

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SPECIAL COMMUNITY OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022**

A special Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 6:00 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 6:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

3. DISCUSSION: FY 2023 – 2027 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner presented the Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027 Capital Improvement Plan to the Village Board of Trustees. She stated that she is seeking consensus from the Village Board on the Capital Improvement Plan. She commented that there are six categories within the Capital Improvement Plan. She remarked the categories are Buildings & Improvements, Vehicles, Equipment, Information Technology, Streets, Sidewalks, & Alleys, and Water/Sewer Improvements

She stated at Village Hall, the Firing Range requires the critical replacement of various pieces of equipment that are malfunctioning and need to be replaced sooner than anticipated at a cost of \$33,477. She remarked the front door and control system at Village Hall require replacement at a cost of \$11,000. She stated that the HVAC unit at Village Hall required replacement at a cost of \$32,000. She remarked that the Public Works Garage requires a rebuilt salt storage shed at a cost of \$35,000.

Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner commented that Staff recommends the replacement of the Police Chief’s vehicle at a cost of \$43,849 from the CERF fund. She stated that Staff recommends the replacement of a Police squad at a cost of \$59,327 from the CERF fund. She commented that squad cars are generally replaced on a rotating three-year schedule to avoid replacement of all cars at one time. She remarked that some purchases have been deferred due to

vehicle availability, low mileage, or other budget considerations. She commented that costs include police equipment and installation. She stated that future costs assume the funding needed for electric vehicles.

She stated that Staff recommends the replacement of the Fire Department vehicle assigned to the Fire Marshal at a cost of \$33,500. She remarked the vehicle is utilized for public education and inspection duties. She stated that Staff recommends the replacement of Ambulance 215, the Fire Department Advanced Life Support transport vehicle at a cost of \$230,000. She commented that the existing ambulance will be rotated into a reserve position once it is replaced.

She commented that Staff recommends the critical replacement of the dump truck #44 at a cost of \$200,000 and pick-up truck #48 at a cost of \$41,200. She stated that Truck 44 was previously refurbished to extend its useful life but is now in need of replacement. She commented that Truck #48 is used to plow parking lots and alleys during snow events and assist during leaf collection.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Equipment

Ms. Scheiner stated that Staff recommends the replacement of Police Department handheld and in-car radios at a cost of \$40,411, and the Street Camera Strategic Plan Implementation Phase 2 at a cost of \$105,144. She commented that staff recommends the purchase of a SCBA Air Compressor for use by the Fire Department at a cost of \$45,000. She commented that Staff is requesting \$25,000 for planning for an electric vehicle charging station for the Village fleet.

Five-Year Capital Improvement PLAN: Information Technology

Ms. Scheiner commented that staff recommends contingent network improvements at a cost of \$161,620. She stated that the cost consists of a Hyper Converged Infrastructure System at a cost of \$115,000, switch Replacement for \$43,900, and an Uninterruptible Power Source (UPS) at a cost of \$2,720. She commented that staff recommends contingent software upgrades at cost of \$145,100, computer replacements at a cost of \$47,000, and IT security initiatives at a cost of \$33,000.

Five-Year Capital Improvement PLAN: Streets

Ms. Scheiner stated that Street Patching will cost \$100,000. She commented that various locations to be patched are identified on a continual basis. She remarked that the 50/50 Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter will cost \$65,000. She remarked that annual inspections of sidewalks curbs and gutters are conducted to identify and eliminate trip hazards throughout the community, particularly in areas near schools, parks, and commercial/retail areas. She commented that Staff recommends Parking Lot Improvements at the Public Works Garage at a cost of \$150,000.

She commented that the Street Improvement Program (SIP) will cost an estimated \$400,000. She stated that the streets to be resurfaced include Iowa Street (from dead end east of Park Ave to Harlem Ave), Monroe Avenue (from Augusta to Chicago), and William Street (from Augusta to Chicago).

She stated that the Street Maintenance Program will cost an estimated \$100,000. She commented the project involves crack sealing at various locations & modified pavement preservation/rejuvenation to extend the life of the street; locations to be determined late winter/early Spring to maximize each application's efficiency. She remarked the Bike Plan Implementation will cost \$46,000. She commented that the plan involves the striping and signage installation along certain Illinois Department of Transportation routes (Lake Street and the eastern portion of Madison Street). She commented that the REBUILD Illinois Project will establish an allowable scope of work for a project to be completed in Fiscal Year 2024 at a cost of \$20,000.

Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Water/Sewer

She commented that the Sewer Lining will cost approximately \$140,000. She remarked that lining sewers at various locations based on their condition to prevent the failure and costly replacement of sewer mains. She stated that locations will be reviewed and bid out by Staff. She remarked that sewer point repairs will cost approximately \$35,000. She stated that the purpose of this program is to improve the Village's sewer system by replacing failing sections of the sewer main. She stated that the replacement pump of the water distribution system will cost an estimated \$110,000, Water Tower improvements will cost \$10,000, Underground Reservoir improvements \$18,000, Water Main Replacement \$425,000. She commented that an installation of an 8" water main on LeMoyné between Park Avenue and Franklin Avenue and between Ashland Avenue and Lathrop Avenue will be needed. She stated that hydrant replacement at various locations that are too low to the ground will cost an estimated \$10,000. She remarked the Lake Street berm extension will cost \$90,000.

She stated that the Village will continue to evaluate programs, facility improvements, and the Village's fleet through the lenses of sustainability and smart city technology to incorporate those initiatives in the Capital Improvement Plan. She commented that the Village will also continue to implement recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan, Street Camera Optimization Plan, and Stormwater Master Plan. She stated that Staff will continue to explore grant opportunities, new ideas, and new partnerships within the Village and with surrounding communities including the Village of Maywood pursuant to the Twin Village's Covenant. She remarked that Staff will continue to monitor the effects of the Consumer Price Index on the cost of items and availability of supplies. She remarked that energy, supply-chain bottlenecks and the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to the CPI 7% increase over the past year. She remarked that recent forecasts show the CPI dropping back down with moderate increases of approximately 2% moving forward. She stated that revenue streams will also be monitored and adjusted as needed.

She stated that Staff is seeking direction regarding Projects to fund in Fiscal Year 2023 and other projects not included in the Capital Improvement Project that should be under consideration.

Trustee O'Connell asked if the equipment in the Fire Department that fills the tanks has been limping along. He commented that if the equipment fails, how quickly could the Village replace the equipment.

Fire Chief Gartner commented that it would take three months to replace the equipment and a

contingency plan is in place.

Trustee O'Connell asked about the availability of funds from grants to municipalities for electric vehicle charging stations.

President Adduci responded to Trustee O'Connell by stating that there was a settlement, and that the Federal Government's 1.2 trillion-dollar infrastructure plan could help fund needs in the Village.

Trustee O'Connell asked Public Works Director Jeff Loster about the \$9,200 for energy updates and whether the Village can move that up and save funds. He asked what the \$9,200 is for.

Jeff Loster commented that an audit identified energy savings from new technology, mainly lighting and that is what the \$9,200 is for.

Trustee O'Connell asked Jeff Loster what the \$198,000 for a permeable pavement system is for.

Director Loster stated that those funds are for maintenance of that system.

President Adduci asked about the water main & sewer replacement plan.

Director Loster stated that typically the Village does some water main & sewer replacement every year, but this year the Village decided to skip it for the lead service replacement program. He commented that the Village is not getting back to our annual water main replacement program. He commented that phase two of this program has been off the books for two years now.

President Adduci commented on how managing purchases is important based on current vs. future costs. She remarked that streets & curbs need to be handled diligently and communicated clearly.

Trustee Bachner asked Jeff Loster how the Village can coordinate street work for residents.

Jeff Loster commented that residents are put into a schedule and ranked based on need.

Trustee Bachner stated that she received a note from Cook County regarding the Harlem viaduct and if there is a grant that may be available. She asked Jeff Loster if the Village is looking into it.

Director Loster stated that it has been a struggle coordinating all the organizations involved.

President Adduci stated that there is a lot of garbage along North Avenue and Madison Street and that needs to be addressed.

Trustee Johnson asked about how new issues are brought up to be included.

President Adduci responded to Trustee Johnson by stating that he can bring it up in a meeting and it will be addressed.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he thanks Staff for addressing the sidewalks. He asked Jeff Loster if the Village can modify the streetlights. He commented that senior residents would like more lighting versus the residents feeling that it is light pollution.

Director Loster stated that the Village can install shields for residents, and that LED lighting has been installed.

Trustee Bachner asked Lisa Scheiner how often the Village looks at new vendors for Information Technology.

Ms. Scheiner stated that the Village has a Request for Approval process for all Information Technology needs.

Trustee Bachner asked Jeff Loster about the fire hydrants being too low.

Director Loster stated that over time the older hydrants become too low to the ground, and you can't swing a wrench to open them.

Trustee Bachner stated that the Capital Improvement Project is up 7% and that it will go down in the future.

Village Administrator Murphy commented that the Capital Improvement Project increased by 7% this year based on supply & demand that have drove prices up. He commented that current forecast models indicate a stabilization in 2023.

President Adduci remarked that the Village did get funds from the Federal Government for COVID relief.

Trustee Brennan asked Police Chief O'Shea whether other municipalities use the Police Department firing range or if they lease it from the Village.

Chief O'Shea stated that other municipalities are not presently renting the Police Department's firing range.

Trustee Brennan asked Lisa Scheiner about the Public Works Garage and whether it might be relocated.

Lisa Scheiner responded that there were discussions about moving the Public Works garage many years ago and the Village has investigated other locations. She stated that due to the Village being land-locked, the Village was unable to find a suitable alternative location.

Trustee Brennan asked Jeff Loster about the Lake Street berm and the \$55,000 cost for Cook County fees.

Director Loster stated that the County quoted those fees to the Village. He commented that it seems that the County lacks motivation to get this project done, so there may be other projects that the

Village can investigate to help assuage the costs from the County. He commented that this option is not feasible to pursue and there is a mechanism in place to deal with flooding issues along Lake Street.

Trustee Gillis asked about Information Technology security and whether the Village is secure.

Jon Pape responded that there are cyber security investments being made to protect information.

President Adduci stated that she would like to thank Lisa Scheiner and the Village staff for putting the Capital Improvement Project together.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez, seconded by Trustee O'Connell. The Village Board of Trustees Special Committee of the Whole Meeting concluded at 7:15 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk