Lathrop project. She also noted being in support of the Polystyrene Ban on the agenda that evening.

President Adduci invited Gene Collerd to the podium to make public comment.

Mr. Collerd made public comment speaking against the proposed traffic barriers in the Northeast quadrant of town and suggested some changes that he felt were not as obstructive.

President Adduci invited Elizabeth Overland up to the podium to make public comment.

Ms. Overland made public comment against the proposed barriers. She reported that the current installations have made her street busier and proposed the idea of additional stop signs to slow the speed of traffic.

President Adduci invited T. Michael up to the podium for public comment.

Mr. Michael gave public comment against the proposed traffic installations.

President Adduci invited Mindy Credi up to the podium to make public comment.

Ms. Credi reported that the Village did not lower the United States flag at Village Hall in honor of those lost in the September 11th terror attacks. She also requested the Village Board pass an ordinance to never forget to lower the United States flag again.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Brennan reported attending the LemonAID Charity Stand and thanked the Village Staff who attended the event. She also noted the charities that the event chose to support.

Trustee Brennan stated that a resident won an award in the One Earth Film event and recommended everyone attend the event. Finally, Trustee Brennan reported on a new Illinois State Law that allows people to utilize their own refillable containers at restaurants and retail stores. She asked that the Village publicize the new law.

Clerk Keller had nothing to add.

Trustee Vazquez reported attending a 9/11 related event at Elgin Community College. He also commented that Starbucks encourages the usage of re-usable containers as discussed by Trustee Brennan.

Trustee Bachner gave a land acknowledgement and reported attending the LemonAID event. She also recognized the significance of 9/11 and thanked the Village's first responders.

President Adduci asked for a moment of silence in honor of the anniversary of 9/11. After the moment of silence, President Adduci apologized on behalf of the Village for not having the flag lowered. President Adduci also reported attending the LemonAID event. She also thanked the Village's first responders. President Adduci also mentioned the One Earth Film Festival and the local resident who won an award.

a. Lake & Lathrop Project Schedule Update

President Adduci asked Mark McKinney of Sedgwick properties to give an update on the Lake and Lathrop project.

Mr. McKinney provided an update on the project. He noted that the electrician has been on site and some of the necessary steel fabrication components are close to being finished. Mr. McKinney reported that he did not have an update regarding the financial side of the project but that they are aware of the deadline.

President Adduci reminded Mr. McKinney about the state of the sidewalks.

He stated that they are aware of the sidewalks but do not have a timeline on when it will be completed.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Presentation

Police Chief James O'Shea provided background information on the presentation and the ABLE program which is a Georgetown University Law Center Program that empowers and educates officers to prevent misconduct, reduce mistakes and promote officer health and wellness. He invited Sgt. Ben Ransom and Detective Denise Zermeno to give the presentation.

Before beginning the presentation Sgt. Ransom pointed out the new Crime Prevention Officer Megan Drake who will be taking over his previous role.

Sgt. Ransom and Detective Zermeno gave the presentation on ABLE

Deputy Police Chief Greenwood gave comments about the program.

b. Challenge Coin Presentation

Deputy Police Chief Greenwood and Sgt. Ransom passed out challenge coins to the Village Board.

Sgt. Ransom gave a presentation on the new Challenge Coin. Sgt. Ransom noted that the coin was designed by a group of volunteers from the Police Department.

Sgt. Ransom also explained some of the history surrounding challenge coins and their origins. He stated that Challenge Coins date back to WW1 as a way to display pride of one's unit and the new River Forest coin is for current and former members of the department to display their pride in their service to the community.

Trustee Bachner had a question regarding the ABLE Program and asked if there are any quantitative measurements to analyze the program.

Sgt. Ransom stated that one measurement method would be positive interactions in the field.

Deputy Police Chief Greenwood stated that community outreach is also an important aspect in this program.

c. Illinois Traffic Safety Award

Police Chief O'Shea invited Ofc. Dan Humphreys and Scott Kristiansen, the Program Director from the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge, up to the podium to give a presentation on the Award.

Ofc. Humphreys gave background on the award and its criterion.

Mr. Kristiansen presented the award. He stressed that this program is about more than who wrote the most tickets.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - August 28th, 2023
- b. Accounts Payable - August 2023 - \$1,782,014.16
- c. Monthly Department Reports
- d. Change Order - Sewer Ling Project - \$2,512.00
- e. Change Order - 2023 Street Patching Project - \$1,917.45

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to approve items a through e. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: Trustees Gillis, O'Connell, Johnson

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

- c. Sustainability Commission - Amending the River Forest Village Code to Prohibit the Use of Polystyrene Foam Food ware - Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Brennan to approve an Ordinance Amending the River Forest Village Code to prohibit the use of Polystyrene Foam Foodware. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Public Works Analyst Jansen gave background on the proposed Ordinance. He reported. He stated that this ordinance is based of proposed state legislation and a similar ordinance in Oak Park. He also stated that the ordinance has the same implementation timeline as Oak Park.

Trustee Brennan asked if drinkware is included in the term foodware.

Mr. Jansen stated that the intent of the ordinance is to encompass all polystyrene food items, and drinkware is mentioned in the ordinance's introductory clauses

Trustee Bachner asked how this will impact grocery stores.

Mr. Jansen stated that grocery stores have exclusive exemptions.

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: Trustees Gillis, O'Connell, Johnson

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

9.UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Award of Contract - Madison Street Development Site Fence - \$55,500.00 - Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance Waiving Chapter 8 (Fences) Of Title 4 (Building Regulations) For The Installation Of Fencing At Village Owned Properties In The Madison Street Tif District And Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract For Fence Installation. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

President Adduci invited Susan Altier up to the podium to make public comment regarding Agenda Item 10.a.

Ms. Altier reported living near the property and provided context surrounding the project site and the proposed fence. She stated that neighbors in the neighborhood initially asked for rod-iron fencing to form a barrier that she felt would actually keep people from entering the empty lots. She also asked how tall the fence would be and for clarification on the access points in the fences.

Mr. Walsh reported that the fence will be 4 feet everywhere except for the portions neighboring the homes. He also provided clarification on the access points.

Trustee Bachner asked if the residents agreed with the height of the privacy fence.

Mr. Walsh stated that the fence heights were requested by the residents.

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Brennan

Absent: Trustees Gillis, O'Connell, Johnson

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Brennan, Bachner.

Absent: O'Connell, Johnson, Gillis.

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk