

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on November 17<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 7:01 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bochenek, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Deputy Police Chief Michael Swierczynski, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

During public comment, Margie Cekander addressed the term limit referendum. She requested that the Village seek a separate opinion from the Illinois Attorney General’s office regarding the status of the referendum and posed several questions for the Board to respond to.

Phyllis Rubin commended the new holiday lights at Village Hall and expressed concerns about the proposed term limits referendum. She suggested that the Village seek an opinion from the Illinois Attorney General’s office regarding the referendum.

Tom Cloud shared the issues he encountered with his fire alarm and provided

suggested language the Village could use to inform residents. He also discussed the Washington Boulevard traffic improvements, recognizing the benefits of the proposed changes while noting the lack of bicycle-related enhancements. Additionally, he expressed concerns about compliance fatigue and its potential impact on drivers. He further raised concerns regarding the Village's handling of the term limits referendum.

Cary McLean provided public comment regarding the term limit, raising multiple concerns about the referendum and expressing worry that the Village Board may be postponing action solely because they do not support term limits.

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

Trustee O'Connell extended Thanksgiving greetings to the community and highlighted the approaching tax bill deadline. He also drew attention to a local high school football game and expressed appreciation to the building department staff for their work and for providing their recent report.

Trustee Keskitalo wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and expressed gratitude to the building department for their efforts. She then read a statement addressing recent federal immigration actions and their effects on the community.

Trustee Brennan opened her remarks with a land acknowledgment and echoed points made by Trustees Keskitalo and O'Connell. She also agreed with public comments about the holiday lights, noting the brightness they provide, especially as the days grow shorter. She then voiced concerns about the organization and execution of the Village's Casual Conversation events, urging the Village to approach them in a more open and effective manner.

Village Clerk Castellano reminded residents to wear bright clothing when walking at night, highlighting that some areas of town can be quite dark.

Trustee Vazquez echoed the same comments as Clerk Castellano and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Trustee Gillis echoed the comments of the other Village Board members and highlighted the many local nonprofits in the area, reminding residents to consider making donations during this season.

Trustee Bachner thanked her fellow Board members for their remarks and shared her thoughts on recent federal immigration enforcement updates in the area. She also expressed concerns about how the Village organizes and conducts the Casual Conversation events.

President Adduci thanked her fellow Board members for their comments, wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, recognized Public Works Director Jack Bielak for his efforts with the holiday lights, and highlighted her attendance at a court proceeding regarding the Lake and Lathrop project, noting that she spoke before the judge.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- c. Administration Department Report
- d. Monthly Department Reports
- e. Account Payable – October 2025 – \$2,222,115.91
- f. October 2025 Financial Report
- g. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Amendment – Ordinance
- h. Purchase Approval – StarChase LLC – StarChase Guardian VX – \$40,000.00
- i. Intergovernmental Agreement – O’Hare Noise Compatibility Commission Membership – Resolution

Trustee Brennan asked to pull consent agenda item H for separate consideration.

Trustee Bachner asked that consent agenda item I be pulled as well.

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to approve consent agenda items A through G. Seconded by Trustee Keskitalo.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

- h. Purchase Approval – StarChase LLC – StarChase Guardian VX –  
\$40,000.00

Trustee Brennan asked Police Chief Greenwood for background information on this new piece of police technology.

Police Chief James Greenwood provided background information on this agenda item.

Trustees Bachner and Keskitalo raised concerns about who can access data from this device.

Chief Greenwood noted only the Village and StarChase can access the data but they cannot share it without the Village's approval.

Administrator Walsh explained that the device collects only a limited amount of data since it is used exclusively during active chases.

Trustee Bachner inquired whether there is a maximum duration for which the device can remain active.

Chief Greenwood responded that he believes the limit is around 24 hours, though he was not entirely certain and provided further information on how and when the device is utilized.

Trustee Bachner asked whether the projectile could cause injury if it struck someone.

Chief Greenwood described the projectile as a large Nerf dart and stated that, given the short range of the device, he did not believe it could cause harm.

Trustee Brennan asked whether the Chief is aware of other municipalities that use this device.

Chief Greenwood stated Oak Brook, Downers Grove and several others do.

**MOTION** by Trustee Keskitalo to approve consent agenda item H. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- i. Intergovernmental Agreement – O'Hare Noise Compatibility  
Commission Membership – Resolution

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to approve consent agenda item I. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Trustee Bachner asked whether helicopters departing from O'Hare fall under the regulation of this commission.

Administrator Walsh responded that he does not believe these aircraft are within the Commission's purview.

Deputy Clerk Masella added that, during his time attending meetings as the Village's representative, he has never heard any discussion regarding helicopters.

Administrator Walsh noted that staff could conduct further investigation on the matter.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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

None.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. A Resolution Placing a Binding Referendum Regarding Term Limits for River Forest Officials on the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, Ballot

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to Approve a Resolution Providing for the Submission of a Binding Public Question Concerning the Terms of Office for the Village of River Forest at the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026. There was no second.

The motion failed.

## **9.NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Estimate of the 2025 Property Tax Levy – 1.90%

Finance Director Rosemary McAdams gave a presentation on the proposed tax levy and fielded questions from the Village Board.

Trustee Keskitalo asked how the library's portion of the tax is determined.

Director McAdams explained how the library's percentage is calculated.

President Adduci asked whether the library approves it at the board level and whether they are required to do so at that level.

Director McAdams confirmed that they do and then Village Attorney Malina provided an explanation on how municipal libraries operate. He also noted that the township is independent from this process.

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to accept the Estimate for the 2025 Corporate (Aggregate) Property Tax Levy in the amount of \$10,023,843. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to enter into Executive Session pursuant to pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to discuss the setting of a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None.

Nays: None

Motion Passes and the Village Board entered executive session at 7:36pm.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez, Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

**Roll call:**

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.



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Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Date: 12/15/25