

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, November 25, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 25, 2019 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 Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marta Kozbur, 1235 Monroe. Ms. Kozbur stated that she had never heard deer referred to as a problem in the 47 years that she has lived in the Village. She stated she was respectfully asking to postpone culling the deer. She asked that the Village get a fair and accurate account of what all the residents think with proper surveys and data. She inquired about alternatives to shooting the deer and stated this decision excluded the voices of many residents. In referencing the June 24 meeting, Ms. Kozbur stated she did not think she needed to attend because she did not have any issues with deer. She reiterated her request to postpone this decision until more research was done.

John Roeger, 7837 Greenfield. Mr. Roeger stated he sees this issue very clearly as related to infectious diseases caused by deer ticks. He spoke about the diseases and explained a tick’s life cycle. He noted that growing up as a Scout and going camping, you learned the importance of avoiding tick bites. He stated that children are playing in yards where deer go and that this is where they can pick up ticks. He shared that his daughter has Lyme disease and that several families in the Village have come to him to say their children have the same symptoms. He stated it is time to get rid of the deer.

Annie Wallis, 846 Monroe. Ms. Wallis called the Village a unique environment and stated that she treasures being this close to woods. She stated she did not think deer were a nuisance

and that she is shocked the Village is so far down the path in choosing a solution. She questioned what other solutions might be applied and stated they should be supported by data collected over time. She noted she appreciated there are serious concerns but asserted that this solution is not born out of data or surveys. She expressed concern about the cost of the contract. She stated this decision is anathema to what she thought she was moving to in coming to the Village.

Mary Vanker, 1234 Monroe. Ms. Vanker stated she has conducted research since learning in August of the discussion to cull deer. She stated she reached out to Village Administrator Palm and watched the video from the June 24 meeting. She questioned whether health and safety were supported as reasons for this decision and stated that there are no instances of chronic wasting disease in Cook County and that it is not known how or where residents contracted Lyme disease. She encouraged the Village to conduct a survey of residents to determine the risk of Lyme disease and stated pets are an early indicator for its risk to humans of contraction. Ms. Vanker asserted that there is not an adequate basis to conclude the Village needs to cull deer. She stated the Forest Preserve does not have data to support this decision and reiterated her request to conduct resident surveys to assess community attitudes. She asked that the Board defer any decision to cull deer at this time.

Gerri Humbert, 1319 Park. Ms. Humbert spoke about deer-car collisions and stated Division and Thatcher is a very busy and dangerous intersection. She stated the absence of stop signs and traffic signals causes cars to drive faster and creates a hotspot for collisions, noting that this is complicated and requires more study. Ms. Humbert also cautioned the use of taxpayer funds and inquired about cheaper options. She stated that fiscal stewardship of tax dollars is warranted and further stated there is no justification for this spending. She asserted that there is no evidence that deer culling will reduce collisions and suggested instead that the Village take extra measures to enforce driver caution. She reiterated that the Village needs data to justify this decision.

Keary Cragan, 914 Bonnie Brae. Ms. Cragan shared that she is an avid gardener and that deer eat her plants. She stated her solution is to get a mesh fence around her garden. She stated the Village has no data on deer population or migration and asserted there are false claims in the deer FAQ related to flooding. She commented that when it is too wet to move through the forest, the deer move into the residential areas. She expressed incredulity that the Village would spend money on this IGA rather than items listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Leslie Zimmerman, 906 Keystone. Ms. Zimmerman stated she selected her home because of its proximity to the Forest Preserve. She shared that she is a gardener and that in her 30 years of living in her home, her dogs have come in with ticks one or two times. She stated the Village can control deer with other measures. She recounted when a fawn was born in her backyard and another time when a deer was impaled on her fence. She stated there are a lot of nuisances but that she chose to live here because of the environment with its proximity to schools, Chicago, and the airport.

Askold Kozbur, 1235 Monroe. Mr. Kozbur expressed his concern about the possible shooting of deer. He stated he was bringing to the Board's attention alternatives to manage and coexist

with deer. He presented a plan from the Humane Society, which provides alternatives to killing deer. He asserted that culling is a last resort for a sick herd, which has not been demonstrated. He stated these alternatives are significantly less expensive, risky, and controversial. He suggested putting together a community task force committee to put together a plan of controlling and coexisting with deer. He asserted that unless deer are completely eliminated, they will keep coming back. Mr. Kozbur contemplated what other Village issues could use this money instead. He requested that the Village gather and review sufficient data to develop a logical plan, stating that anecdotal evidence should not be used in decision-making.

Mary Shoemaker, 633 Keystone. Ms. Shoemaker stated there are times when she has had over a dozen deer in her backyard and emphasized that it is a problem. She stated she did not know what the answer is but that the Village has to do something. She clarified that she is not saying no deer but that the number of deer has increased so greatly that she does not like going in her backyard in the evening. Ms. Shoemaker stated she loves the openness of River Forest and that she does not want to put up a fence. She asked that the Board take public safety and health into consideration, highlighting the concerns of the resident whose child has Lyme disease.

Dave Franek, 633 Keystone. Mr. Franek stated he has noticed the deer problems getting worse. He stated deer are supposed to be nocturnal, but he sees them in the middle of the afternoon. He stressed that there is an overpopulation of deer and noted he has not seen any correlation with the presence of deer and flooding. He asserted the population has exceeded its resources, so the deer are going where they should not be. He stated he has talked to numerous nurseries and that deer will eat anything if they are hungry. He emphasized consideration of public health and safety concerns. Mr. Franek further stated the deer problem has only gotten worse and will only get worse.

Jim Weiss, 1210 Franklin. Mr. Weiss stated his family loves deer and that deer are part of the special character of the Village. He requested the Village assess data behind what the problems are and consider whether Villagers view them as problems. He stated that questions such as whether the population has increased or if this is related to flooding need to be answered before entering into an IGA.

Jacqueline Stamm, 414 Edgewood. Ms. Stamm stated she is appalled by this and that she is against culling of any sort. She echoed others' comments about the beauty of River Forest, stating that it breaks her heart to hear the Village may be killing any deer. She stated deer are not the only tick host. Ms. Stamm requested that the Village find data that supports this decision before doing anything.

Gigi Hoke, 1037 Forest. Ms. Hoke stated she watched the video from the June 24 meeting and that she is in favor of culling the deer. She stated she thought there were some valid concerns about how it would be done but that the bottom line is the deer are overpopulated. She stated there are more deer now than 20 years ago and echoed John Roeger's statements regarding Lyme disease. She shared that she has two children who have been diagnosed with Lyme disease as well. She stated they do not hike or camp, nor have they vacationed in places

known to have Lyme disease. She explained research she has conducted that shows the disease has spread and that western suburbs are a hotspot. Ms. Hoke recounted the financial and emotional impact Lyme disease has had on her family, and she asserted the only explanation is that her children contracted the disease either in their yard or at soccer practice in Thatcher Woods. She stated they can debate how it is transmitted but that deer are the biggest animals, which means they carry more ticks. She implored that the Village do everything it can to prevent an outbreak, noting that treatments and symptoms are lifelong. She suggested the Village survey the residents about exposure to Lyme disease. Ms. Hoke stated that ultimately the Village should thin the deer population.

Ryan Tetrick, 562 Keystone. Mr. Tetrick shared his experience looking for a home when moving from Chicago and stated there was a deer in the backyard when viewing the house he ultimately purchased. He stated what sets River Forest apart is being on the doorstep of Chicago and nature. He stated he is excited to bring deer into his backyard and that he felt this decision would be destroying and degrading what makes River Forest a unique place to live.

David Raino-Ogden, 559 Edgewood. Mr. Raino-Ogden stated he is not sure if he is for or against culling but that he too has seen an increased presence of deer. He shared research he found showing that five acres of healthy forest are needed to support one healthy deer, but that one acre of gardens can support 10-20 deer. He stated this mismatch of a limited amount of forest and abundance of gardens, coupled with there being no natural predator for deer, will come to a head at some point. He recalled when Yellowstone Park eliminated the wolf population and how it destroyed the ecosystem. He emphasized that without a natural predator for deer, the Village will have to do something at some point.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once 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 Thanksgiving. Trustee Bachner also gave an update on the Village's Census preparations, noting that Census workers are needed to help connect with underrepresented groups.

Trustee Cargie wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Trustee Vazquez reported that the River Forest Dementia-Friendly group met earlier in the day and that they are continuing to work on meeting with local businesses about this initiative. He noted that Lake Theater will be sponsoring a free screening of *It's a Wonderful Life* for seniors on December 18 at 1PM and again at 7PM. He stated that the Oak Park Memory Café is growing. Additionally, he noted that the Village has received official notification of its acceptance into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Trustee Brennan reported that the Great Pumpkin Smash had 512 pumpkins or 4,860lbs. She noted that pumpkins produce methane, and this event helps to divert that from landfills.

Additionally, she stated the importance of keeping pumpkins out of the streets because leaf collection is paid by weight. She stated this translates into \$125 of savings for the Village.

Trustee Henek congratulated the OPRF High School students who achieved perfect scores on the ACT. She announced that she is the coordinator for a holiday gift and food basket program and stated they need volunteers, especially drivers, on December 14 at the United Lutheran Church. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, safe travels, and encouraged everyone to shop local this holiday season.

Trustee O'Connell thanked the Board for allowing him to participate via telephone for the past few meetings. He praised Public Works for doing a great job with the weather's sudden turn. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.

President Adduci noted that the Census helps bring dollars to the community. She stated she is on the CommunityWorks Advisory Board and is the chair of the Leadership Lab subcommittee and reported she attended a recent meeting. She described the training program as being for community leaders to connect to local issues and noted that Trustees Henek and Vazquez are past participants. President Adduci stated she also attended the OPRF Historical Museum gala last week.

5. PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 10 AND 20 OF THE BOND ISSUANCE NOTIFICATION ACT (BINA) OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AS AMENDED ON THE PLANS TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX BONDS IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$525,000

President Adduci called the public hearing to order.

Administrator Palm explained the purpose of the public hearing, stating it is part of the Village's debt service extension base. He further explained that as a non-home rule community, the State allow the Village to issue limited bonds for purposes as it sees fit. The alternative, he explained, is to go out for referendum. He noted that the Village will use these funds for infrastructure projects such as street resurfacing.

There were no comments from the public during the public hearing, and Administrator Palm stated the Village did not receive any written comments on this matter.

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to close the public hearing.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Special Village Board Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019
- b. Waiver of Formal Bids (Due to an Intergovernmental Agreement) and Approval of a Supplemental Statement of Work with Municipal GIS Partners for \$41,901.00
- c. Waiver of Formal Bids (Due to State Bid Pricing) and Award of Contract to CDS Office Technologies for Computer Equipment Replacement for an amount not-to-exceed \$104,992
- d. Waiver of Formal Bids and Award of Purchase through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative a 2020 Ford Utility Police Interceptor AWD Vehicle from Currie Motors for \$38,500.00
- e. Change Order #1 (Final) for the 2019 Street Patching Project for \$12,185.00 – Resolution
- f. Change Order #1 (Final) for Thomas Street Alley Reconstruction for \$12,617.27 – Resolution
- g. Appointment of Victor Puscas, Jr. as a Back-up Administrative Hearing Officer
- h. Monthly Financial Report – October 2019
- i. Accounts Payable – October 2019 – \$1,914,658.31
- j. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez to approve the Consent Agenda items A, B, D- F, and H-I.

In response to questions from Trustee Cargie about items E and F, Director Anderson stated different materials were needed in order to complete some areas of street patching, and that the deteriorating manhole that was reconstructed was not identified until digging began.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve Consent Agenda item C.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie about bidding, Administrator Palm and Assistant to the Administrator Pape explained State bid pricing was offered and they were unable to locate other vendors who provided all the parts needed.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve Consent Agenda item G.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner about having more information about this appointment, President Adduci stated the purpose of the appointment is to allow for administrative hearings to continue in December because Judge Gulbrandsen is unavailable that date. She further noted this is a Village President appointment, and that in the future there will be a discussion to converting the position to a four-year appointment. Administrator Palm noted that there currently is no back-up official and without this appointment, the December docket would be pushed to a later date.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. Accounts Payable from the Economic Development Fund (\$11,141.28), Madison Street TIF Fund (\$1,636.76), and North Avenue TIF Fund (\$325.00) (*Trustee Vazquez Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve Accounts Payable from the Economic Development Fund (\$11,141.28), Madison Street TIF Fund (\$1,636.76), and North Avenue TIF Fund (\$325.00).

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Vazquez

Motion Passes.

- b. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$83.69 (*Trustee O'Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$83.69.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Motion Passes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

a. Zoning Board of Appeals – Request for Floor Area Ratio and Building Height Variations at 535 Monroe Avenue – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Sections 10-9-5 and 10-9-6 of the Zoning Ordinance at 535 Monroe.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie about when the plans were drawn, Michelle Elfvin, petitioner, stated that the current plans were drawn in September when they discovered the roof was buckling during construction. She stated the height of the structure is under the 35' limit. In response to follow up questions, she stated neither their contractor nor the architect mentioned anything about floor area ratio, and that there was no ill intent to use unapproved plans and they were trying to ensure the home was structurally sound.

Trustee O'Connell commented that a big step in the process was missed, and that the plans should have been resubmitted for review.

Trustee Cargie stated his concern is with the professionals – the contractor who showed unapproved plans to the inspector and the architect who did not resubmit the plans. He stated that the problem with granting the variation is that it could convert the process into one that seeks forgiveness rather than permission. He expressed concern about having to assess the credibility of applicants.

Ms. Elfvin stated she is upset with what has happened and thought the architect spoke only for himself and not her family at the Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, which is why she did not invite him to this meeting.

Trustee Henek commented that she attended the ZBA hearing and her understanding was that the architect said he drew up new plans to match the roof's construction, and that separate conversations between the husband and contractor resulted in the heightened knee-walls.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Assistant Administrator Scheiner stated the Village stamps "approved" on every page of the plans to avoid issues where unapproved plans are mixed in with a cover page that is stamped approved. She noted that in conversations with the inspector (inspections are outsourced to B&F Construction Code Services), he was unable to confirm whether every page was stamped approved. However, she stated that the set he was presented with matched what was built. Assistant Administrator Scheiner also stated that the timeframe between the inspections and catching the non-conforming construction was approximately two weeks.

In response to a question from Administrator Palm about whether her general contractor was local, Ms. Elfvin stated she could not remember his name but that he lived approximately an hour away. Administrator Palm stated the trades, but not the general contractor, are required to be licensed with the Village.

Ms. Elfvín expressed frustration that since the inspections passed, they continued construction. She reiterated that they are not trying to get away with anything.

Trustees O'Connell and Cargie reiterated their concerns with the new plans not being submitted for review and that the inspector was not presented with approved plans.

President Adduci stated the Board is sympathetic to the family but that the struggle for the Board is whether or not to set a new precedent. She noted the Village has not in the past approved a third-story nor FAR over 40%.

Trustee Brennan stated she generally prefers to rely on the ZBA's expertise but that she is uncomfortable with setting this precedent.

Trustee Cargie stated the hardship as it relates to variations is something about the land that makes it unbuildable (to Zoning Code regulations), not mistakes that are made. He stated he is sympathetic but that the petitioners' recourse is with the professionals that were hired.

In response to Ms. Elfvín's comments that they would not have done the work if the inspector had said the plans were not approved, Village Attorney Smith stated that does not agree with the sworn testimony from the ZBA hearing, which was that the inspector was presented with supposedly official plans. He further stated the idea that the inspector did something wrong is not supported by the sworn testimony.

Trustee Bachner stated she agreed with the other trustees' sentiments.

There was a discussion about the difference between the architect's stamp and the Village's "approved plan set" stamp. Assistant Administrator Scheiner explained that the inspector verifies the construction is built to building code, which is separate from the Zoning Code, and that what has been built does not comply with the Village's Zoning Code. She further stated that the scope of the original permit did not include reconstructing the roof.

Bayard Elfvín, petitioner, stated their intent was to build an aesthetically pleasing and structurally sound home. He noted that their neighbors are in support of the project, and they requested the Board consider the impact of this decision on their family.

Trustee O'Connell reiterated the Board's sympathy for the situation but stated their decision is about the bigger picture.

Trustee Henek stated she struggled with this vote and is voting in the affirmative in deference to the ZBA's vote, though she noted her concern about setting precedent. She suggested looking into how to avoid situations like this in the future.

Trustee Cargie echoed that he struggled with this vote and reiterated his concern about shifting how variation standards are met. He stated the homeowners' recourse is with the professionals who did the work.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Henek

Absent: None

Nays: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, O'Connell, Vazquez

Motion fails.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2019 and ending on April 30, 2020 for the Village of River Forest - \$8,135,161 – Ordinance

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve an Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2019 and ending on April 30, 2020 for the Village of River Forest - \$8,135,161.

Administrator Palm stated no changes had been made since the levy was presented to the Board at a previous meeting.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Administrator Palm affirmed that the County would reduce the levy if the actual amount of new construction was lower than estimated.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Regarding a Wildlife Management Program

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Regarding a Wildlife Management Program.

President Adduci stated it is important to synthesize how the Village got to this point and the work Staff has done regarding this issue. She noted surveys were discussed but perhaps misunderstood or not explained right. She asked Administrator Palm and Assistant to the Administrator Pape to summarize these points.

Administrator Palm stated this originated with outreach from residents who had expressed concerns about deer and asked that the Village to look into it. He stated that nowhere within Village limits would they be able to enter into their own program and noted other

municipalities may utilize a municipal golf course for this purpose. He advised that anything that would take place would be on Forest Preserve property. Administrator Palm explained their survey is an evaluation of the natural ecological landscape of the land. The Forest Preserve's team of wildlife staff, he explained, survey the Forest Preserve and determine based on what they are seeing if a deer management program would be possible. He reported that the Forest Preserve then indicated to Staff that they would support a program because of the imbalance in the current environment between the amount of deer and what their property can sustain. He clarified that that is what they look at to determine whether to move forward with an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Administrator Palm stated the Forest Preserve looks at the impact to their property and the Village looks at public health and safety. Regarding concerns about traffic incidents, he stated the Village will continue to evolve in its reporting of these incidents and how to memorialize the data, noting that there were two deer-car collisions last Thursday.

Assistant to the Administrator Pape further clarified that with regard to traffic incidents, the data only represents cases in which a report is filed as those are the only ones that are 100% certain. He explained that, for example, Staff only learned of the second deer-car collision on Thursday because officers were called to the scene of the first. Since the officers did not have a driver to confirm the cause of the accident, he stated they were not able to generate an IDOT report and this second incident was not included in the data. He further explained that Staff is developing a new code to include in the CAD system for better accounting of all instances. Mr. Pape advised that regarding the confusion of the word survey, it has meant both of residents' attitudes but is now also being used to describe an evaluation of land. He explained that when a municipality is applying for an IDOT permit, surveys of residents are required as part of that process. However, he explained, with the Forest Preserve as the applicant (since this program would have to take place on their property rather than the Village's), the survey is of the impact to the land. Additionally, Mr. Pape clarified that the IDNR recommendation for fencing is 8ft tall and 2ft deep, with 8ft being tall enough to prevent deer from jumping and being impaled and 2ft being deep enough to prevent them from digging under.

Trustee Brennan thanked the residents for attending the meeting and noted she has read and heard about other communities being torn on this issue. She stated they do not want to create animosity and suggested gathering more information and surveying residents. She noted she has not seen the Forest Preserve's survey. She also suggested creating a community task force with people from both sides of the issue, and she echoed the call for more data.

President Adduci stated she thought there may be some misinformation and affirmed they would not make a decision without data. She stated that as volunteers and residents, the Board's intent is not to make life miserable and expressed confidence they would be able to get through this discussion.

Administrator Palm stated the Forest Preserve survey was relayed verbally and that he does not have a copy of it. He stated that based on what they have reported to Staff and their level

of expertise in managing the Forest Preserve, they believe there is enough data to get the permit from the IDNR.

In response to questions from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Pape confirmed the data is specific to the three Forest Preserve properties within the Village, and the level of damage suggests to them that there is an overpopulation of deer.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Mr. Pape confirmed culling is the method to resolve overpopulation to a state that the area can handle.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan about why River Forest has not had a program to date, President Adduci stated the growth has heightened and that because the Village continued to ask of this from the Forest Preserve, they began to look into the issue.

Mr. Pape added that the County's budgetary constraints related to culling are due in part to focusing their culling programs on protecting land they have already invested in rehabilitating, such as those destroyed by fires. He affirmed that they would have other contributions to a culling program like working with the contractors and the IDNR.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie about how many deer would be culled, Administrator Palm stated the goal of the agreement is not to eliminate deer entirely but to strike an ecological balance of the population. He further stated the goal includes reducing, though not eliminating, instances of Lyme disease and traffic crashes.

Trustee Cargie asked that everyone communicate in a way without being disagreeable.

Trustee Henek reviewed the history and her understanding of the issue this year and shared that she saw an incredible amount of deer activity on her block on Bonnie Brae. She expressed concern with the data collected and the lack of measurable benchmarks. She stated if the Village is going to be paying for this program, they have to recognize and know it will actually help the community. She further stated she did not feel specific objectives and quantifiable goals justifying this program have been provided. She expressed that she thought this conversation would happen sooner in terms of getting resident feedback though appreciates things going on with the other agencies meant that did not happen. She reiterated the need for more data points and benchmarks in order to get the best results for everybody. Trustee Henek echoed Trustee Brennan's suggestion about a task force to evaluate if it is working in the community, noting that the Village has to be thoughtful and mindful in considering this program.

Trustee O'Connell stated it was important to note that they would not be wiping out the deer population but would hopefully figure out what the right level is. He applauded Mr. Pape for his efforts here, noting that he is not an expert. He stated the Forest Preserve completed their survey and concluded there is a problem, and he stated there is not enough food in the Forest Preserve for deer to sustain themselves. He emphasized the Village has an obligation to public safety, health, and the wellbeing of the community. Trustee O'Connell also expressed concern that deer may wander to Harlem Avenue. He further commented that it is

unconscionable the Village would not do something to address the children who have contracted Lyme disease.

Trustee Brennan reiterated that she would like to see the Forest Preserve's survey. She stated the residents' gardens offer more enticing food to the deer than what is available in the Forest Preserve, suggesting plantings should be something they do not like. She stated she cannot explain why she sees deer on her block now, which is why she would like to have more information.

President Adduci stated the IDNR and Forest Preserve have provided information on why culling is appropriate.

Administrator Palm stated that, to the best of his knowledge, deer are leaving the Forest Preserve to look for food.

Trustee Vazquez commented that flooding and nothing for the deer to eat or not as much could be motivating the deer to leave the Forest Preserve.

Trustee Bachner stated she would like to have more than verbal information from the other agencies related to negative impacts to the area, noting that the community would be more behind a culling program if there was more information to point them to.

President Adduci asked what information was not provided or what questions were not asked that would give the Trustees the information they are looking for.

Trustee Cargie stated he agreed with Trustee Henek regarding objective metrics and how the Village would know it has achieved success. He stated he would like to see something from an expert about the probability of success.

President Adduci stated a lot of this work is fleshed out in the agreement. She stated measurable outcomes include a reduction of car accidents and incidents of Lyme disease. She further stated the IDNR affirms the deer population is up and the Village knows deer-car collisions are up. President Adduci stated there could be room for more organization but requested the Board gives Staff clear direction on what they are looking for.

Trustee Henek suggested she would like to see a copy of the Forest Preserve's IDNR permit application.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Administrator Palm stated they are relying on verbal information that has been shared by the Forest Preserve, noting he understands they are looking for more data points but expressed concern the Forest Preserve's survey and application may not answer their questions and that Staff might not meet their expectations without clear direction.

The Board continued to discuss gathering more data with quantifiable measures and creating a resident-led committee on the issue, including potentially hiring a consultant to

manage the process. They also discussed trying other options first before entering into a wildlife management program.

President Adduci stated the consensus of the Board is to pause and reflect. She indicated she will bring this item back to discussion at a later date to give direction to Staff regarding creating a task force and identifying its goals and objectives, along with its cost.

Trustees O'Connell and Cargie withdrew their motion and second, respectively.

b. Discussion on Park District Request for Funding Regarding Priory Park Paving Project

Administrator Palm reviewed the Park District's request, stating that their approved permit is for asphalt repaving. He stated he met with the Park Board to discuss more permeable solutions to encourage them to keep as much stormwater as possible out of the sewer system. The Park Board requested that the Village provide money to help with the increased cost of such a project. Administrator Palm stated the Village has not done subsidized projects like this for anyone else and is not in a position to start doing so.

Trustee Brennan stated it is a great idea to use permeable pavers, and that although they cost more initially, they will save money in the long-run because they last longer.

Trustee Cargie commented that the levy is to provide services and it would be a bad precedent to do that for another taxing body.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Administrator Palm stated the Village can help them find grants or other resources but that the Park Board's request was for funding from the Village.

The Village Board reached a consensus to deny this request.

c. Discussion on Board Packet Procedures

Trustee Brennan stated it is challenging to receive meeting packets on Fridays and have enough time to get through the packet, do additional research, and make calls. She commented that the Sustainability Commission's packet is sent out Thursdays for Tuesday meetings, and that Oak Park makes the agenda available early.

Trustee Henek concurred and stated it is a combination of having an idea of what is on the agenda and planning accordingly. She stated she can research ahead of time if she knows what is going to be on the agenda and can manage time better around the topics. She shared that residents have also said this. However, she expressed this is with the understanding that things are fluid and some items are time-sensitive.

Administrator Palm stated that most of what the Board discusses and votes on is fairly routine, and that Staff endeavors to make sure the bigger items are on the Board's radar ahead

of time. He noted the challenge with getting the packet out a week in advance.

President Adduci stated the packets are doable over the weekend and bigger items are typically discussed prior to the meetings. She expressed concern about unintended consequences related to an earlier timeframe, particularly in a case when an item could be delayed during the months when the Board only meets once. She also noted her concern about expectations because items coming on and off draft agendas.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie about the Open Meeting Act, Village Attorney Smith stated nothing can be added with 48 hours of the meeting but items may be removed.

Trustees Cargie and Vazquez expressed concern about the impact to Staff.

The Board discussed whether moving the packet to the Thursday prior would mean items that come in Friday would be delayed. Administrator Palm provided the example of Right-of-Way Encroachment Waivers being delayed a month due to the Board meeting only once per month in the summer, and Trustee Cargie proposed delegating this authority to Staff.

Administrator Palm suggested moving to Thursday would be a good start and asked that the Board give him flexibility moving forward. The Board reached a consensus to accept his suggestion.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk