

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, November 8, 2021**

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 8, 2021 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, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez  
*(joined the meeting at 6:20)*, Village Clerk Jonathan Keller

Absent: None

Also, Present: Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebor, 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**

None.

**4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee O’Connell stated that he would like to remind residents that the Village website is full, vibrant and up to date. He stated that if there is any information that residents are not seeing, please notify the Village. He commented that Village communications remain the main source of information for Village residents and encouraged residents to continue to visit the website.

Trustee Johnson stated that he had no comment.

Trustee Brennan stated she viewed the recording of the Sheridan presentation on dementia. She commented that she learned about the facilities and services offered by the Sheridan as well as the associated costs. She commented that her takeaways from the meeting were the number of Americans with dementia is set to increase from 6 million currently to 13 million by 2050. She commented that 100% of the Sheridan residents are vaccinated, and the Sheridan is willing to answer any resident questions on senior needs such as medical

equipment, referrals, rehabilitation and Medicare questions. She stated the first in person dementia training will be held at the Sheridan on November 15, 2021 from 10:30 am - 11:45 am for leaders and influencers of business and organizations in River Forest who are interested in creating dementia awareness.

Trustee Gillis stated that there is still a pandemic and urged resident to get vaccinated. She mentioned that 63% of residents have both shots and would like to see vaccination rates increase.

Trustee Bachner began with a land acknowledgment, stating that this land was once and still is inhabited by Indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She mentioned that children ages 5 through 11 years old are now eligible to be vaccinated and certain groups are eligible for booster shots. She stated that she encourages residents to get vaccinated.

President Adduci stated that the Village vaccination rate is close to 70%.

Trustee Gillis responded by stating the vaccination rate is 71% have two dose of the vaccine and 78.1% have one, per the attached packet.

Trustee Brennan stated she would like to pull Consent Agenda items H and J.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2021
- b. Village Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2021
- c. Village Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2021
- d. Village Board of Trustee Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 25, 2021
- e. Village Board of Trustee Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2021
- f. Village Board of Trustee Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2021
- g. Native American Heritage Month Proclamation
- h. Award of contract to Kenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. to complete a Traffic Study in the northeast corner of River Forest for a not-to-exceed cost of \$13,500.00
- i. Monthly Department Reports
- j. Accounts Payable – October 2021 – \$2,288,556.37
- k. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve the Consent Agenda Items A as amended, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, K.

Trustee Gillis stated she would like her Trustee comments in the minutes amended on the subject of sustainability and greenhouse measurements. She stated that she would like the minutes to indicate that there are currently robust measurements and they are seeking to improve those measurements further.

President Adduci asked if the minutes can be amended.

Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner responded that the minutes can be changed to make the corrections Trustee Gillis requested.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Vazquez

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda items H and J.

Trustee Brennan stated that she requested Consent Agenda Item H be removed due to a resident's concern on the scope of the traffic study where the speed monitoring is taking place. She reported that the resident requested changes to speed monitoring.

Jeff Loster stated that he corresponded with the resident to address his concerns. He stated that the resident's concerns will be addressed in the traffic study scope of services. He remarked that if any additional speed studies need to be conducted, he will present an amendment of the scope of services to the Village Board.

Regarding Item J, Trustee Brennan stated that a resident asked her why the Village was paying for cleanup costs at the Lake and Lathrup development site instead of the developer.

Ms. Scheiner stated the Village cited the property developer with regard to the weeds on the property. She commented that the issue was adjudicated and the developer is going to pay a fine and reimburse the Village for the cleanup costs.

## **6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

- a. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$130.67  
*(Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest)*

Trustee Gillis made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$130.67.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Absent: Trustee Vazquez

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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

None.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Acceptance of the Estimate of the 2021 Corporate (aggregate) Property Tax Levy - \$8,489,113 (\$8,753,653 including Debt Service)

Trustee Johnson made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to accept the Estimate of the 2021 Corporate (aggregate) Property Tax Levy - \$8,489,113.

Finance Director McAdams stated that Village Staff is requesting acceptance of an estimate of the 2021 corporate (aggregate) property tax levy in the amount of \$8,489,113. She stated that there was an increase of 2.18% over the 2020 extended corporate tax levy of \$8,308,048 from 2020. She remarked that in 2020, the Village Board of Trustees adopted a tax levy that did not include increases associated with the Consumer Price Index and new construction projects to alleviate some of the financial challenges residents faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that a modest increase is being recommended for the 2021 tax levy. She stated that the property tax increase on existing property will be 1.4% due to the December 2019 to December 2020 increase in the Consumer Price Index as permitted per the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). The balance of the increase, or 0.78%, is due to property taxes on the estimated amount of new construction for 2021 (\$4,000,000). She remarked that this is a very conservative estimate considering the Sheridan Assisted Living Facility was added to the tax roll for 2021. She stated that by not including the full value of the new construction dollars, River Forest property tax payers will benefit as a whole. She commented that although the impact on individual homeowners will vary, the average increase in the corporate levy for individual homeowners should be about 1.4%, or the increase in the CPI.

She stated that the Corporate Levy to be approved is for \$8,489,113. The debt service amount included above is the full amount of the 2021 available Debt Service Extension Base. She commented that the Debt Service Extension Base is the amount the Village is authorized to levy for principal and interest payments without a referendum. She stated that the final levy for the 2020 series General Obligation Bonds that were for public works projects including street improvements were included in the 2020 levy. She commented that the Village plans to issue bonds this winter to fund additional public works projects to utilize the Village's full amount of the authorized debt service extension base. She remarked the amount of the debt service levy will be included in the 2021 bond ordinance approved by the Board and will be filed with the County following approval. Finance Director McAdams recommended the Board approve the Estimate for the 2021 Corporate (Aggregate) Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$8,489,113.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

#### **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 O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by 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 11:35 p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Keller.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vasquez, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 11:36 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk