

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
June 12, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 7:00p.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 7:05p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Management Analyst Jon Pape, Police Chief Greg Weiss, Fire Chief Jim Eggert, Finance Director Joan Rock, Public Works Director John Anderson, Deputy Police Chief James O'Shea, Village Attorney Greg Smith

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

**4. ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Corsini stated that she, President Adduci, and Trustee Conti attended the Celebrating Seniors event at Dominican University on May 23rd. She said it was interesting and informative and suggested the Board keep in mind the dynamics and challenges discussed at the event when thinking about resident services.

Trustee Cargie congratulated the 2017 graduating class of Oak Park River Forest (OPRF) High School and the OPRF girls' softball team who won the Illinois State championship.

Trustee Vazquez congratulated President Adduci on being elected president of the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC). He stated that he along with Trustee Conti, Administrator Palm and some of the staff attended the WCMC dinner on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Conti echoed Trustee Vazquez's congratulations for President Adduci.

Trustee Henek stated she was happy to be at this meeting and congratulated the graduating class of OPRF. She said she had a great time at the Memorial Day parade and complimented Management Analyst Pape on the video that appeared on the Village's Facebook page.

Trustee Gibbs stated he enjoyed the Memorial Day parade and noted that two of his children graduated from Roosevelt Middle School. He stated that the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) recognized him as an honorary referee at a boy's state track meet.

President Adduci congratulated staff for organizing the Village's participation in the Memorial Day parade and congratulated the recent River Forest (and Oak Park) graduates. She stated that in addition to the Celebrating Seniors event she attended the WCMC dinner and Hephzipaloozah. She said she was invited to say a few words regarding Mary Anne Brown. She stated that she would like to create a Resolution for Ms. Brown to commemorate her years of service at Hephzibah. President Adduci added that she attended an 85 year celebration event at the Trailside Museum. She noted that the building was built in approximately 1894, was called the River Forest Institute, and was taken over by Cook County Forest Preserve in 1932 when it was open to the public.

Trustee Corsini stated that she, Trustee Vazquez, and President Adduci also attended a dedication ceremony for one of the Washington School bus relief panels which is displayed in the garden in front of the old school house. She encouraged all to view it.

President Adduci thanked the residents who worked hard to preserve the panels and the Public Works Department for housing the panels over the years.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes May 22, 2017
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2017
- c. Approval of Change Order #1 and Final for the William Street Alley Improvements for \$2,379.90 (Change Order is the Best Interest of the Village)
- d. Approval of Annual Maintenance Payment to Accela Inc. for the Village's Enterprise Resource Planning Software for \$23,320.53
- e. Establish the prevailing rate of wages for laborers, mechanics and other workers employed in performing construction public works projects for the Village - Ordinance
- f. Revision to Village Board Policy for Electronic Attendance
- g. Authorization to Declare Surplus and Sell 1992 Darley Spartan Fire Engine - Ordinance
- h. Approval of Accounts Payable April 2017 - \$1,687,929.04
- i. Monthly Department Reports
- j. Monthly Performance Measurement Report
- k. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Corsini asked that item f be removed from the consent agenda.

Village Administrator Palm noted that item b would be discussed in Closed Session before any action is taken.

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve the Consent Agenda items a, c-e, g-k and item h with the revised amount of \$1,687,929.04.

Roll call:

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Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve the revision to the Village Board Policy for Electronic Attendance.

Trustee Corsini questioned how the Village would protect the integrity of executive session if a member was participating electronically. In response, Village Attorney Smith noted that a level of trust is expected and required for both electronic and in-person participation. He said that the Ethics Ordinance also covers this.

Trustee Corsini stated that the only way to avoid abuse would be the requirement of a vote prior to allowing a board member to attend electronically. Village Attorney Smith stated that this is a formal part of the policy.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vasquez, to approve the Accounts Payable Invoice from Anderson Elevator in the amount of \$1,201.99.

Village Attorney Smith explained that he believed that Trustee Gibbs should recuse himself from approval of the Anderson Elevator invoice in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety since Trustee Gibbs is an employee of the company. Village Attorney Smith stated he does not believe there is a statutory conflict of interest in this matter in that it can be addressed with Trustee Gibbs' recusal.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Attorney Smith stated he believes the invoices are issued quarterly and will be included as a separate item going forward.

Trustee Gibbs stated that Anderson Elevator has maintained the Village Hall elevator for approximately 25 years.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None  
Abstained: Trustee Gibbs

Motion Passes.

## **6. BOARD, COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

- a. Board & Commission Appointments/Reappointments
  - i. Economic Development Commission
    - 1. Appointment of Robert O'Connell, Chairman
    - 2. Reappointment of Nena Maas Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 3. Reappointment of Tim Brangle- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 4. Reappointment of Collete English-Dixon- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 5. Appointment of Cuyler Brown- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
  - ii. Development Review Board
    - 1. Reappointment of Frank Martin, Chairman- Two Year Term Expiring 4/30/2019
    - 2. Appointment of Gerry Dombrowski Two Year Term Expiring 4/30/2019
    - 3. Reappointment of Lisa Ryan- Two Year Term Expiring 4/30/2019
  - iii. Plan Commission
    - 1. Reappointment of Ori Gottlieb- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
  - vi. Zoning Board of Appeals
    - 1. Reappointment of Frank Martin- Five Year Term Expiring 4/30/2022
    - 2. Reappointment of David Berni Five Year Term Expiring 4/30/2022
    - 3. Appointment of Robert Swindal- Five Year Term Expiring 4/30/2022
  - v. Traffic & Safety Commission
    - 1. Reappointment of John (Jack) Cleary- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 2. Reappointment of John Osga Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 3. Reappointment of Frederick (Rick) Gillis- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 4. Reappointment of Steven Wade Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
  - vi. Historic Preservation Commission
    - 1. Reappointment of Michael Pritz- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 2. Reappointment of Carla Graham-White- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
    - 3. Reappointment of Brian Prestes- Four Year Term Expiring 4/30/2021
  - vii. Board of Fire and Police Commission
    - 1. Reappointment of Mark Walsh Three Year Term Expiring 4/30/2020
  - viii. Police Pension Fund Board
    - 1. Reappointment of Joan Rock Two Year Term Expiring 4/30/2019
    - 2. Reappointment of Heath Bray- Two Year Term Expiring 4/30/2019
  - xi. Fire Pension Fund Board
    - 1. Reappointment of Joan Rock- Three Year Term Expiring 4/30/2020

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President for appointments 6ai.-6axi. for the Boards and Commissions appointments effective May 1, 2017.

Trustee Corsini asked that 6.a.i.4. be removed.

President Adduci asked if Trustee Conti would amend her motion to remove the reappointment of Colette English-Dixon to the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Trustee Conti and Trustee Cargie agreed to amend their motion.

President Adduci reviewed her recommended reappointments. She noted that the individuals who were not reappointed are either moving out of the community or are unable to participate due to work schedules.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to reappoint Collete English-Dixon to the Economic Development Commission for a four year term expiring April 30, 2021.

Trustee Corsini stated Ms. English-Dixon's qualifications are great but was concerned about an incident when she lacked professionalism in her comments.

Trustee Gibbs discussed his feelings about the incident and noted there was no apology or explanation. He stated he does not feel she should be reappointed to the EDC.

Trustee Conti stated that she remembered the meeting but did not recall the comment. She noted it was a highly contentious meeting. She said she knows her to be highly qualified and committed to the Village and the EDC. Trustee Conti stated that we are fortunate to have her on board and she does not feel that anything as contentious and person will be coming up.

Trustee Gibbs indicated that the EDC is an advisory commission to the Village Board. He said members of the EDC have made critical remarks about the Board in regard to Lake and Park and he does not think it is productive. In response, Trustee Conti stated that the meeting in question was highly charged and contentious on all sides. She stated she does not remember anything happening since then. Trustee Gibbs questioned the EDC's contentiousness with the Board and wondered if the trustees are considered adversaries if they do not take the advice of a commission.

Trustee Cargie stated that at the end of the day, the Board and the commissions serve the residents of River Forest. He said Ms. English-Dixon is one of the most qualified people on the Commission. He noted that she is a chair at Roosevelt University's business school and said that losing her input would be a loss for the community. He stated that he hopes the EDC is evolving into a potent force and we need people like her on that commission. He said it is not important that the Board agrees with her but it is important for the Board to get the advice that she can offer.

Trustee Corsini reiterated her concern. She stated she could vote in favor of her but felt an apology is in order.

President Adduci stated that she has a high regard for Ms. English-Dixon and is 100% behind her.

Trustee Henek stated she listened to the audio of the meeting and was impressed with the comments, questions, and participation of Ms. English-Dixon. She said she felt Ms. English-Dixon participated in a very positive manner and added to the conversation.

Trustee Corsini stated that it is not appropriate to call Trustees names in public and suggested that the trustees should think about that.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he has been involved in public meetings and has been called names. He added that he is not saying that is right. He stated that speakers can advocate for their positions and get caught up in their own opinions. He suggested that President Adduci speak to Ms. English-Dixon.

Roll call:

Ayes:	Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Henek, and Conti
Absent:	None
Nays:	Trustees Gibbs and Corsini

Motion Passes.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Update on North Avenue TIF District
  - i. Amendment to Ordinances 3540 and 3553 Authorizing a Study of the Feasibility of Establishing Tax Increment Allocation Financing to Improve Deteriorating Physical Conditions and Stimulate New Economic Development within the General Area of North Avenue in the Village of River Forest- Ordinance

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to review and pass an Ordinance adopting an amendment to Ordinances 3540 and 3553 authorizing a study of the feasibility of establishing tax increment allocation financing to improve deteriorating physical conditions and stimulate new economic development within the general area of North Avenue in the Village of River Forest.

Trustee Vazquez disclosed that he is an attorney at the firm Franczek-Radelet and that the firm represents School District 90 and the Oak Park River Forest High School District 200. He said he has a common law conflict of interest. He stated that he would like to disclose this information and recuse himself from the discussion.

Village Attorney Smith instructed the Village Clerk not to include Trustee Vazquez in the roll call vote.

Trustee Vazquez stepped out of the room.

Village Administrator Palm stated that the Village is in the process of formulating all the due diligence for the proposed North Avenue TIF district. He noted that part of that process is setting the boundary for the district and the boundary can be brought in (but not pushed out) at a later date. He said if the Board adopts this, staff will continue to do due diligence work with Kane McKenna and will come back to the Board with draft reports, communications strategy,

and a timeline.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm confirmed that the boundary is more than three houses from North Avenue. President Adduci stated that this boundary is smoothed out. In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated the boundaries are all drawn on lot lines. Village Attorney Smith added that in regard to the adjacent right-of-ways the intention is that the boundaries extend across all the right-of-ways of the Village's edge of the jurisdiction.

In response to a question from Trustee Gibbs, Village Administrator Palm stated the inclusion of a tax-exempt property is for contiguity. Village Attorney Smith indicated that keeping St. Vincent's within the TIF boundary allows the Village to do public works projects that would be eligible for reimbursement with TIF funds.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm affirmed that the Board will establish the breadth of the TIF unless the Board decides to adopt a new TIF and start over.

Roll call:

Ayes:	Trustees Cargie, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti
Absent:	None
Nays:	None
Abstained:	Trustee Vazquez

Motion Passes.

Trustee Vazquez returned to the meeting.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Waiver of Formal Bidding Requirements and Award Contract for Professional Services Consulting to Houseal Lavigne Associates, LLC for the River Forest Comprehensive Plan Project in a not-to-exceed amount of \$86,500

Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, for a waiver of formal bids and a contract award to Houseal Lavigne, LLC for consulting services not to exceed amount of \$86,500.

Village Administrator Palm stated that the agenda states that the Village is waiving the formal bidding process because they issued an RFP but it does not mean there was not a competitive process.

Mr. Palm stated that this will be the commencement of the Village's comprehensive plan process and noted the last comprehensive plan was updated in 2003. He said the process would take twelve months and it is like a strategic plan for the entire community. He indicated that John Houseal's historical knowledge along with consultants that are relatively new to the community will provide a nice balance of historical knowledge/perspective and fresh ideas/new perspectives. He noted that the new subcontractors are identified in the contract documents. Village Administrator Palm stated there will be a kick-off meeting during the summer. He said the Plan

Commission will be the main advisory body and noted they have not met quite some time.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm stated that the Plan Commission was notified that they would be tasked with updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Discussion: Non-Domesticated Animals in Residential Zoning Districts

President Adduci stated that the Village Code is specific regarding the animals that can be housed in River Forest and that there are some animals in the community that are not allowed under the Ordinance.

Village Administrator Palm reported that this issue has come to the attention of the Village before and the residents who violated the Ordinance were made aware of it. He discussed the specifics of the Ordinance. He stated that the part of the Ordinance refers to dangerous animals and nuisances and that is where it indicates that bees are not permitted. Village Administrator Palm stated he is not intending to engage in a debate about the need for bees but rather to have a discussion regarding the appropriateness of the use on a residential property. He discussed the safety issues for Village staff, utility workers, and neighbors. He reviewed the options outlined in his memo.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Village Administrator Palm stated there was an inquiry from a resident who already received bees as well as a complaint from a neighbor.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated Dominican University is in a non-residential zoning district and the bees are contained in their educational unit.

Trustee Cargie stated that given the relatively small size of the lots he is concerned about the risk of bees to the neighbors. He said while a resident may enjoy having a beehive it could impair the ability of the neighbors to enjoy their back yard. He said that he does not believe that chickens and ducks pose a health risk to neighbors but they could be an issue if they are noisy.

Trustee Gibbs stated that he is concerned about the danger of bee stings to allergic individuals.

President Adduci questioned how far the Village would go in regard to regulating certain dog breeds under the existing code. She suggested that there be consideration given to managing this through zoning regulations. In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, President Adduci described how a duck was discovered after 17 years and there was not one complaint. She inquired whether anyone had heard complaints regarding chicken coops. No one had heard complaints.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner stated she does not recall a violation issued for having a pet duck within the last four years.

President Adduci stated that she thinks there have been more requests about whether chickens are allowed as opposed to getting rid of them. She said she is more concerned about beehives.

Trustee Conti said she would like the Board to learn more about bees in order to make an informed choice.

In response to a comment from Trustee Gibbs, Village Attorney Smith stated that there is a state law that regulates apiaries (beehives) and establishes standards. He said a license is required for bee keeping.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Attorney Smith stated that the Village would not be exposed to liability and noted that the Riverside ordinance requires insurance.

President Adduci stated that the Sustainability Commission could research more about the matter and present it to the Board. She suggested looking at Riverside's pilot program further. In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Village Attorney Smith stated Riverside's ordinance was adopted late last year and their village manager will deliver a report to the board at the end of this year when the board will decide whether to renew or revoke the program. He added that Riverside also has a pilot chicken coop program.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, President Adduci suggested that the Village Board and/or the Sustainability Commission discuss the matter with the Village of Riverside. Trustee Henek said it would be interesting to hear what the Village of Riverside has to say in regard to what worked and what they might have done differently.

## **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:05 p.m. Trustee Conti made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to adjourn from the regular meeting and to go into executive session for purposes of discussion of closed session minutes

Roll call:

Ayes:	Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti
Absent:	None
Nays:	None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vasquez, to return to the regular session of the Village Board of Trustees meeting.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the revised Village of River Forest Executive Session meeting minutes dated May 22, 2017.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Gibbs, Corsini, Henek, and Conti  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

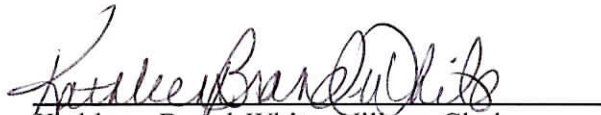
## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Corsini made a motion seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:12p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Vazquez, Conti, Henek, Gibbs, and Corsini  
Absent: None  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

  
Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk