

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
February 27, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 27, 2017 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 7:01 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Conti, Corsini, Cargie, Dwyer, and Gibbs  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Also Present: Village Clerk Sharon Halperin, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Police Chief Greg Weiss, Fire Chief Jim Eggert, Finance Director Joan Rock, Assistant Finance Director Cheryl Scott, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Attorney Greg Smith

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**4. ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Dwyer stated that his wife wanted to pass along her thanks to Chief Weiss for his donation of a ride to school from the police to the PTO fundraiser.

Trustee Corsini stated that she, Clerk Halperin, and Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner attended the annual West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 18. She said the legislative agenda contains some excellent initiatives and she hopes that work with this lobbying group will bring about significant legislative changes.

President Adduci thanked the attendees of the WCMC breakfast for representing the Village of River Forest.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2017
- b. Award Bid and Contract for William Street Alley to Schroeder Asphalt Services for \$122,179.85
- c. Declaration of Surplus Property – Recovered Stolen Bicycles – Ordinance
- d. Declaration of Surplus Property – Public Works Chipper Truck – Ordinance
- e. Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Berwyn of Reserve Fire Engine
- f. Monthly Financial Report – January 2017
- g. January 2017 Accounts Payable - \$1,503,534.22
- h. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dwyer, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Corsini asked where the new engine would be housed and Fire Chief Eggert confirmed that it would be at the River Forest Village Hall.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Police Chief Weiss stated that the Village has donated bikes in the past and plans to do so in the future.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Gibbs, Corsini, Dwyer, Conti, and Cargie

Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Traffic and Safety – Amend Title 9 of the Village Code – Resident Only Parking on 1000 block of Jackson Avenue – Ordinance

Trustee Gibbs made a motion to reject the recommendation of the Traffic and Safety Commission to approve an Ordinance amending Title 9 of the Village Code establishing Resident Parking Only on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The motion was not seconded.

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Conti, to accept the recommendation of the Traffic and Safety Commission to approve an Ordinance amending Title 9 of the Village Code establishing Resident Parking Only on the 1000 block of Jackson Avenue between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Trustee Gibbs discussed his concerns regarding the impact of restricting parking to only residents and provided examples of other solutions utilized elsewhere. He discussed the inconsistency of parking restrictions in the area. He suggested that the restrictions be modified to two or three hour parking to prevent students with River Forest vehicle stickers from parking in these areas.

In response to a question from Trustee Gibbs, Village Administrator Palm noted that staff reached out to Concordia who sent a campus-wide email regarding this issue.

Trustee Corsini suggested there was a special event on the days when the numbers were high. Ross Fasano of 1009 Jackson stated there are eight to fourteen cars parked on the 1000 block of Jackson daily. Trustee Gibbs concurred that there were many cars parked on that block and reiterated his suggestion that parking be restricted to two to three hours. President Adduci said that hourly parking restrictions are more difficult to enforce. Trustee Gibbs indicated hourly parking is adjacent to the area and would not require much more effort. There was a brief discussion about what parking restriction options are available.



Nancy Fasano, 1009 Jackson, stated the Village Engineer provided them with various options which were then presented to the neighbors. She said she does not believe a two hour parking restriction would alleviate the parking problem in her neighborhood. She said she believes administrative personnel, and not students, are parking on her block. In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Ms. Fasano stated she does not believe Concordia's memo changed parking behavior.

Trustee Corsini suggested that whatever restrictions are put in place that they contain an exception for holidays.

In response to a statement from Trustee Gibbs, Police Chief Weiss described the parking enforcement activities on Thomas.

Trustee Corsini suggested that the Board request the Traffic and Safety Commission consider restricting parking on Thomas to one side only and noted that street is very narrow. Trustee Gibbs stated emergency vehicles could have difficulties maneuvering if Concordia students and staff begin to park on Thomas. Trustee Corsini suggested looking at where the parking congestion will move to after these restrictions are in place. Trustee Dwyer proposed that the Board add the same restrictions on the 1100 block of Jackson. Trustee Cargie recommended that the Board reach out to residents first before any restrictions are imposed on that street.

Trustee Dwyer requested clarification on whether the parking restrictions cover both sides of the street. Trustee Corsini affirmed the restriction covers both sides of the street.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, Cargie, and Conti  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Corsini recommended that the Traffic and Safety Committee review the 7500 Block of Thomas. President Adduci concurred.

In response to a question from Trustee Gibbs and Trustee Cargie, Police Chief Weiss stated that he is in the process of notifying patrol officers to increase enforcement efforts in the area.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated that the Village will send notification to the residents on the block.

Trustee Gibbs stated that the law of unintended consequences says that the 900 block and 1100 blocks of Jackson Avenue are likely to be affected by the new restrictions and suggested that staff monitor the situation. President Adduci affirmed that the area will be monitored and predicted that residents will complain if this restriction causes problems elsewhere.

b. Finance – Administration Committee –Waive Formal Bidding and Award Contract to BKD, LLP for Professional Auditing Services in the amount of \$32,750

Trustee Dwyer made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to accept the recommendation from the Finance Committee and approve an Agreement with BKD, LLP for professional auditing services for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017 with the option of auditing the four subsequent fiscal years.

Trustee Corsini reported that the Finance Committee met this evening and recommended awarding the contract to BKD.

Finance Director Rock stated she recommended BKD and felt it was the lowest qualified bidder. She noted that when BKD took over Wolf and Company in 2014, the auditors added a new internal controls questionnaire and used different audit controls and procedures. She said that she believes this provides a fresh look. She noted that in the past there have been concerns about using the same auditors and to address that she requested that they change the partner and the staff on the engagement. She stated BKD is a very qualified firm and provides a lot of added services.

President Adduci stated that she has always questioned whether, as fiduciaries of the Village, the Village should have a rotation policy in either rotation of the organization, rotation of the partner, or both. She said there are more pros than cons in regard to rotation and most boards create a policy. Trustee Corsini stated this was discussed at the meeting and there is a policy to go out for bid every five years. She said upgrading the policy to include rotation of engagement partners was discussed and will be considered at the next meeting. She noted the Committee was comfortable about going forward with BKD. Trustee Dwyer stated in the rotation of firms there are more detrimental effects in the loss of the institutional knowledge. He noted there are no issues they are aware of that would prevent BKD from providing a clean opinion. He suggested reading the article from the Illinois CPA Society (ILCPA) which indicates there is no statistical evidence to support the concept of rotation. In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Scott Termine, partner at BKD, stated there is a sort of Chinese wall between the previous engagement partner and the new partner. Trustee Cargie stated he feels the loss of the institutional knowledge is not worth the benefit of fresh eyes from a government standpoint.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Finance Director Rock stated Wolf started in 2008 and prior to that the Village utilized Miller Cooper. Finance Director Rock noted that BKD is a much larger company than Wolf and Company was.

Trustee Conti noted that the Village has the option to renew and is not obligated to continue with BKD after four years. Trustee Corsini stated these are annual engagements and the reason to go request proposals every five years is for pricing. Finance Director Rock noted that it is normal to have an extended engagement because there are higher costs in the first year. In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Finance Director Rock stated staff does an annual engagement letter and does not normally go back to the Board every year.

Trustee Corsini stated that of the firms that bid, the lowest bidder did not have as much municipal experience and the Village could not expect the same level of service. She pointed out that the Village has received the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) award several times. Finance Director Rock noted that BKD has a higher level of knowledge than other firms.



President Adduci discussed Round Lake's rotation policy. Finance Director Rock stated that many Villages have been with the same auditing firm for years and she will search for more rotation policies prior to the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Termine briefly discussed the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) changes and said he hopes to continue to bring new changes to the attention of Village staff. He stated he encourages clients to contact him when situations arise in order to address them as they are occurring rather than waiting until audit time. He said he would be happy to provide articles in regard to rotation policies.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, Cargie, and Conti  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Storm Water Facilities Access, Inspection and Repair License Agreement between the Village of River Forest and Concordia University Chicago

Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dwyer, to approve a Resolution authorizing the execution of a storm water facilities access, inspection and repair license agreement between the Village of River Forest and Concordia University of Chicago.

Village Administrator Palm discussed this history of such agreements. He noted that the involvement of developers of other projects stops once the project has been completed but this is not the case with Concordia. He stated that this agreement will not only allow access to the storm water facilities in connection with the new dormitory but to all storm water facilities on the campus. He indicated this agreement will be a template for any new institutional projects in the Village.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Attorney Smith stated that the term of the agreement is for five years and would be automatically renewed without the need for Village Board approval. Village Administrator Palm stated the Village hopes that there will not be a need to use the agreement and noted that it would be used in emergency situations. He explained that Village Engineer Jeff Loster and Public Works Director John Anderson have been working to implement best practices such as this agreement.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Village Administrator Palm stated that they could approach the other educational institutions in River Forest and ask for a similar agreement without a pending Planned Development application. He noted that there are several institutions in the Village (schools, churches, etc.) and some of them may not have storm water facilities. He said the planned development process provides a natural point to have that conversation but as time allows, staff can begin to talk with other institutions.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated the Village would respond to an emergency and would invoice the institution for costs. Village Attorney Smith added that the institution would have sixty days from invoice to reimburse the Village if the Village incurs costs in respect to a failure of the institution to maintain storm water facilities. In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated the Village could also discover an issue with the storm water facilities and the institution could hire their own contractor to address it. In response to a follow up question from Trustee Conti, Village Attorney Smith stated the agreement is permissive, not mandatory, and it does not transfer the responsibility of maintaining storm water facilities to the Village.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, Cargie, Colwell-Steinke, and Conti  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Resolution in support of Federal Legislation requiring Universal Background Checks for all gun sales

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Conti, to adopt a Resolution in support of Federal Legislation requiring Universal Background Checks for all gun sales.

President Adduci discussed the history of this resolution and noted the Board has no legislative powers in this regard.

Trustee Cargie said he asked that this be put on the Agenda because 86% of River Forest residents voted in favor of the advisory referendum for background checks.

Trustee Dwyer questioned the reasoning of passing a resolution that will have no effect. President Adduci noted the Board approves many resolutions that make a statement. Trustee Cargie stated that the advocates for gun background checks would like to use these resolutions to show legislators that there is widespread support for background checks.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Trustee Cargie stated that there needs to be federal legislation for universal background checks and noted that most guns in Illinois come in from Indiana.

Trustee Conti said she thinks this is unusual for the Board to do, but she feels the resolution makes sense.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, Cargie, and Conti  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

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Motion Passes.

## 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:57 p.m. Trustee Cargie made a motion seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to recess to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the acquisition of real property, and probable and imminent litigation.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Conti, Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, and Cargie  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cargie made a motion seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Conti, Dwyer, Gibbs, Corsini, and Cargie  
Absent: Trustee Colwell-Steinke  
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

  
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Sharon Halperin, Village Clerk