

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**
2 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **Held on January 23, 2017**
4

5 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 23rd, 2017, at the
6 Linzey D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Debra Meyers-
7 Martin at 7:00 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator
8 Mekarski/Village Clerk called the roll.
9

10 Present: Trustees – Gibson, Robinson, Pennington, and Byrd
11 Village President Debra Meyers-Martin
12 Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David A. Mekarski
13

14 Absent: Trustee Hudson.
15

16 **Please Keep Trustee Hudson in your Prayers** – Village President Meyers-Martin asked that
17 everyone keep Trustee Hudson in their prayers. Trustee Hudson lost her brother this week. She
18 had to travel out of town for his service.
19

20 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
21

22 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Byrd to suspend with the Reading of the**
23 **Minutes of October 24th, 2016, December 6th, 2016, December 7th, 2016, December 12th,**
24 **2016, December 19th, 2016, and January 9th, 2017.**

25 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
26

27 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Robinson to approve the Minutes of**
28 **October 24th, 2016, Board Meeting, the December 6th, 2016, Workshop Meeting, the**
29 **December 7th, 2016, Work Session Meeting, the December 12th, 2016, Special Board**
30 **Meeting, the December 19th, 2016, Special Board Meeting, and the January 9th, 2017,**
31 **Special Board Meeting.**

32 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
33

34 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**
35

36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that you have before you tonight Bills for Approval in
37 the amount of \$346,734.04. There is a cover Memo designating the more significant payouts.

38 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to Approve the Payment of Bills for**
39 **January 23rd, 2017, in the Total Amount of \$346,734.04.**

40 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**
41

42 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**
43

44 Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 7:03 P.M.

45 **2016 Holiday Awards Presentation – Beautification Committee** – Village President Meyers-
46 Martin stated that we are excited because we have the 2016 Holiday Awards Presentation. The
47 Beautification Committee is here to do that.

1 Mrs. Susan Moroney stated tonight we are going to celebrate our 15th Annual Holiday Award
2 Program Winners. The Village had a total of 53-homes submitted by the Presidents of the
3 Homeowners Associations for review. The three top homes in each subdivision were reviewed
4 by the Beautification Committee. Mrs. Moroney stated that she, along with Willett Hudson,
5 Arlene Burke, Evelyn Owens, and Susan Gowen all reviewed the top three homes in each
6 subdivision. They were scored according to curb appeal, creativity, originality, the use of color,
7 and the overall holiday theme, and the coordination of the décor to the home. She stated of the
8 53-homes they have three top ones.
9

10 Mrs. Moroney stated that the First Place Winner is The McCormick Family. (There was a round
11 of applause). They received an Award Certificate and a \$100.00 Gift Card at Bizios. Mrs.
12 McCormick stated thank you very much. (There was a round of applause). Village President
13 Meyers-Martin stated that the family makes a mean bottle of eggnog. She stated that she enjoyed
14 it tremendously.
15

16 Mrs. Moroney stated that the Second Place Winner is The Chana Family. (There was a round of
17 applause). Mr. and Mrs. Chana accepted the award. They received an Award Certificate and a
18 \$75.00 Gift Card at Bizios. (There was a round of applause).
19

20 Mrs. Moroney stated that the Third Place Winner is The Pellettiere Family. (There was a round
21 of applause). Mrs. Moroney stated that we will mail this to them. They will receive an Award
22 Certificate and a \$50.00 Gift Card at Bizios. (There was a round of applause).
23

24 Mrs. Moroney stated that we thank you all for all the effort you put into the homes. Village
25 President Meyers-Martin stated that she is so happy that you participated in making the Village
26 more beautiful.
27

28 Trustee Pennington inquired of Mrs. Moroney what subdivisions the winners are from. The
29 McCormick's are from the Original Village. The Chana's are from The Trails. The Pellettiere's
30 are from Suburban Woods.
31

32 Mrs. McCormick stated that she drives around to look at other homes. There is no listing
33 anywhere of who has been nominated and where to go to look for the houses that have been
34 nominated. It would be nice to come to Village Hall and pick up a form here when you are
35 driving around to know which ones to go look at. Trustee Pennington stated that is an excellent
36 idea. Mrs. Moroney stated that we don't do the review until like December 21st. She stated that
37 not too many people want to drive around between the 21st and the 27th. We can still provide a
38 list. We don't get the top three until two-days before that. It is a close window when we get the
39 notification from the Presidents of the Homeowners Associations. Mrs. McCormick stated that
40 even if they knew in the front office they could just look it up if we wanted to know. Mrs.
41 Moroney stated that they have that information. Mrs. McCormick stated that she has asked them
42 in the past and they haven't. Mrs. Moroney stated that we can get that fixed. Mrs. McCormick
43 stated that would be great. Mrs. Moroney thanked everybody for participating. Village President
44 Meyers-Martin stated congratulations and thank you for coming in tonight.
45

46 Although there were members of the public in the audience, no one wished to address the Board.
47 Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications & Petitions at 7:12 P.M.

1 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

2
3 **A. Recommendation for Payment of Invoice #16120257 to Robinson Engineering for Work**
4 **Completed in Connection with the Vollmer Road Reconstruction Preliminary**
5 **Engineering Project (Project No. 14-590) in the Amount of \$9,404.59.**
6

7 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that brings us to Consent Agenda Item 5(A). That is an
8 item that is considered routine and does not require the normal discussion by the Board
9 Members.

10 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Robinson to Approve Consent Agenda Item**
11 **(A.)**

12 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
13

14 **FINANCE:**

15
16 **Treasurer’s Report for November 2016** – Trustee Byrd stated that the first Report is the
17 Treasurer’s Report of Cash Balances. The first page shows the 10 banking institutions that the
18 Village has money in. The total is \$5,305,218.28. The second page shows the amounts in each of
19 the Funds. There are a total of 14-Funds. The Interfund shows what is owed to the different
20 Funds. The total is \$5,168,460.45.
21

22 **November 2016 Financial Statements** – Trustee Byrd stated that if you go to the Report for
23 Revenue and Expenses, in the General Fund the Village budgeted \$383,433.00 for the month of
24 November. The actual Revenue was \$298,616.00. All three Funds were short on Revenue for the
25 month of November. The General Fund was \$85,000.00 short of what was budgeted for the
26 month of November. The Water Fund was \$37,000.00 short of meeting its Budget for November.
27 The Village had budgeted \$316,294.00 in the Water Fund. The actual Revenue was \$279,285.00.
28 In the Sewer Fund the Village budgeted \$134,704.00. The actual Revenue was \$89,325.00. It is
29 approximately \$145,000.00 short of meeting this Budget for the month of November. Trustee
30 Byrd stated taking into consideration the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund are based on payments
31 being received on those months.
32

33 Trustee Byrd stated that with regard to Expenses in the General Fund the Village budgeted
34 \$451,907.00. The actual Expenses were \$438,007.00. In the Water Fund the Village budgeted
35 \$175,259.00 in Expenses. The actual Expenses were \$144,284.00. In the Sewer Fund the Village
36 budgeted \$196,081.00 in Expenses. The actual Expenses were \$171,091.00. We continue on the
37 Expense side to be lower than what the Budget has been set up for the year which is a good
38 thing. The different Departments are watching their Expenses. The Expenses for the last few
39 months have always been lower than what was budgeted. That has helped out a great deal.
40

41 Trustee Byrd stated that on the next page if you go to the Year to Date Surplus/Deficit, the
42 General Fund by November which is the seventh-month into the Budget, we should have had a
43 \$57,433.00 deficit. Our actual surplus is \$71,751.00 which is approximately \$114,000.00 more
44 in the black than what we had budgeted for to be at this time. In the Water Fund the Village
45 budgeted to have an \$111,291.00 surplus. We are at \$83,720.00. In the Sewer Fund the Village
46 budgeted to have \$45,365.00. We had an \$83,575.00 deficit in that Fund. The Water Fund and

1 the Sewer Fund has run lower than what was expected for the year, but it tends to catch up by the
2 end of the year.

3
4 Trustee Pennington inquired of Trustee Byrd what he would attribute to be a significant deficit in
5 the Sewer Fund Year to Date. Trustee Byrd stated that he was going to have a discussion with
6 Cindy on that today but she wasn't in today. He stated that he will have an answer for the next
7 meeting. Trustee Pennington stated that would be good to know.

8
9 **BUILDING:**

10
11 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we have Building. Trustee Hudson is not here. She
12 forgot to mention when the Holiday Awards were being given out that Trustee Hudson is also the
13 Liaison to the Beautification Committee as well as to Building.

14
15 **Franciscan Health Hospital Expansion** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
16 Franciscan Health, formerly known as St. James is doing a \$139,000,000.00 expansion in the
17 Village of Olympia Fields. They have added to that expansion a SurgiCenter, a day surgery
18 building that they will construct. They have begun that on the 79-acres that they own on the
19 south side of 203rd Street. This Friday, the Chicago Southland Economic Development
20 Corporation and the Village of Olympia Fields is hosting a breakfast for Allan Spooner who is
21 the new CEO that took over from Arnie Kimmel. She will be speaking and introducing Mr.
22 Spooner. Mr. Spooner will be talking about the expansion of Franciscan Health at Prairie State
23 College this Friday, January 27th, at 8:30 A.M. If anyone is free and would like to hear about all
24 of the magnificent plans that Franciscan Health has she would encourage you to attend. She
25 stated that healthcare in the southland has been in question. St. James was thinking of moving
26 from the region. They have decided to stay. They have consolidated two hospitals in the Village
27 of Olympia Fields which we are very excited about. That will mean an additional 700 employees
28 coming to the Village. We have started encouraging our businesses to gear up for those 700 new
29 employees traveling down Vollmer Road and traveling down Route 30, because this is an
30 opportunity to enhance your businesses. We are very excited about that. Our Building
31 Department has been quite busy with Building Permits and all of the things that are required in
32 order to make that happen in partnership with Franciscan Health. She is very excited.

33
34 **PLANNING:**

35
36 **Planning and Zoning Commission** - Trustee Pennington stated that he did not have a Formal
37 Report with respect to Planning. Trustee Pennington wanted to state for the record, and for the
38 residents that the Planning and Zoning Commission will have a meeting at Village Hall on
39 January 31st, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. to discuss several points of interest. He encouraged everyone to
40 attend if they so desire.

41
42 **Veterans Affairs Committee** – Trustee Pennington stated that he wanted to report on the
43 activities of the Veterans Affairs Committee. On December 3rd, 2016, the Veterans Affairs
44 Committee of Olympia Fields hosted its inaugural Veterans Breakfast at the Olympia Fields
45 Country Club. The breakfast had a two-fold purpose. First, it was to serve as the starting point
46 for our ongoing fundraising efforts to establish and erect a Veterans Memorial in the Village of
47 Olympia Fields. Second, the breakfast brought together resident Veterans from Olympia Fields,

1 as well as Veterans from the communities of Chicago Heights, Homewood, Glenwood, Hazel
2 Crest, and University Park. He stated that 10 resident Veterans from the Brookdale Senior Living
3 Center also attended. State Representative Al Riley was our Keynote Speaker for the day. Other
4 notable individuals included Mayor Vernard Alsberry of Hazel Crest, Georges Sanon, Veterans
5 Affairs Coordinator at Prairie State College, and Dr. Rupert Evans of Governors State University
6 who is the Chief of Health Services there. He stated that over 60-Veterans attended. Trustee
7 Pennington wanted to personally thank the Veterans of Foreign War Post 2024 of Chicago for
8 serving as our color guard. He wanted to thank President Meyers-Martin for her attendance and
9 remarks, as well as Trustee Arthur Byrd for his attendance. He thanked Chairman Donald
10 Ransford for securing the venue, as well as Trustee Howard Robinson, Secretary of the OFVAC,
11 and Committee Woman, Nicole Mandeville, who was the Vice Chair, for their unwavering
12 assistance in making this event a successful one. They are starting out small. They hope to make
13 this an annual event, perhaps partnering with the Olympia Fields Park District in the future.

14
15 Trustee Pennington stated that on Wednesday, January 4th, 2017, the Veterans Affairs Committee
16 met at the Brookdale Senior Living Center. The purpose for this meeting was to reach out to the
17 resident Veterans at the Center. He stated that over 60-Veterans from World War II and the
18 Korean War era are living there. Chairman Ransford outlined some of the things that we would
19 like to do in 2017. We will continue our plans to design and present to this Board our vision for a
20 Veterans Memorial. We recognize that many high school students are not sufficiently aware of
21 the history regarding our Veterans. Committee Woman Nicole Mandeville is preparing an
22 Educational Plan that will include the Brookdale Veterans, many of whom are World War II,
23 Korean War, and Viet Nam War Veterans. The overall design is to have students from District
24 227 and perhaps other students in the area, meet with the Veterans to gain first-hand knowledge
25 about their experiences and Armed Forces History. This module is in the planning stages. He
26 stated that more information will be forthcoming.

27
28 Trustee Pennington stated that our potential plans include conducting seminars regarding
29 Veterans Benefits Availability, Coordinating Events with other Regional Veterans Associations,
30 i.e. parades, and to grow our membership in the Village of Olympia Fields. Further information
31 regarding these measures will be provided to this Board once developed. He is happy to be the
32 Liaison to this group being a Veteran himself. He is glad to have Howard Robinson as a leader
33 within that group. Trustee Pennington inquired of Trustee Robinson whether or not he had
34 anything to add. Trustee Robinson stated no, you said it all.

35
36 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

37
38 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the late Trustee Waite was the Liaison to Public
39 Works. We won't have a Public Works Report tonight.

40
41 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

42
43 **Human Resources Committee** - Trustee Robinson stated that he does not have a Formal Report
44 tonight. He stated for the record, we will be convening a Meeting on February 6th.

45
46
47

1 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

2
3 Trustee Gibson asked everyone to bear with her. She stated that because of the holidays and the
4 special meetings and workshop that we have before the holidays started, we feel it is important
5 for the residents to be aware of the magnificent work that our police officers are involved in. She
6 has a number of Reports.

7
8 **Chicago Crime Commission Award – Task Force Officer Corporal Garrick Amschl –**
9 Trustee Gibson stated that this is a Report about the Chicago Crime Commission Award. The
10 Task Force that our Officer, Corporal Garrick Amschl is a part of. On Wednesday, November
11 16th, Department of Homeland Security Investigations Financial Crimes Task Force, Officer
12 Garrick Amschl and members of his unit were recognized for their efforts at the Chicago Crime
13 Commission “2016 Stars of Distinction.” The Awards Ceremony was held at the Hilton Banquet
14 Hall in Chicago.

15
16 Corporal Amschl and the members of his unit were recognized for a large seizure of fully
17 automatic assault rifles, hand grenades, ballistic vests, military grade weapons, ammunition and
18 fully automatic handguns from a storage facility in Elgin, Illinois.

19
20 The Financial Crimes Task Force Unit initiated a traffic stop of a suspect wanted in connection
21 with narcotics trafficking and money laundering. During the investigation, information was
22 developed regarding this large cache of dangerous and illegal weapons at the storage facility. A
23 search warrant was obtained and through a multi-jurisdictional response involving twelve local,
24 state and federal agencies, the storage facility was searched and the weapons were recovered.

25
26 Corporal Amschl and the members of his unit should be recognized and commended for their
27 actions which are a positive reflection of the Department and of the Village of Olympia Fields.

28
29 A copy of this will go into Corporal Amschl’s file.

30
31 **Citizen Assist – Corporal Don Dean and Officer Riley Mayer** – Trustee Gibson stated that the
32 second item is for information only. On Sunday, November 27th, Chief of Police Krull received a
33 thank you e-mail from Ms. Jennifer Croak reference the actions of Corporal Donald Dean and
34 Officer Riley Mayer.

35
36 Ms. Croak related that her boyfriend, who is a Veteran, suffered a severe PTSD episode on
37 Friday, November 25th which required immediate treatment at St. James Hospital. Because of the
38 severity of the PTSD attack, Ms. Croak was unable to persuade him to be transported via
39 ambulance and instead tried to drive him (and his service animal who was also highly agitated)
40 to the hospital in their personal vehicle.

41
42 In an attempt to calm her boyfriend, Ms. Croak had her boyfriend contact Corporal Dean who is
43 a friend of their family. Although Corporal Dean was not working and was out of town, he
44 stayed on the telephone trying to calm the situation. While still on the telephone, Corporal Dean
45 was able to text Officer Mayer who was working his scheduled shift and alert him to the need for
46 assistance. Corporal Dean and Officer Mayer were able to coordinate an escort to St. James.

1 Once at the hospital, Officer Mayer was able to assist Ms. Croak in getting her boyfriend
2 admitted to the hospital without incident or harm to anyone involved.

3
4 Ms. Croak wanted to personally thank Corporal Dean and Officer Mayer for a job well-done.
5

6 **Cook County Sheriff's Award of Merit – Patrol Officer Riley Mayer and Patrol Officer**
7 **Lawrence Smith** – Trustee Gibson stated that the next item is the Cook County Sheriff's Award
8 of Merit. The Olympia Fields Police Department is proud to announce that Patrol Officer Riley
9 Mayer and Patrol Officer Lawrence Smith were recognized by Cook County Sheriff Thomas
10 Dart with the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit on Tuesday, November
11 29th, 2016, at 5:30 P.M. at Moraine Valley Community College.
12

13 The Cook County Award of Merit is presented to police officers from throughout Cook County
14 in recognition of their heroism, outstanding service to the community and professionalism.
15 Officer Smith and Officer Mayer were nominated by their peers with the Chief of Police
16 submitting the formal application to Sheriff Dart.
17

18 Officer Smith and Officer Mayer have consistently demonstrated their dedication to duty while
19 serving the residents of the Village.
20

21 Officer Smith was recognized for preventing a young adult from ending her life and for making
22 sure she received the follow-up care and family support she needed.
23

24 Officer Mayer was recognized for his enforcement efforts as well as his voluntary efforts to
25 obtain much needed donations of equipment and training supplies for the betterment of the
26 Department.
27

28 We need to recognize and congratulate Officer Smith and Officer Mayer because they are a
29 credit to the Village of Olympia Fields and the law enforcement profession.
30

31 **Thank You Letter from Resident – Patrol Officer Mark Twilley and Patrol Officer**
32 **Corporal Steve Lopez** – Trustee Gibson stated that next is a thank you letter from a resident.
33 The Chief of Police received a thank you letter from Mrs. Carole Ehret of 20860 Greenwood
34 Drive concerning the actions of Officer Mark Twilley and Corporal Steve Lopez on Monday,
35 December 5th.
36

37 Mrs. Ehret's husband slipped, fell and was injured in the parking lot at the Chase Bank on
38 Vollmer Road and needed to be transported to the hospital for treatment.
39

40 The Ehret's only car was left parked in the Chase Bank parking lot. Mrs. Ehret is unable to drive
41 and was unable to get to the hospital. Officer Twilley and Corporal Lopez coordinated their
42 efforts to bring Mrs. Ehret to the hospital and took the initiative to make arrangements to get the
43 Ehret's vehicle back to their residence on Greenwood.
44

45 Officer Twilley and Corporal Lopez should be recognized and commended for their continued
46 efforts to serve the residents of our Village. We have a very nice letter from Mrs. Ehret to go in
47 the file.

1 **Thank You Letter from ReMax Realtor – Patrol Officer Mark Twilley** – Trustee Gibson
2 stated that the next one is a thank you letter from ReMax Realtor. The Chief of Police received a
3 thank you letter from “Abby K” from ReMax Realtors of Flossmoor, concerning the actions of
4 Officer Mark Twilley on Friday, December 9th.

5
6 ReMax Agent Bruce Hackel is the listing agent responsible for 3524 Parthenon Way. On
7 December 9th, the alarm monitoring company for 3524 Parthenon Way contacted SouthCom
8 reference an activated alarm.

9
10 Officer Twilley was dispatched by SouthCom to the Parthenon Way address to further
11 investigate the unknown alarm call. Officer Twilley found the residence unsecured and while
12 checking the interior of the residence smelled a strong odor of natural gas. Officer Twilley
13 immediately requested the Chicago Heights Fire Department. After contacting the fire
14 department, Officer Twilley called ReMax using his personal cellular phone and advised the
15 ReMax Office of the potential problem at the residence.

16
17 Chicago Heights Fire Department personnel were able to locate the source of the natural gas leak
18 and took appropriate measures to make the residence safe. A representative from ReMax arrived
19 on the scene to make arrangements for repairs and to secure the residence.

20
21 Officer Twilley should be recognized and commended for his efforts in serving the residents of
22 the Village. There is a thank you from ReMax as well.

23
24 **Thank You Letter from Chicago Heights Chief of Police Tom Rogers – Detective Corporal**
25 **Mark Akiyama** – Trustee Gibson stated that the last one is a thank you letter from Chicago
26 Heights Chief of Police Tom Rogers. The Chief of Police received a thank you e-mail from
27 Chicago Heights Chief of Police Tom Rogers on January 12th, concerning the actions of
28 Detective Corporal Mark Akiyama and the actions of detectives assigned to the South Suburban
29 Major Crimes Task Force on Sunday, January 8th.

30
31 Detective Corporal Akiyama responded to the call-out for multiple gunshot victims in Chicago
32 Heights. One of the victims suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was deceased, while the
33 other occupants of the vehicle suffered serious but non-life threatening wounds after being shot
34 while seated inside the vehicle.

35
36 The South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force activation in Chicago Heights lasted four days.
37 Because of the direct involvement of Detective Corporal Akiyama, and the skill and diligence of
38 other South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force Detectives, the offenders were identified and
39 charged with First Degree Murder, and the weapon used in the incident was recovered and taken
40 off the street.

41
42 Detective Corporal Akiyama should be recognized and commended for his continued efforts to
43 serve not only the residents of our Village, but his involvement and dedication to South
44 Suburban Major Crimes Task Force of which Olympia Fields is a member community.

45
46 Trustee Gibson stated that she wanted to congratulate the Chief who is the leader of all of these
47 wonderful men and the officers for their continuous devotion to duty which they are responsible

1 for. She stated thank you so much. Trustee Pennington stated Hear, Hear. (There was a round of
2 applause).

3
4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she was going to congratulate our officers and the
5 Chief too. She believes that in addition to their professionalism, their dedication, and
6 commitment to their service here in the Village of Olympia Fields, they have a great leader who
7 demands that kind of professional skill, and leads them in a way that they are commendable, and
8 that they are officers that we can be proud of and depend on for the Village of Olympia Fields.
9 That is why we have one of the lowest crime rates in the region. She congratulated Chief Krull
10 and the Olympia Fields Police Department.

11
12 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

13
14 **Resolution #2017-04 – MFT Resolution – Phase 1 Engineering Services in Order to be**
15 **Eligible for RTA Access to Transit Project – U.S. Route 30** – Administrator Mekarski stated
16 that he has very good news to announce. On December 16th, 2016, we received notice from
17 IDOT and the RTA that the Village will be awarded a \$500,000.00 Grant for the enhancement of
18 Lincoln Highway. This is an Enhancement Beautification Project. It involves the addition of
19 complete sidewalks all the way from the Metra Facility to Wal-Mart. It will include street trees.
20 Metra and Canadian National underpass lighting for vehicles and pedestrians, as well as
21 transportation oriented corridor improvements on the boulevard right by the bridge abutment.
22 This represents 80% of a three-step process completed. Our Chief Engineer from Robinson
23 Engineering, Pat Barker, is here to give some details on this award.

24
25 Mrs. Barker stated David has given quite a few details about the project. It is pretty exciting. The
26 Village has been aggressive in going after this Grant. She stated that by starting on it as soon as
27 we found out about it we were able to get our information into IDOT and get the Study started.
28 In order to be eligible for this Grant one has to complete what is called “Phase 1 Engineering”
29 for the project. We have to do the Preliminary Engineering and the processing of the
30 Environmental Study. We are almost 50% complete at this point. Everything has been approved
31 to-date. The Resolution that is before you this evening is to pay for the Phase 1 Engineering with
32 Motor Fuel Tax Funds from the Village. In order to get the final approvals for the funding, Phase
33 1 must be completed. The funds that are being used for this are CMAQ Funds. That’s Congestion
34 Mitigation and Air Quality Funds through CMAQ. The final selection won’t be until the fall. It is
35 a slow process because it is Federal Funding. It will be for a total of 85% of that \$500,000.00.
36 This is a very nice award for the Village. We look forward to getting that next step so that the
37 funds will be in place. This will be a very nice improvement for the Village, and for the residents
38 and commuters to use in that area to have better lighting and to have a full sidewalk and the
39 access to the Metra Station will be improved.

40
41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Motor Fuel Tax is the Village’s share of money
42 that the state collects when you purchase gas. The Villages get that share of MFT. We are very
43 happy that is something that we can tap into in order to get this done. The thing that is exciting
44 about this is that we always talk about Route 30, Lincoln Highway on the west end, west of
45 Harlem, and how much money is spent in enhancing that roadway, but not so much on our side.
46 This is very exciting to have a median with landscaping, and to have a sidewalk and the
47 improved lighting. We are very, very happy. We commend Robinson Engineering for the

1 expertise in doing that. She thanked Michael Lewis who tapped into the fact that Grant was
2 available and allowed us to move forward.

3 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to Approve Resolution #2017-04:
4 MFT Resolution – Phase 1 Engineering Services in Order to be Eligible for RTA Access to
5 Transit Project – U.S. Route 30; and Authorize the Village Clerk to Certify Said Resolution
6 and Authorize the Village President to Execute the IDOT Preliminary Engineering Service
7 Agreement for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds.**

8 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**

9
10 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

11
12 **Letter of Understanding – Vollmer Road Early Warning System – Cook County
13 Department of Transportation and Highways** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
14 she has a Letter of Understanding revolving around the Vollmer Road Early Warning System,
15 Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways. She believes that it has been three-
16 years ago that we held a Major Stakeholder Meeting here at Village Hall regarding the problems
17 and issues that we have incurred at the Vollmer Road Kedzie Bridge. If you have been to any of
18 our Board Meetings you have probably heard her say over the course of three-years there were
19 over 700-incidents at that bridge, and over 400 strikes to the bridge where trucks actually struck
20 it.

21
22 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we were concerned that the integrity of the bridge
23 could be compromised when you have that many trucks going at 40 or 50-miles an hour and they
24 are striking a bridge. We brought in Metra. We brought in the railroad. We brought in
25 Flossmoor. It is a Cook County road. Cook County and their engineers were here. IDOT was
26 here. Our Legislators were here. We were able to convince them that this was something that
27 they needed to look at. As a result of that, and the work of Robinson, and this Village, and the
28 Mayor of Flossmoor, we were able to get a \$1,000,000.00 Grant to do Preliminary Phase 1
29 Engineering. We were able to get \$310,000.00 to investigate and explore an Early Warning
30 System which we continue to do.

31
32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that when there is a disruption at that bridge, traffic is
33 out of commission for hours. Even if the truck does not strike the bridge you have to get that
34 truck out from that space. It takes a very long time. Traffic is diverted. There were two incidents
35 that really made it clear that something had to be done. The first one there was two teenagers in
36 the car. When the truck struck the bridge a steel beam from the truck went right through the
37 windshield, nearly missing the young girl by inches. She could have been decapitated. That is the
38 kind of thing that if you know that is a possibility you have to address it. That was one incident
39 that was very, very serious. The second incident, the Mayor from Flossmoor was in a car
40 traveling west on Vollmer Road when a truck traveling east struck the bridge. She saw him
41 within hours of that accident happening. He thought he was a goner because the whole space just
42 went black because the truck had hit the bridge with such force. That's why we have been
43 pushing this project for this many years. It has been going on for over 30-years and nothing has
44 ever been done. She is happy to say that we are finally being able to see progress and move in a
45 direction where we can address it. She stated that Mrs. Barker was going to speak about the
46 Early Warning System.

1 Mrs. Barker stated in your Board Packet you have some information about the Early Warning
2 System. The letter that was received from Cook County, the Village has been successful in
3 getting State Funds for this Early Warning System. This is not to reconstruct the road and the
4 bridge and everything that we are working toward. That will take a lot of funding and it takes
5 time. We are looking forward to trying to get an Early Warning System completed in 2017. The
6 County has agreed to pay the additional cost of that up to \$75,000.00 so that the Village will not
7 incur costs. There are two elements to that Early Warning System. 1. Is a painting of the bridge.
8 You would think that would be a reasonable thing. That is one of the elements. It is not a costly
9 element. She stated that it took a full year to get both railroads onboard and get the Permits in
10 place. We are anxious to get this part of it done and move forward. If you don't see 22 signs
11 maybe you do see the bridge. We think it is a good addition to the safety until the bridge can be
12 reconstructed with the height that is needed. The other element is an overhead sign. There will be
13 four different locations for these. One is on Western Avenue south of Vollmer for northbound
14 traffic. One is on Vollmer just west of Kedzie for eastbound traffic. One is on Kedzie for
15 southbound traffic before you get to Vollmer. The fourth one would be on Vollmer for
16 westbound traffic before you get to Western. They are letting trucks that are too high to get
17 through the bridge know at their height that they need to detour. This will be done with signs so
18 they can visually see what is expected. Everywhere she goes to meetings, to Cook County
19 Meetings, or IDOT Meetings, she takes this with her. We are talking about taking care of this
20 concern before there is another crash. This is being expressed weekly in meetings that we go to
21 and trying to represent what is so important to this Village. She commends the Village for taking
22 this position and working so actively in trying to get this rectified.

23
24 Administrator Mekarski stated that our first Preliminary Engineering Grant was \$1,000,000.00. It
25 was followed up by approximately another \$360,000.00 to complete the Preliminary
26 Engineering. It is putting us in stage for consideration of another \$2,000,000.00 to go to design
27 and Bid Specs. That will put this Village in line for a \$45,000,000.00 Appropriation Grant. There
28 is a possibility from our Federal Lobbyist that with the possibility of a Trump Stimulus Plan that
29 those monies could be advanced in a short-term. We are very optimistic that the engineering has
30 been aggressive. That's in addition to the \$310,000.00 for the Early Warning System.

31
32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she hopes the painting of the bridge works because
33 we have tried just about everything from flashing signs, to the Mickey Mouse Ears, to the
34 trimming of the trees, to the yellow signs, and none of it has been that effective.

35
36 Trustee Byrd stated that you have to educate them on how high their trucks are. They don't seem
37 to know. Mrs. Barker stated exactly.

38 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Pennington to Authorize the Village President**
39 **to Execute a Letter of Understanding between the Village of Olympia Fields and the Cook**
40 **County Department of Transportation and Highways, Dated December 12th, 2016; and**
41 **Requiring No Local Funds or Match.**

42 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**

43
44 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

45
46 The Board did not have any Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

47

1 **NEW BUSINESS:**

2
3 The Board did not have any New Business to discuss this evening.

4
5 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

6
7 **Nomination to Fill the Vacancy of the Expiring Term for Trustee Robert C. Waite**
8 **(Expiring the Second Regular Meeting in April 2017)** – Village President Meyers-Martin
9 stated that brings us to Resignations and Appointments. As you probably all know by now,
10 Trustee Waite passed away the last week in December. His Memorial Service will be on
11 February 4th which is a Saturday. It starts at 1:00 P.M. at Prairie State College. We send our
12 sympathies to the family, to Ilene Waite, and their daughter on his loss. It is certainly a loss to
13 this Board. She stated that by the fact that he is not here there is a vacancy. It's a vacancy that
14 our Legal Advisor recommends that it be filled. That unexpired term does not end until May 1st.
15 Some would say why fill it? However, from this point to May 1st this Board is always involved
16 in Budget Hearings. We vet our Budget. We review our Budget. We examine our Budget and
17 tweak our Budget. That is something that needs a full complement of Trustees. It's a lot of work.
18 We spend a lot of time because we do want to do the best job possible in terms of making that
19 Budget viable, and crossing all of our t's and dotting all of our i's. She felt that was correct that
20 there should be an Appointment in order to fill that vacancy. The sticky wicket part of it is that
21 we are in an election season. There are residents that are running for Trustee, as well as
22 incumbents, Trustee Robinson and Trustee Byrd. It had been mentioned that maybe that was
23 something that would give a leg up to the person who was appointed. The Village President is
24 running too. She is concerned about the Trustee position at this point. There are residents that are
25 running for Trustee and there are incumbents that are running. It had been intimated that maybe
26 that was something that would be unfair. In her estimation it didn't make sense to go outside of
27 the pool of people that are running for Trustee, who want to be a Trustee. Why go and get
28 someone who is just biding their time? She interviewed the new candidates that she had not
29 interviewed previously. Everyone else she had interviewed. That was recent from our last
30 Appointment. It happened to be three ladies that she interviewed.

31
32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this has been one of the most difficult things that she
33 has had to do because all of the candidates are talented. They're professional. They are
34 enthusiastic. They are committed to the Village. They love the fact that they want to be involved.
35 They want to give back. They believe in public service. It made it very difficult to reach a final
36 candidate that she would recommend this Board approve. At the end of the day, it is the Board
37 that will approve or not approve her recommendation. After much deliberation, she cannot
38 emphasize it enough that it was extremely difficult for her, she is recommending to this Board
39 that they approve and authorize the Appointment for Cassandra Matz. You have a bio for
40 Cassandra that tells you a little bit about her involvement in the community, her involvement in
41 the region. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that you all know she is a believer in the
42 region because no one Municipality can thrive without our neighbors. She always believed in
43 regionalism and supporting that. She has two Motions. One is the Motion to nominate and to fill
44 the vacancy. The second one would be to confirm it which must be made by a Trustee.

45
46 Trustee Pennington stated that he thinks we need to get this into the record. We are only just a
47 little bit over two-months out from the election, 71-days to be exact. Trustee Pennington stated

1 that it is his belief that we have sufficient individuals here on this dais to handle any aspect that
2 might come up, to include any issues with respect to the Budget. Rather than filling the position,
3 he would take the position that we should not fill the position and let the six candidates that you
4 have already interviewed plus the incumbents, run for the position as they have been doing
5 already and let the process work itself out. We have sufficient coverage on the Board to handle
6 any of the activities. He believes that by appointing someone, and this is no reflection upon the
7 candidates, the nominee, or any of the other candidates that are running. This is no reflection
8 upon them at all. He thinks that there would be an unfair advantage to both the nominee as well
9 as the candidates. He believes quite frankly that we should forego this, continue with our work,
10 notwithstanding what counsel says. We can always question counsel. And let the candidates run
11 for the position as they have been doing. It's tough for him to support this process.

12
13 Village President Meyers-Martin stated point well-taken. She inquired whether or not any other
14 Trustees would like to weigh-in on that, or speak to Trustee Pennington's position.

15
16 Trustee Gibson stated that she doesn't totally agree with Trustee Pennington because we do have
17 a distance to go to get the Budget done. She thinks that most of us that are here were appointed at
18 some point in time where we had to finish out someone else's term. She is very positive that has
19 happened. She can't see any reason why we can't go forward with it.

20
21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the other thing about this is that the election is April
22 4th, but the term does not expire until May 1st, so even with the election there still wouldn't be
23 someone in place.

24
25 Trustee Pennington stated that he sees no problem in that. In response to what Trustee Gibson
26 stated, that is true the majority of us were appointed at one point in time. But that's in the past.
27 It's not really necessary to continue what we have been doing in the past. This is the dawn of a
28 new day. That is his position. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions. He certainly agrees
29 with that. He doesn't belittle anything that has been said against what he is saying. He is just
30 saying that if there is an issue with regard to the Budget, and he is thinking that you are alluding
31 to the Public Works Budget. As former Finance Chair, he would be more than happy to sit in on
32 that budgetary process to work with Director Landini to make sure that his Budget is in place.

33
34 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is a point well-taken. She will move forward with
35 the nomination. It is totally within the hands of the Board in terms of a vote up or down for that.

36
37 **As Village President, I would like to Affirm my Appointment of Cassandra Matz to Fill the**
38 **Vacant Trustee Seat (Formerly held by Robert C. Waite) with a Term Ending at the**
39 **Conclusion of the Second Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees in April 2017,**
40 **Immediately Prior to the Adjournment by Sine Die (Chapter 2, Article II, Division 1,**
41 **Section 2-25); and I Respectfully Request a Motion of my Fellow Board Members to**
42 **Confirm my Appointment.**

43
44 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to Affirm the Appointment.**
45 **Roll Call: Ayes (3) (Trustee Pennington voted No) Motion Carried.**

46

1 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Robinson to Accept and Confirm the**
2 **Appointment of the Village President of Cassandra Matz as a Village of Olympia Fields**
3 **Board of Trustee Member to Fill the Vacant Trustee Seat (Formerly held by Robert C.**
4 **Waite) with a Term Ending at the Conclusion of the Second Regular Meeting of the Board**
5 **of Trustees in April 2017, Immediately Prior to the Adjournment by Sine Die (Chapter 2,**
6 **Article II, Division 1, Section 2-25).**

7 **Roll Call: Ayes (3) (Trustee Pennington voted No) Motion Carried.**

8
9 Village President Meyers-Martin congratulated Cassandra Matz. (There was a round of
10 applause). That does not mean that Cassandra does not have to run in the 2017 election. She
11 must campaign just as the others. We will schedule the swearing-in for the first meeting in
12 February, which is February 13th. In the interim you will have an orientation by our Attorney in
13 terms of responsibilities for Trustee. We will be in touch with you in order to get that done. Mrs.
14 Matz stated thank you. Village President Meyers-Martin thanked the Board.

15
16 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

17
18 **To Discuss Matters of Personnel – Open Meetings Act Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) –**

19
20 **To Discuss Matter of Litigation – Open Meetings Act Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(11) -**

21
22 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to go into Executive Session to**
23 **Discuss Matters of Personnel According to the Open Meetings Act Section**
24 **5ILCS120/2(c)(1) and to Discuss Matters of Litigation According to the Open Meetings Act**
25 **Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(11) at 8:12 P.M. with a Need to Reconvene.**

26 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**

27
28 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will be reconvening but we will not be taking
29 any action. She thanked everyone for being here tonight.

30
31 **OPEN SESSION:**

32
33 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to move back into Open Session at**
34 **8:45 P.M.**

35 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**

36
37 **ADJOURNMENT:**

38
39 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Robinson to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.**

40 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**

41
42 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**