

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, September 26, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 26, 2022, 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 7:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, O’Connell, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: None

Also, Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant to the Village Administrator Matthew Walsh, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O’Shea, Police Commander James Greenwood, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Assistant Finance Director Keke Boyer, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pamela Weiss, a resident at 511 Ashland, stated that she would like to remind the Village Board that they have a commitment to the taxpayers to keep the Lake and Lathrop project moving forward. She commented that this is the third winter trying to navigate the sidewalk in the Lake and Lathrop development site. She remarked that residents walking to school and church require access the sidewalk. She commented that the developers don’t adequately clear the sidewalk of snow. She stated that during the summer, pedestrians risk injury from the sidewalk near the site. She commented that she would like the Village Board to take action and require protected walkways so local residents and visitors can walk safely. She commented that she has only seen a few people working on the site and it is often before a Village Board meeting. She stated that she would like the Board to move the project along.

Village Administrator Murphy stated that Sedgwick was invited to the Village Board meeting tonight and has been asked to provide a schedule per the agreement. He commented that regarding the sidewalk, the developer was directed to restore the sidewalk and the developer stated the work would begin tomorrow, September 27th.

He stated that the Village has issued several citations in August for the conditions of the development site and an adjudication hearing will be taking place on October 3, 2022.

President Adduci commented that Village permits also hold the developer to promises they made.

4.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Recognition of 10U and 14U Little League Softball State Champions

Village President Adduci that it's an incredible feat to win the first softball championships in 21 years, and the first time that two teams have one in the same year. President Adduci stated that she is proud of each team's success. Coaches for both teams spoke on their team's behalf and introduced each player who was in attendance.

Greg White, President of River Forest Youth Baseball and Softball spoke on behalf of the league and expressed his congratulations to each team and their coaches.

b. Elected Official Comments and Announcements

Trustee O'Connell stated that he had nothing to add to the public record.

Trustee Johnson stated that wishes all residents a happy fall season. He attended the Illinois Municipal League conference. He remarked that he congratulates President Adduci on becoming the Illinois Municipal League President. He attended the West Central Municipal Conference dinner and it was a good experience.

Trustee Brennan stated that she attended the Illinois Municipal League conference. She commented that she found the Diversity Equity and Inclusion lessons learned lesson as very helpful and that she would find out how to share the slides from that presentation with everyone. She stated that Peoria and Bloomington have Diversity Equity and Inclusion taskforces and they have minority hiring goals. She remarked that there was a moderated community discussion between residents and a retired Police Chief. She stated that a community had a Mayor's youth group that helps minority kids work in Public Works Departments. She stated that in Peoria, they have a minority business registry and it reminded her of previous efforts in our community where we did not have a Minority Business List to work from. She commented that she would like to know why Sedgwick did not appear at tonight's meeting. She stated that she wants to remind residents that October 5th and October 12th is the deadline for hazardous waste pick up.

Village Administrator noted that he strongly encouraged the Developer at Lake & Lathrop to attend the meeting tonight.

Clerk Keller did not have anything to add to the permanent record.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he attended the Illinois Municipal League conference and the West Central Municipal Conference dinner. He commented that he likes that we continue to maintain relationships with other communities and officials. He congratulated President Adduci on being the Illinois Municipal League President. He stated that he met with the Collaborative Committee and discussed on working together on different initiatives. He commented that The Park District is progressing with their Keystone Park project and their next project next spring will be to work on Washington Park. He remarked that the park will be ADA accessible. He commented that District 200 had an open house to showcase phase one of their new student center. He stated that Oak Park River Forest High School are looking into using geothermal energy to provide energy for part of their facility. He remarked that School District 90 are working on whether they will have full time kindergarten and are currently evaluating the cost and will hopefully receive a report in the spring. He remarked that The library is receiving bids for their project and asks the community to complete their survey for feedback on their strategic plan. He remarked that The Township discussed increasing funding for seniors. He stated that they have been experiencing issues with middle school bikers and noted that they have concerns about safety.

Trustee Gillis stated that she attended the Illinois Municipal League conference and the West Central Municipal Conference dinner and liked the climate of collaboration. She commented that Tour De Proviso is this Saturday. She stated that on Tuesday, October 4th, Trinity High School will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony. She commented that The Maywood Fine Arts Pumpkin Patch Parade is a week from Saturday. She stated that The Green Town initiative is still ongoing.

Trustee Bachner started with a land acknowledgment. She stated that she wishes all a happy Hispanic heritage Month and would like to acknowledge all who are impacted with the hurricane in Puerto Rico. She commented that Residents can donate to www.hispanicfederation.org, which provides information on supporting recovery efforts. She remarked that The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group met last week and they chose a consultant and a contract is currently being negotiated. She stated that she attended the Illinois Municipal League conference and heard a lot of great ideas. She commented that putting together a Minority Business database is difficult and that the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group can help with that.

Village President Adduci stated that she is very proud to represent the Village within the Illinois Municipal League and can see the power of collaboration. She commented that she attended the West Central Municipal Conference dinner and attended the Dominican University Dinner. She stated that she also provided a video about Rosh Hashanah to the Jewish community within River Forest.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022

- b. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 910 William Street.
- c. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 915 William Street.
- d. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 1425 Franklin Avenue.
- e. Authorize the Purchase and Up-Fitting of Two (2) - 2023 Dodge Durango Police Service Vehicles at a Price of \$103,176.00, Using the FY23 Budgeted Amount of \$103,176.00 From the Capital Equipment Replacement Fund.
- f. Financial Report - August 2022
- g. Village Administrator's Report

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

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. A Resolution Waiving Public Bidding and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Purchase of a 2024 Life Line Superliner Type III Ambulance Between the Village of River Forest and Life Line Emergency Vehicles, Inc. In an Amount Not Exceed \$304,021 - Resolution

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve A Resolution Waiving Public Bidding and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Purchase of a 2024 Life Line Superliner Type III Ambulance Between the Village of River Forest and Life Line

Emergency Vehicles, Inc. In an Amount Not Exceed \$304,021 - Resolution. Second by Trustee Bachner.

Fire Chief Gaertner stated the resolution is to replace the current ambulance. He remarked that ambulances are unique vehicles which is why they are looking to waive the bidding process. They initially discussed this purchase with two vendors, but Life Line had the best bid. He commented that there will be new unique features such as an air filtering system to address COVID-19 concerns.

Village Administrator Murphy stated that it is presented to the Board as a resolution because it will take 28 months to receive the ambulance and the Village will need to enter into a payment plan.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Approval of a Contract in the Amount of \$284,000 to Anthem Excavation & Demolition for the River Forest Buildings Demolition Project and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract Agreement.

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to Approve a Contract in the Amount of \$284,000 to Anthem Excavation & Demolition for the River Forest Buildings Demolition Project and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract Agreement. Second by Trustee O'Connell.

Deborah, a resident in the Lathrop/Ashland area, noted that she and her neighbors have met with Administrator Murphy and his staff on this issue. She stated that she would like to see iron fencing and tall Arborvitae trees placed around the demolition site, similar to what is in place at Concordia University. She remarked that she wants to know if the lowest bidder was the best option considering that the grant for the work is \$350,000. She commented that she would like to know how the Village will manage Anthem Construction and their sub-contractors on the bid. She asked about the alley and how neighbors closest to the work would be protected, and how the "Green Alley" work would proceed during this demolition work. She asked about dusk remediation during the demolition and asked if insurance would be added to protect the neighbors' properties.

Teresa Peavy, a resident at 13 Ashland Avenue, stated that the Lake & Lathrop project has been problematic and is the Village ready to manage this project better. She stated that she hopes that the work is done how it is supposed to with the demolition. She asked about the boundary of the chain linked fence and if whatever will be put up will protect her home. She asked what the plan is for the putting up a semi-permanent barrier after the weather changes to keep people from using the empty lot space.

Assistant to the Village Administrator, Matthew Walsh stated that the village received a

grant for the demolition for \$350,000, but the bid was lower, and monies cannot be moved from the demolition to other aspects of the project. The Village went through the historic preservation process to ensure that pieces of the property are preserved. He remarked that one of the requirements of the grant is to ensure that the work includes a 30% minority and/or women owned firms and the Village is searching for contractors that meet that requirement. He commented that only seven bids were returned, and the lowest bid met the minority/women owned requirement. He stated that regarding the landscaping piece of the project, the demolition will be completed after the planting season. He remarked that the chain link fencing will be removed from the site after demolition. He noted that this is a Village project, so they can manage the contractors directly.

Administrator Murphy noted that the Village will make sure they are “good neighbors” during this project. He added that Anthem is a woman-owned company, but not yet certified, and that he checked out the company. Administrator Murphy noted that pictures and videos would be taken of existing homes to make sure they can return them to their present status after the work is done.

Director Loster spoke to the Green Alley project and that work would not coincide with the demolition.

A resident of 14 Ashland thanked the Village of River Forest Police Department on policing the noise and commotion from the Madison Street restaurants and bars at night. She expressed worry about the open space and requested more police presence moving forward.

Trustee Brennan asked about the chain link fence being there over the winter and what height it could be.

Assistant Walsh noted that the fence would likely come down during the winter. They will address concerns about gatherings over the winter and that the Village will meet with residents to address any concerns.

Trustee O’Connell asked about the time length of the project

Matthew Walsh stated it would be four to six weeks in total and they would start sometime in October.

Trustee Brennan asked about the construction work times being unclear in the packet, specifically overtime work being outside the restrictive work times.

Administrator Murphy clarified the work times and overtime work, which requires Village approval. He stressed that the Village plans on being a good neighbor.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned and went into executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk