

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, December 10, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:04 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 Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Gibbs, Henek, Vazquez

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administration Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Police Chief James O’Shea, Deputy Police Chief Dan Dhooghe, Patrol Commander James Greenwood, Sergeant Glen Czernik, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Engineer Loster, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jamie Peters, 322 Forest, spoke on behalf of herself and her neighbors regarding the resident-only parking restrictions on her block and the difficulties they face for family caregivers. She asked that they be allowed to purchase permits or guest passes for on-street parking. President Adduci said the Village Administrator would follow up with her tomorrow to provide some assistance.

John Dzuryak discussed his concerns regarding the sign that was installed at Lake and Lathrop regarding the approved development project. He asked whether the sign was permitted and noted that there is no permit displayed for the sign. Village President Adduci stated that the sign will come down if the redevelopment agreement was not approved. Village Administrator Palm discussed relief that was granted by the Village Board of Trustees a year ago for signage on the property. He said the Village is currently negotiating a redevelopment agreement that might include some additional relief for the sign.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Gibbs welcomed those in attendance. He commented on the passing of former President George H.W. Bush and expressed his sympathies.

Trustee Henek stated that there was a successful gift delivery for the River Forest holiday gift basket program. She thanked those who donated and participated in the event.

Trustee Conti thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.

Trustee Vazquez extended season's greetings to all.

Trustee Cargie asked about Village regulations regarding snow shoveling and stated his concern regarding the condition of the sidewalk at Lake and Lathrop. Village Administrator Palm stated he was in contact with the property owner to address those concerns.

Trustee Corsini wished happy holidays to all. She noted that the Public Works Department installed the second bus relief panel from Washington School on the Public Works building. She congratulated Community Service Officer Mark Kaniecki on his retirement. Trustee Corsini noted that Canadian National Railroad is an active railroad and she has seen kids walking down the track. She encouraged the Village to continue and enhance their public education and public safety efforts in that area. In response to a suggestion from President Adduci, Village Administrator Palm stated that he will contact Canadian National regarding additional signage on their property. Other Trustees suggested additional social media and website posts as well as distributing information through the schools.

Village President Adduci discussed the Illinois Municipal League newsletter and agenda, which includes public safety pension reform. She wished everyone a happy holiday and happy New Year.

Swearing in – Patrol Commander James Greenwood

Police Chief James O'Shea introduced Patrol Commander James Greenwood to the Village Board of Trustees. Village Clerk Brand-White administered the Oath of Office to Commander James Greenwood.

Swearing in – Police Sergeant Glen Czernik

Police Chief James O'Shea introduced Police Sergeant Glen Czernik to the Village Board of Trustees. Village Clerk Brand-White administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Glen Czernik.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2018
- b. Executive Session Village Board Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2018
- a. Pre- approval of Travel Expenses for Village President to attend the Mayors Innovation Project in Washington D.C. January 25-26, 2019 for \$921.37
- b. 2019 Public Notice of Meeting Schedule

- c. Waiver of Formal Bids and Approval of a Supplemental Statement of Work with Municipal GIS Partners for \$40,744.05
- d. Monthly Department Reports
- e. Monthly Performance Measurement Report
- f. Village Administrator's Report
- g. Finance & Administration Committee Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2017, January 25, 2018, May 14, 2018, October 15, 2018

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to approve the Consent Agenda items a through h.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Public Works Director Anderson explained how the Village is billed for the GIS Consortium services. Village Administrator Palm discussed the consortium's budget process and commented that the hours budgeted are allocated down if they are not used.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Traffic & Safety Commission – Safe Walking Routes to School Plan

Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to approve the recommendations in the Safe Walking Routes to Schools Project with the intent to implement all associated signage and pavement marking in 2019.

Eric Russell, KLOA, presented a summary of the Safe Walking Routes to Schools Study and Plan. He stated that the safest walking routes to the schools and Community Center are based on the premise that students should cross streets at controlled locations where vehicles are required by law to come to a full stop, either via stop sign or traffic-signal control or with assistance from a school crossing guard. The recommended walking routes are also based on the premise that students will generally take the quickest and most direct paths to school. Mr. Russell reviewed the recommended traffic control changes including the installation of stop signs, crosswalks and other signage at various locations. He also reviewed the recommended changes to the locations and policies of crossing guards. Mr. Russell stated the next step is to take feedback from the Village Board of Trustees, adopt the plan and then begin to implement the recommendations.

In response to a request from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Russell addressed how crossing guards can communicate and coordinate pedestrian traffic crossings (particularly along Lake Street). In response to a follow-up question from President Adduci regarding training and who is responsible for that training, Village Administrator Palm stated that the Village administers

the crossing guard contract and would oversee training. Village Administrator Palm said the Police Chief met with the staff at Andy Frain within the last month to share the Village's concerns about traffic flow and work to improve the situation. Village President Adduci stated that it should be part of their performance review and Village Administrator Palm agreed.

Trustee Corsini noted that the crossing guards could let students collect at the corner now and coordinate crossings with traffic lights now. She suggested other ways to improve communication between the crossing guards. Mr. Russell suggested that walkie talkies could be an option.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie regarding the possible downside of installing stop signs, Mr. Russell stated that he does not see a downside and that most communities have controlled intersections. He said he believes people are more comfortable with controlled intersections.

Trustee Cargie asked why the stop sign at Park and Thomas was being flipped because Park Avenue is the main route for fire trucks. Mr. Russell said they examined the streets that had more than three stop signs in a row and tried to balance it. He said this intersection made the most sense so that Thomas didn't have a stop sign at every intersection.

Trustee Gibbs asked Mr. Russell to address the at grade train crossings at sidewalks, particularly in the area of the "Keystone triangle." Trustee Gibbs noted the locations that he was discussing were shown on the map marked "Willard School." A discussion ensued regarding the areas where at grade crossings intersect with sidewalks and the additional steps the Village can take to improve public safety at these intersections. The Board agreed that additional signage was preferred. Mr. Russell confirmed that there is an MUTCD sign for this purpose. Village Administrator Palm stated that the location of the sign may require approval from the railroad.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Mr. Russell stated that Grace Lutheran staff would be responsible for placement of the movable sign for the crossing at Augusta and Bonnie Brae.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Mr. Russell stated that they would look into the timing of the light at Franklin and Washington and whether or not it was long enough to allow pedestrians to cross. Village Administrator Palm noted that it is within the Village's jurisdiction. There was a brief discussion about the value of a countdown sign for pedestrians.

Trustee Henek discussed a possible restriction for right turn only restrictions on Franklin, coming out of Lincoln, during peak hours because of the traffic challenges it creates for Lake Street traffic. Village Administrator Palm and Village Engineer Loster stated that this matter will be on the next Traffic and Safety Committee meeting agenda as a separate request. The area is being studied and Village Staff would bring forth recommendations for the area.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti regarding the crossing at Thatcher and Oak, Mr. Russell agreed that a speed sign like you see in school areas an option, as is a radar speed sign on a timer during school times.

Trustee Corsini noted that reflective strips on the stop signs are helpful but some have fallen off or are not consistent.

Trustee Corsini asked Mr. Russell to explain the changes proposed at Park and Greenfield. Trustees discussed the lack of sidewalk in this area as well as the existing intersection that does not line up. There was a discussion regarding this area and the lack of sidewalk and that the intersection does not align. Village Administrator Palm clarified the concern that vehicles heading eastbound on Greenfield are stopping at two locations in short proximity to each other because of how the street jogs around and requires motorists to turn. The discussion continued regarding possible options and the Board agreed that the area needs further study.

Trustee Corsini asked whether the study addressed obstructions at the corners of four-way stops such as a shrub at Park and Chicago that creates a visual obstruction. Public Works Director Anderson noted the Village's response to a complaint at a specific location and described steps that could be taken if the shrub is located in the Village right-of-way. Mr. Russell said the study did not note any significant obstructions in the right-of-way.

In response to a questions from Trustee Corsini regarding recommendations regarding crossing guards, Mr. Russell stated that at Division and Lathrop they looked at routing kids to other locations closer to Willard and Trinity schools and avoiding certain intersections. Trustee Corsini expressed concerns regarding the recommendation at Oak and Ashland. Mr. Russell said the recommendation is to remove crossing guards in the areas that are two blocks out from the school.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Russell said kids will follow the most direct route and parents can reinforce and encourage utilization of certain routes.

Trustee Conti asked Mr. Russell to address the removal of the crossing guard at the Roosevelt driveway. Mr. Russell said there is a cost element and that some of the other measures might be more effective. He described the recommendations in the report for that specific area. Trustee Corsini noted that the simplest solution is to block the driveway during those pick up and drop off times. Mr. Russell said they didn't make any recommendations on changing traffic patterns but it can be looked at.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Village Administrator Palm stated that School District 90 has seen the study and provided generally positive comments. In response to a question from President Adduci, Village Administrator Palm confirmed that the school district will vote on the plan after the Village does so.

President Adduci said that there is a lot of discussion regarding kids biking to school. Mr. Russell noted that implementing stop controls at intersections is an improvement for

pedestrians and bicyclists. There are different recommendations for bicyclists but, in general, the benefits will also benefit both. President Adduci asked whether the plan recommends that kids bike on the sidewalks. Mr. Russell said that is not being imposed. The survey showed that parents would like for the kids to use the sidewalk. Village Administrator Palm said whether bicyclists are on the street or sidewalk, the intersection will be controlled. Mr. Russell said that the bicycle plan will designate certain routes as bike routes toward certain destinations such as schools.

John Houseal, the Village's planning consultant, said the SRTS, bicycle and traffic plans may be standalone reports but the recommendations will all dovetail together and will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm discussed implementation and said that once the plan is adopted the Village Board would consider an ordinance to make the recommended changes. He said that will be brought back at a later date. In the meantime, the Village has applied for an IDOT grant to help fund the implementation. He and Village Engineer Loster explained the challenges associated with the state's grant review process and letting/procurement schedule. In response to questions from Trustees Gibbs and Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated that the intent is to have the changes made by the beginning of the next school year and that, but for the grant, the Village still planned to implement the SRTS recommendations.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Village Administrator Palm said that everything within the Village's right of way is in the Village's jurisdiction while the school district will review the crossing guards.

In response to follow-up questions regarding the grant and IDOT approvals, Village Administrator Palm reviewed the state's review of the grant application based on the SRTS. He said he would report back to the VBOT regarding the timelines that would be in place if the Village implemented the recommendations either with or without the grant funds. Trustee Henek asked if the Village could complete the implementation and seek reimbursement through the grant. Village Administrator Palm said part of the issue is the procurement component through the state. Trustee Corsini said she didn't realize the Village would have to go through the state's procurement process. Public Works Director Anderson stated the grant application was for \$130,000. The Board noted that the funds are significant and agreed that perhaps the Village should go through the procurement process. Village Administrator Palm stated he would like to report back to the Village Board with plans and options for implementation.

In response to a question from Trustee Gibbs, Village Attorney Smith described the protection in place under the State's Torte Immunity Act and the Court decisions that have held that the Village cannot be found liable for not installing traffic control devices. The Board has the ability to decide what they think is best. Trustee Gibbs emphasized the importance the residents have placed on this matter and their desire to see it implemented.

Trustee Cargie asked whether the Village anticipates that the state will provide the grant money so that the recommendations could be implemented by the start of the next school year. Village Administrator Palm said he is concerned that with the state's letting schedule and procurement policy the timing would not be possible and the Village does not want to wait another school year to implement these changes.

John Dzuryak noted his concerns about the parking lot between Roosevelt school and the library and the traffic that does not adhere to the turning restrictions in that area. Mr. Dzuryak said the reflective strips on stop signs were an Eagle Scout project and the reduced cost that the Boy Scouts were able to achieve.

Julie Patterson, 7575 Lake Street, suggested the crossing guards wait for more than one student before interrupting traffic. She asked if the crossing guards were asked for input on the study. In response to a question from President Adduci, Mr. Russell stated that they will seek input from the crossing guards at Ms. Patterson's suggestion.

Cathy Adduci – agreed that Julie's suggestion should be implanted.

Steve Lefko, 719 Thatcher, said this began three years ago when he started walking his daughter to school. He described various conditions along their route to school, driver behavior he has observed, as well as the history of his interactions with Village and school officials. He said the idea was for the school to create a safe routes map. He said there is now the map as presented and corresponding changes needed to make the map work. The map has more red dots and purple lines than he can count and that the community would be blanketed with stop signs. He asked whether the stop signs would get people to stop or if they would pay less attention. Mr. Russell stated that he assumes people would stop more but he does not have any data on that.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Mr. Lefko said the stop signs presuppose that some of the kids are following the purple lines because there are purple lines on every sidewalk. Trustee Henek noted that the routes accommodate essentially every house and would help residents show their kids a specific route.

Mr. Lefko suggested highlighting the places where people shouldn't go instead? He asked whether there should be an effort to first find the safest route without all of the change. Trustee Cargie said he thinks the point is that kids aren't going to follow only one route so the map accommodates every possible route that can be taken. Trustee Henek said the plan identifies the potential route that anyone anywhere can take.

Trustee Gibbs said that the Village Board passes ordinances fairly regularly regarding traffic restrictions and the residents need confidence that the Village will enforce these regulations. He said the Police Department is capable of enforcing the changes that will be implemented.

Mr. Lefko said he observes drives roll through stop signs. He asked what changes need to be made to the police force to reduce the false sense of security with the cars rolling through stop signs and what level of enforcement is needed to ensure that cars stop at stop signs.

President Adduci stated that she heard his concern and that the Village Board is taking a hard look at how to make walking to school safer. She said there are a lot of stop signs and she thinks it's probably the right thing to do. She hopes that parents and visitors know not to roll through. Trustee Corsini added that this impacts every pedestrian that isn't walking to school is a broad, comprehensive look at addressing traffic circulation.

Village Administrator Palm stated that the Board could table this and bring it back in January before approving it.

Trustee Gibbs withdrew his motion to approve the plan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Finance & Administration Committee - An Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2018 and ending on April 30, 2019 for the Village of River Forest - \$8,215,103

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Conti, to pass an Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing on the 1st Day of May, 2018 and Ending on the 30th Day of April, 2019 for the Village of River Forest, Illinois.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- c. Appointment of Liz Holt as Ex-Officio to the Economic Development Commission

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Liz Holt as Ex-Officio to the Economic Development Commission.

President Adduci stated that Ms. Holt is replacing Cathy Yen as the Chamber of Commerce Representative.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with T-Mobile Central LLC for Antenna at the Village’s Elevated Water Storage Tank

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to approve the first amendment to the lease agreement between the Village of River Forest and T-Mobile Central LLC.

VA Palm stated that the Village has a lease agreement with T-Mobile on the Village’s water tower. He discussed the changes that were renegotiated in the agreement. He said the previous agreement generated approximately \$42,000 in revenue and has been reduced to \$36,000. One of the benefits the Village will see is the tenant has agreed to a rent guarantee of at least seven years. He determined that it was better to lose \$6,000 than \$42,000 per year and that the guaranteed rent is significant.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Village Administrator Palm confirmed that there would be an 11% increase to the payment in the final two years of the agreement. In response to a follow-up question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm confirmed that under the previous agreement the annual increase was consistent with the CPI.

Roll call:

- Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez
- Absent: None
- Nays: None
- Motion Passes.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appoint Trustee Gibbs to the River Forest Community Center Authority Building IGA Committee

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Trustee Michael Gibbs to the River Forest Community Center Authority Building Intergovernmental Agreement Committee.

Village President Adduci discussed the history of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the River Forest Civic Center Authority and other local taxing bodies. Village Administrator Palm has attended multiple meetings. The group would now like to have the Administrator and an elected official as designated representatives from each agency. She said she believes that Trustee Gibbs has a good grasp of the issues and the community’s needs.

Village Administrator Palm said the first meeting is scheduled for early January and that he thinks it is a good stepping stone that will lead to an RFP based on better analysis. Trustee Cargie noted that the IGA expires soon. Village Administrator agreed and said he would look into that.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Henek, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:01 p.m. Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for use of the public body, including discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by a public body, and appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of Village employee.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Gibbs, Henek, and Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 9:59 p.m. with the following members:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Gibbs, Henek, Vazquez

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

10. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Corsini made a motion seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Corsini, Gibbs, Henek, and Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk