

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, October 11, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 11, 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, 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, Acting Fire Chief Robert Nortier, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks Drive. Ms. Cekander asked why the Village changed the ownership rules for the lateral sewer line and what did the rule specify before the rule change? She said in the past most buyers didn’t order a sewer line camera scope and now only about half do. She asked whether some homes do not have separated sewer and storm lines in the Village. Ms. Cekander indicated that some properties share a lateral line, like the townhouses on west Lake St. and asked if there are there others. She recommended that those that share lines should have reimbursement that extends farther. She noted that a key piece of the program is communication to residents about ongoing maintenance. She estimated that the risk to owners is of at least 75% of the line based on her residence. She also noted that there is a sizable risk to the homeowner and a small risk to the Village. She said that homeowners could incur higher risk than \$10K-\$15K and that included roadway repair. She noted that homes on the 500 block of Keystone have a much longer sewer line to the street. She stated that since the Village reimbursed 100% of the work required for the 1500 block of Monroe, that the Village should consider providing equity to all residents, especially those that have already incurred costs for repairs. She stated she also had a couple of comments on the Bike disposal plan. She asked to have that announcement put that in newsletter as parents don’t know where their kids’ bikes are. She also mentioned that the Village is searching for a new Village Manager and noted that Oak Park has resident input, and she stated she would like River Forest to have the same.

Mark McKinney, from Sedgewick Properties spoke on behalf of the Lake & Lathrop development and stated they have another residential sale. He stated it was for a Penthouse unit and the project is now at 55% residential sales. He stated good progress has been made over the past two weeks related to sales.

Robert Armalas, 1501 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Armalas requested the Board to affirm action tonight to stop cut through traffic at the northeast area of the Village. He said hopefully they can all agree local streets are not truck routes or alternate routes for Harlem or North. He said he believes it is a stain on the community and that it is ruining his experience.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. A Resolution Honoring the 100th Anniversary of St. Luke School

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve a Resolution Honoring the 100th Anniversary of St. Luke School.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci read the Resolution aloud and presented it to Principal Andrew DiMarco of St. Luke School in honor of their 100th anniversary. President Adduci stated she was very proud of St. Luke's.

Principal DiMarco said he was thrilled to have 100 years of Catholic education and that he looks forward too many more years within River Forest.

Trustee O'Connell said he hoped that everyone is enjoying the great weather and hopes everyone is taking advantage of it. Trustee O'Connell mentioned that all the trustees should have received a letter from McDonald's, from the government relations division. He said he is reaching out to all the educators in town because there is a free breakfast at McDonald's for each of them. He stressed how important they are and that they do a great job, and that he respects what they do for our community.

President Adduci expressed a Thank You to McDonald's for this generous offer.

Trustee Johnson wished all the residents a happy fall season, and to note all the rules and regulations regarding Halloween so that residents are in compliance and celebrating in a safe way.

Trustee Brennan wanted to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day, and noted that many other states and municipalities celebrate this day in place of, or in addition to, Columbus Day. She

said that this is the first year a United States President recognized this holiday. She mentioned a nice event this past Saturday, the Maywood Fine Arts Pumpkin Patch walk for fine arts. She said it was walking together from Maywood to River Forest and back to support equity in the arts. She expressed a thank you, especially to Cheryl Cargie and Trustee Erika Bachner for their help in making this event happen. She also thanked the River Forest Public Works Department for helping set it up in Keystone Park. She mentioned that she had the privilege to attend the first Truth in Racial Healing and Transformation Workshop meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year hosted by Dominican University. She noted that it was interesting to hear reports of all the different working groups. She said she is interested in joining some of the working groups and representing the Village. She noted that she is starting to get information about events that are coming up and she is not sure about a protocol or rule for what should be going on Village calendar, or not?

Mr. Pape responded that if you look at things on a case by case basis, for events that are in River Forest or for River Forest residents, then they would be included on the calendar. He said these Dominican events would meet that criteria.

Trustee Vazquez wanted to wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween. He noted that on October 7th the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus met and the Age Friendly Collaborative met, which is chaired by President Adduci. He noted a presentation from DePaul Institute on Housing Studies, which provided some general research on housing issues. He noted that Jeff Smith from DePaul came to our collaboration because he was interested in specific feedback for our seniors and all municipalities and not just River Forest. He said a small committee/task force will be put together to address specific issues that he should be incorporating as part of his study about older adults. He also saw a presentation from the Village of Arlington Heights regarding their study and action plan, which was on the topic of walkability. He said there will be more to come, and the next meeting is scheduled for December 1st.

Trustee Gillis mentioned that she attended the Village of River Forest Open House this past Saturday. She said in attendance was the River Forest Police Department who provided information on bike registration, and the Fire Department which gave out swag and had big firetrucks which the kids like. She also said the Village Public Works Department had big trucks there and the kids were very excited about that. She said the 911 Dispatch center was there and NICOR was there and they provided materials regarding improving home efficiency. She said every resident should take advantage of their free home efficiency study. She also said this is a combined program with ComEd. She said thank you to departments who were represented, and she said she had fun and learned about different services provided by the Village.

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 wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day and wanted to take the opportunity to recap what a land acknowledgment is and why we do it. She said a Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects indigenous people as the original stewards of the land. She said it is important

to understand the history of the land and the reason why we recognize the land is that we show an expression of gratitude and appreciation whose territory we share. She said it is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to take care of our community with that in mind. She said that explanation came from Dominican University and Northwestern University. She wanted to mention two documentaries on this subject – “Rumple”, celebrates Native American contributions to rock & roll; and “Wind River”, which deals with sexual assault on reservations, which provides a great tie to the acknowledgment of domestic violence month; and, an older movie, “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee”, and she wanted to mention a book, “Reflections - A History of River Forest”, by Harriet Hausman. She also provided an update for the DEI Advisory Group, stating in the past week we approved a DEI definition, which is something to help everybody start from same field of understanding. Trustee Bachner said we are also moving forward towards work we want to prioritize and accomplish. She wanted to acknowledge the Pumpkin Patch Parade and Maywood Fine Arts because it promoted equity in the fine arts. She said there were hundreds of parade goers and they ended up in Keystone Park. She noted that the walk from Maywood to Keystone Park was not that long, which indicates how close the two communities are. She wanted to mention Halloween and notes that in the Board’s packet today it was reported that there were 55 new cases of COVID in September. Trustee Bachner wanted to highly suggest that kids 11 and under to be wearing masks, have hand sanitizer, and have fun.

President Adduci wanted to remind residents Halloween trick or treating is Sunday from 3pm – 7pm. She said we are emphasizing mask wearing, staying safe, and cleansing hands because this is a time for everyone to enjoy Halloween and enjoy it safely. She noted the wonderful neighboring community events with Maywood. She reviewed the Tour de Proviso, stating Mayor Thompson in Broadview and gave them a warm welcome. President Adduci wanted to thank the staff who made it possible and for being so welcoming to our community. She thanked all mayors and all residents who participated in it. She also noted that she was honored to stand with Mayor Booker and Commissioner Cargie at the Pumpkin Patch Parade and that she enjoyed kicking off that event. She said Maywood Fine Arts is a great organization. She reported that she chaired the Age Friendly meeting and mentioned all the great presentation materials, noting that a lot of thought went behind these presentations.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2021
- b. Village Board of Trustee Executive Session Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2021
- c. Indigenous Peoples Day – Proclamation
- d. Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Resolution
- e. Resolution Endorsing the 2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region – Resolution
- f. Waiver of Formal Bid (Due to Competitive Quotation) and Award of Contract for Street Lighting (Green) Electricity with AEP Energy, Inc. at a rate of \$.04363 per kilowatt hour

- g. Waiver of Formal Bid (Due to Competitive Quotation) and Award of Contract for Pump Station (Green) Electricity with Dynegy Energy Services at a rate of \$.06603 per kilowatt hour
- h. Authorization to Donate Surplus Property – Bicycles – Ordinance
- i. Waiver of Formal Bids (Due to an Intergovernmental Agreement) and Approval of the Service Provider Contract with Municipal GIS Partners for \$42,922.00
- j. Monthly Department Reports
- k. September Financial Report
- l. Performance Measurement Report
- m. Accounts Payable – September 2021 – \$2,169,218.02
- n. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Brennan requested items E and F be pulled.

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-D and G-N.

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 O’Connell, to approve the Consent Agenda Items E-F.

Trustee Brennan asked to pull out item E as she felt that some of the details of this are important enough to be read into the record. She said by adopting this resolution is to keep these things in mind. She said this is what we are going to do and must do it. Trustee Brennan read aloud the mitigation targets, mitigation objectives, and adaptation objectives. She stated she is committed to building these targets, objectives and goals.

Trustee Bachner questioned if there is a reason for 2005 being the benchmark for the initiatives?

Trustee O’Connell suggested that year could have been the baseline.

Trustee Gillis commented that the baseline is from when they started with PlanItGreen in 2007. She said we are trying to get the information independently so that the Village will have their own metrics to measure performance. She said for example, we don’t presently have information on how to measure greenhouse gases from the train. She said the Metropolitan Mayors Conference has a separate team working with municipalities on how to enhance their metrics and this new resolution is something the MMC is asking all its members to adhere to as we work to do a regional climate action plan.

President Adduci thanked Trustee Brennan for pulling it Item E. She noted that they are committed to Climate Action Plan. She stated she read through this, noting the 53 municipalities because of Trustee Brennan's leadership as chair of the Sustainability Commission. She said we've done quite a bit. She said she is very proud from when Eric Simon was here talking about community solar. She said it is a wonderful commitment from our part.

Trustee Brennan questioned Item F. She wanted to clarify something in first paragraph and noted that electrical use in the Village Hall and Public Works is not "free", but that the residents of the Village pay those bills on behalf of the Village.

Director Loster noted that that is his understanding as well.

President Adduci commented that either way it still comes out of taxpayers' money.

Trustee Brennan said based on the report, it looks like ComEd is giving it to us for free, but that is not the case.

President Adduci asked if the first paragraph should be re-written?

Director Loster said there may be a fluctuation of pricing, and that the Village's consultant at Satori has encouraged us to sign the contracts immediately.

Trustee Brennan said an easy fix would be that other than saying the costs are provided free of charge by ComEd.

President Adduci said it's not ComEd paying out of their coffers, so striking the sentence makes sense.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$247.61
(Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest)

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$247.61.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None
Abstain: Trustee O'Connell
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Traffic and Safety Commission: Recommendation Regarding Comprehensive Traffic Study in Northeast Quadrant of Village

Director Loster summarized the history of this item. He said there are concerns of increased speed, volume of traffic, noise, and a general safety concern due to a lack of respect for signs on Lathrop to Harlem and North Ave to Greenfield. He reported that the Traffic and Safety Commission heard the issue, and the Commission recommended a study be performed of that area. He stated what is the best way to stem this issue.

Trustee O'Connell asked what the cost is.

Director Loster replied approximately \$10K-\$15K for the study.

Trustee Bachner gave a thanks to Mr. Armalas for his leadership on this as this is an increasingly bigger problem in our area. She thanked the residents who emailed in and the Committee for proposing this study. She said there is signage missing, a lot of vehicles that are avoiding traffic flows and commercial routes, and there are businesses down North Avenue that use these streets. She said some comments provided in packet talked about weight limits and she is eager to see what study will say. She said we encounter many accidents off Harlem and LeMoyne. She said she is glad that Mr. Armalas has led this and stuck with it.

Trustee Johnson noted they would be mitigating things because of where North is located and asked if we should have input from the other side?

Director Loster said he did not believe that Elmwood Park would need to be included at this time. He said some of the potential treatments may get into IDOT approval. He said it is not something Elmwood Park would necessarily have input on.

Trustee O'Connell asked if the intent of the study was just for this area?

Director Loster said yes, at this time.

Trustee Vazquez asked about the scope of the study at this time, whether it is only up to Lathrop and not west of Lathrop towards Thatcher. He asked who drew the line at Lathrop?

Director Loster said that was part of the initial discussion with Mr. Armalas. He stated the concern seems to be centered around Harlem and North, noting that when congestion starts people begin trying to skirt around it.

Trustee Brennan said she agrees with doing this study. She said she is wondering whether you try to do mitigation as you do the study? She asked do we enforce stop signs or would that taint the study?

Director Loster said he didn't think there would be a problem with enforcement, but once the study begins, he recommended we hold on enforcement to get a more realistic count on what is happening.

Clerk Keller asked if we can we implement changes now, or is there a procedural reason for study first?

Director Loster said the concerns become where do you act, where do you not and what happens to other areas. He said traffic consultants are the ones experienced enough to know what to look out for in that regard.

Trustee Gillis asked how long would it take if we approve them to start, stating having a study we get good information.

Trustee Vazquez clarified that the study would provide a recommendation.

Director Loster said they did not have a timeline for when the study would begin.

Chief O'Shea mentioned that the study is a great idea. He noted they have been doing ongoing traffic enforcement and education for this area and beyond. He said that the one way signs by St. Vincent are being ignored. He said driving habits across the United States have declined and signs are being ignored. He said there is GPS technology that directs you into River Forest as an alternative route to avoid traffic. He said they have been writing tickets, and don't know if we can educate or enforce our way out of this issue. He said what begs for this study is the amount of violations that are happening, and the study is a great first step. He said they would be willing to hold off on enforcement during the study. Secondly, he mentioned a comment regarding the bike issue brought forth earlier. He said there are ongoing enforcement missions, they run serial numbers, identify owners, and they go and try to track down serial numbers for bicycle owners. He said the detective unit exhausts all attempts to locate bicycle owners prior to donating them.

Director Loster said one more comment regarding the parking along Greenfield for Fenwick events, noting he looked at Fenwick's sports schedule. He said if we were to proceed with the study, they would pull that element out of it because no realistic numbers now.

President Adduci said there is Board consensus to move forward.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Sewer Lateral Subsidy Program

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gillis, to approve the Sewer Lateral Repair Reimbursement Program as proposed.

Director Loster started by presenting results from the last meeting regarding reimbursement as part of that meeting. He said ownership of the sewer doesn't change, and the property owner owns the lateral from the building to the main. He said ongoing maintenance remains the responsibility of the property owner. He said the only qualifying issue will be structural issues and not regular maintenance issues. He noted the location of damage itself, and the discovery of damage, is the responsibility of property owner. He said a private contractor can televise the line, measure out where damage has occurred, then staff gets involved, and staff makes a determination. He said repair of the damage must include complete replacement of the pipe from the curb to the main, the idea being is that this is a one-time shot.

In response to a question about eligible repairs, Director Loster said he would make the determination that the sewer lateral needs to be replaced.

Trustee Brennan said so separation needs to be repaired.

Clerk Keller commented they would tear up the whole street anyway.

Trustee Johnson noted that the residents have to notify you. He asked if Staff is going to recommend contractors?

Director Loster said yes. He said regarding the lead sewer line repair, that was challenging. He said this will be easier since there are a lot more contractors. He said we'll still continue to point people to licensed contractors, and they are going to be trying to help residents as much as possible.

Trustee O'Connell asked about the 72-hour notice and how do we get involved or not?

Director Loster said he did not know what the answer is regarding the timeline notification, but didn't want to remove the timeline and leave it open ended. He discussed various scenarios in relation to risk to public safety. He said it is tough to have one timeframe for all these issues.

Ms. Scheiner said if the resident is making a good faith effort to make progress, enforcement doesn't come into play.

Trustee Brennan asked if the program is only available to residential properties, or residential/commercial? She asked how do we determine the responsibility of each?

Ms. Scheiner said if it's serving residential and commercial, then yes.

Director Loster said it is scaled back from commercial, because it is not the intent of program. He said we can include mixed use, and maybe the breakdown is different.

Trustee Brennan asked if our intent is to pay for residential, just stick with residential. She said some properties share lateral lines.

Director Loster said he discussed this challenge at a Multi-family property. He said the problem is that when that development took place, the main sewer line is running through 5-6 backyards. He said some people see back up at different times than others. He said if a resident came to the Village, the reimbursement goes out to the resident for the same.

Trustee Brennan recommends that we draft agreements and make it specific in definition of the parties, that it say residential property owner. She suggested to make it very clear it is a residential owner.

Trustee Bachner wanted to thank Staff for touching on multi-unit private property. She noted in the memo that some things may be determined on a case by case basis.

Director Loster remarked that they are keeping consistent with lead line replacement language. He said each issue will be site specific, and Staff wants flexibility to try to work with residents if it seems appropriate.

President Adduci noted that communication of the program is essential. She said we need to spend some time to think about how the communication will roll out.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Pape 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 Bachner, to enter into Executive Session to discuss: the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Village; 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 9:18 p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Keller.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Roll call:
Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez
Absent: None
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk