

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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 7:11 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Gillis, Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan, Johnson(Virtual)  
Absent: Village Clerk John Keller  
Also Present: Interim Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

President Adduci invited Ed Kemper up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Kemper displayed a poster board map of the northeast corner of the village that demonstrate how the traffic installations have negatively affected his family's commute. Mr. Kemper also reported on other various impacts the traffic installations have caused.

President Adduci invited Dr. Nucifora up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Dr. Nucifora made remarks speaking against the traffic barriers that had been installed in the northeast corner of town. Additionally, she requested the Board supply evidence of their justification of installing the barriers.

President Adduci invited Dr. Jaime Escobar up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Dr. Escobar made remarks speaking out against the barriers installed in the northeast corner of town. He also stated that he was never even informed about the barriers before they were installed. Dr. Escobar reported that the barriers have made his life more difficult and asked the Board to reevaluate the worth of the barriers after considering the citizens comments speaking out against them.

President Adduci invited Darshana & Robert Novick up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

President Adduci reminded the public to keep comments around 5 minutes.

Dr. Darshana Novick requested the removal of the traffic barriers, especially along North Avenue. Dr. Novick stated the barriers have created accessibility issues for her business and safety concerns. She also requested that the Board explain their thought process behind the decision to install the barriers and reconsider the barriers after hearing recent public comment.

Robert Novick requested the board consider the recent alterations suggested by the Traffic and Safety Committee and re-evaluate the barriers.

President Adduci invited Patrick Berg up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Berg gave public comment speaking against the traffic barriers.

President Adduci invited Pete Tomaras up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Tomaras gave public comment speaking out against the barricades.

President Adduci invited Beth R Heifermon up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. Heifermon reported that her dentist business has been negatively impacted by the installation of the traffic barriers.

President Adduci invited Lisa Economos up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. Economos gave public comment speaking against the traffic barriers installed in the northeast corner of the Village. Ms. Economos gave the timeline of the events that led up to the installation of the traffic barriers and asked why the recommendations of the KLOA study were ignored. Ms. Economos also suggested that the northeast portion of town be included in the Village wide traffic study.

President Adduci invited Kate Byrne up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. Byrne asked that the Village Board remove the barricades.

President Adduci invited Dave Westerman up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Westerman made public comment speaking against the traffic installations.

President Adduci invited Jill McMahon up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Ms. McMahon reported how the traffic barriers have negatively impacted her dental practice and asked the Board to remove the barricades. She asked the Board consider some of the solutions offered in the KLOA study and also noted she was in favor of the proposed changes going before the Board that evening.

President Adduci invited Frank Libbe up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Mr. Libbe asked the Board to reconsider the traffic barriers.

President Adduci invited Dr. Constantine Politis up to the podium to make public comment on the traffic installations in the northeast corner of town.

Dr. Politis reported receiving negative comments from his clients regarding the traffic barriers. He also asked that the Board consider making the recommendations that are up for vote that evening.

President Adduci invited Phyllis Rubin to make public comment.

Ms. Rubin spoke out against the traffic barriers in the Northeast corner of town. Ms. Rubin then gave a report on happenings at the Lake and Lathrop Property, specifically reporting on a gap between the fence along Ashland that may pose a danger to pedestrians walking.

Ms. Rubin also asked why Lake Shore Recycling will not provide compost to local businesses.

President Adduci reminded residents in the audience that the recommendations from the Traffic and Safety commission will be discussed again further in the meeting.

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

Trustee Bachner started with a land acknowledgment. She also wished everyone a happy belated Easter and Passover. Trustee Bachner reported being asked to be a juror by Dominican University & The Black Metropolis Research Consortium for a high school writing contest.

Trustee Gillis wished everyone a happy Earth Month. She noted that there are two events on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Des Plaines River Cleanup and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual River Forest Bike Exchange. She directed anyone interested to register with the Park District for the river clean up.

Trustee Gillis also wished Harriet Hausman a 99<sup>th</sup> birthday and noted the significance of Harriet to River Forest.

Trustee Vazquez deferred his comments until the next meeting.

Trustee Brennan reported attending the Truth and Racial Healing Transformation Gathering with Trustee Bachner. Trustee Brennan made comments on the timeline of the Lake & Lathrop property.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh gave a status report on the Lake & Lathrop property.

Trustee Brennan reiterated that the proposed work that was supposed to be completed by now had already been delayed. She also asked that the developer come before the board so a discussion can be had surrounding the project.

Trustee Brennan gave an update on the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Juneteenth flag raising ceremony.

Trustee Johnson deferred his comments but wished everyone a happy holidays and thanked the residents in the audience for giving public comments.

Trustee O'Connell noted attending the Economic Development Commission meeting and made remarks on the meeting. Trustee O'Connell stressed that the concepts shown at the meeting were purely hypothetical development ideas.

Trustee O'Connell asked Interim Village Administrator Walsh to give an update on the demolition of the Lutheran family services building.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh reported that the asbestos abatement should be completed soon.

Trustee O'Connell noted his excitement surrounding the development opportunities an already demolished property offers.

He also gave thanks to the residents who showed interest in the development site.

Trustee O'Connell asked what is happening to various planters around town and whose responsibility it is to maintain them.

Director of Public Works and Development Services Loster stated that the responsibility surrounding the Madison Street planters is shared between Forest Park and River Forest. He noted he is currently unsure at this moment when the spring cleaners occur at that bed.

Trustee O'Connell asked that the Village consider more seasonal installations along Lake Street.

President Adduci noted that the Village will be passing a proclamation at the next Village Board in honor of Harriet Hausman. She also reported that a mural of Ms. Hausman will be painted on the train track walls near Village Hall.

President Adduci reported attending events in D.C on behalf of the Illinois Municipal League.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2024 VILLAGE OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. Nucifora asked for clarifications on whether the allotted amounts in the budget are final.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh explained that just because the amount is in the budget, that does not mean it will happen. He also explained how the purchasing policy affects the process.

Dr. Escobar asked who creates the budget and how the budget numbers are agreed upon.

A discussion ensued surrounding how the budget numbers are determined.

Trustee O'Connell emphasized that the budget is created by staff.

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion passes at 8:20pm.

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2023
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes – March 13, 2023
- c. Accounts Payable March 2023 – \$1,455,557.88
- d. Financial Report - March 2023
- e. Budget Amendment for Library FY 2023 - Ordinance
- f. Budget Amendment for Village FY 2023 - Ordinance
- g. Intergovernmental Agreement – IDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance
- h. Motor Fuel Tax Resolution – 2023 Maintenance of Streets and Highways
- i. Intergovernmental Agreement – MWRD Grant Funding for Green Alleys
- j. LAMA Subscription Renewal – Davenport Group USA, Ltd
- k. Annual Contract Renewal – SAFEbuilt Illinois, LLC
- l. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 921 Keystone Avenue
- m. Ordinance Violation Software Licensing Agreement – DACRA Tech. Systems, LLC
- n. Administration Department Report
- o. Monthly Department Reports - March

Trustee Brennan requested to pull Agenda item H from the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve consent agenda items A-G & I-O. Second by

Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## 7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

h. Motor Fuel Tax Resolution – 2023 Maintenance of Streets and Highways

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve the Motor Fuel Tax Resolution - 2023 Maintenance of Streets and Highways. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Trustee Brennan pointed out some differences in the dollar amounts on the resolution.

Director of Public Works and Development Services Loster confirmed the correct amount is \$600,000.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

a. Traffic and Safety Commission Recommendation – March 15th, 2023 Meeting – Ordinance Amendments regarding Traffic Controls at Harlem & LeMoyne and Harlem & Greenfield

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to accept the recommendations of the Traffic and Safety Commission and to approve ordinances modifying the barricades at the intersections of LeMoyne and Harlem & Greenfield and Harlem to allow southbound traffic on Harlem Avenue to turn westbound onto Greenfield Street while still allowing eastbound traffic on Greenfield Street to turn southbound onto Harlem Avenue with signage to be updated accordingly. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Director of Public Works and Development Services Loster gave a presentation on the new proposed additions recommended by the Traffic and Safety Commission.

He also stated the Traffic and Safety Commission recommend these barriers be viewed as temporary pending the results of the Village wide traffic study.

Director Loster asked Interim Village Administrator Walsh to give further information on the situation.

A discussion ensued surrounding including items 8.a and 8.b for a single vote. President Adduci asked that the two items are kept separate.

Trustee Vazquez asked if the Traffic and Safety Commission addressed any of the barriers along North Ave.

Mr. Walsh explained that the Traffic and Safety Commission chose to focus on installations separate from North Avenue and that those will be addressed at the next Traffic and Safety Commission meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Walsh noted that this process could extend into the July meeting as well.

Mr. Loster noted that the Village wide traffic survey may also offer additional data to consider when making decisions.

Trustee Bachner asked if the engineering company in charge of the study is considering data that has been collected since the traffic barriers have been installed.

Mr. Loster stated yes.

Trustee O'Connell asked for clarification on some of the comments made by Director Loster regarding the temporary nature of the barricades.

A discussion ensued surrounding the temporary nature of the barricades.

Trustee Bachner asked what the recommendations from the Traffic and Safety Commission would physically look like.

Director Loster explained how the altered barriers will look.

Trustee Bachner reported that signage on southbound Harlem may not currently be effective in that area.

A discussion ensued surrounding signage.

Trustee Brennan stated he supports these motions and asked for clarification on whether the northeast corner of town will be included in the Village wide traffic study.

Director Loster explained how the northeast corner ended up being left out of the Village wide survey as it was already being studied when the idea of a Village wide study was agreed upon.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Village Board Policy Statement on Northeast Traffic Measures

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve Policy Statement 23-01, a policy statement regarding northeast neighborhood traffic measures. Second by Trustee Brennan.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh explained what caused the policy statement to be written and highlighted some key points from the document.

President Adduci noted some key points from the document.

Trustee Vazquez asked that it be made clear that the Village Board is not the responsible forum to request traffic modifications.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that in the policy statement is a new notifications requirement that extends the area to homes, apartments, and businesses within 1,000 ft. of the proposed locations.

Trustee O'Connell reminded everyone that if a business does not own the building, the notification will go to the landlord.

Trustee Vazquez asked how soon any mail notifications must be sent out before a meeting.

Director Loster noted some of the potential difficulties surrounding notifying residents.

Village Attorney Malina clarified some of Director Loster's comments.

Trustee Bachner suggested the Traffic and Safety Commission keep in mind the notification process while making official recommendations.

Trustee Vazquez reiterated the importance of utilizing the website and social media during these processes.

Trustee Bachner suggested the Village could have provided the businesses with alternative routes to share with their clients.

Trustee Brennan asked for clarification on point #2 in the policy statement.

Interim Village Administrator Walsh provided clarification.

Further discussion ensued around the possibility of providing alternative routes.

A member of the public stated that the problem is that the residents have to take these routes to get to the businesses, not that directions couldn't be provided to them.

Dr. Escobar asked for clarification on the voting process of the barricades becoming permanent.

Lisa Economos suggested that any future recommendations from the Traffic and Safety Commission must come with evidence supporting their recommendation.

Dr. Nucifora asked if a report existed that was utilized to justify the implementation of the traffic barriers.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Zoll One Medical Corporation Program Leasing Agreement at an annual cost of \$19,939.29

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve entering into an agreement with Zoll Medical Corporation and their Zoll One Program, not to exceed \$19,939.29 per year for a period of 10 years. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

- b. Introduction to Permit Fee Analysis and Revision - No action required

Director Loster explained the reasoning behind revising fees. He also highlighted some of the preliminary findings of the study so far.

Trustee Brennan asked that for solar panel fees, staff consider keeping the fees cost effective per the Villages SolSmart goals.

Village Attorney Malina explained some of the potential fee changes related to construction projects.

A discussion ensued surrounding how the new potential fees could impact single family construction could be affected.

Trustee Bachner asked if all the Village's fines will be reviewed.

Mr. Walsh stated no but that could be addressed in the future.

## 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to enter Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village, and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Roll call:

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

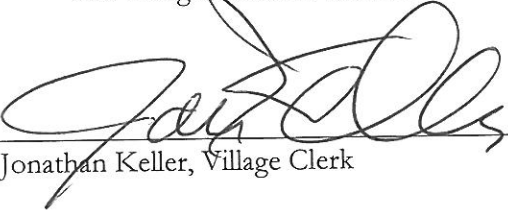
Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion passes at 9:07pm.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting Adjourned at 9:20pm



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk