



1 **Trustees held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**  
2 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**  
3

4 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Pennington to approve the Minutes of the**  
5 **Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and the Special**  
6 **Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, as presented.**  
7 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**  
8

9 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

10  
11 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that you have before you tonight Bills for Approval  
12 in the amount of \$122,215.21. There is a Cover Memo in the Board Packet designating the more  
13 significant payouts.

14 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Pennington to approve the payment of Bills for**  
15 **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in the total amount of \$122,215.21.**

16 **Roll Call: Ayes (6-0) Motion Carried.**  
17

18 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

19  
20 **Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 7:50 P.M.**  
21

22 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are very excited tonight because we actually  
23 have two Awards Presentations. One is our 2015 Holiday Awards Presentation from the  
24 Beautification Committee. Our Second Presentation will be the 2016 Mini Grant Awards  
25 Presentation from the Educational Commission.  
26

27 **2015 Holiday Awards Presentation – Beautification Committee** – Mrs. Susan Moroney stated  
28 that she is a Member of the Village’s Beautification Committee. She stated that tonight we would  
29 like to award our Holiday Award recipients for 2015. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that the Beautification  
30 Committee has been doing this. The First Place Award goes to the Alexander Family from  
31 Olympia Club. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin and Mrs.  
32 Moroney congratulated members of the Alexander Family. The Alexander Family received a  
33 \$100.00 Gift Certificate to John’s American Bar and Grill. (There was a round of applause).  
34

35 Mrs. Moroney stated that the Second Place Award goes to the McCormack Family. (There was a  
36 round of applause). Mrs. Moroney stated that the McCormack Family is from the Original  
37 Village. The McCormack Family received a \$75.00 Gift Certificate to John’s American Bar and  
38 Grill. Village President Meyers-Martin and Mrs. Moroney congratulated Mrs. McCormick.  
39 (There was a round of applause).  
40

41 Mrs. Moroney stated that the Third Place Award goes to the Stubbs Family from The Trails.  
42 (There was a round of applause). No one from the Stubbs Family was in attendance. Mr. James  
43 Dawson, President of The Trails Homeowners Association will see that the Stubbs Family  
44 receives the Award. The Stubbs Family received a \$50.00 Gift Certificate to John’s American  
45 Bar and Grill. Village President Meyers-Martin and Mrs. Moroney extended congratulations to  
46 the Stubbs Family. (There was a round of applause).  
47

1 Mrs. Moroney stated that they wanted to thank everybody. She stated that Willett Hudson is the  
2 Liaison to the Beautification Committee. Mrs. Moroney stated that everyone puts in a lot of  
3 hours trying to make sure that we travel throughout the Village to pick the final winners. She  
4 stated that it is tough. It is not an easy task because there are so many people that have put out so  
5 much energy on decorating for the holidays. She stated thank you very much. (There was a round  
6 of applause).

7  
8 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked the Beautification Committee and Trustee Hudson for  
9 all of the hard work in the Holiday Awards. (There was a round of applause).

10  
11 **2016 Mini Grant Awards Presentation – Educational Commission** – Village President  
12 Meyers-Martin stated that the next presentation is our 2016 Mini Grant Awards Presentation.

13  
14 Trustee Byrd, as Liaison to the Educational Commission, thanked Ilene Waite and the  
15 Subcommittee that she worked with in order to choose these individual teachers that are doing an  
16 excellent job in the School District in order to receive these awards. Mrs. Karen McCray will be  
17 introducing the individuals that are receiving the awards.

18  
19 Mrs. Karen McCray welcomed everyone. She stated that the members of our Subcommittee is  
20 our leader, Ilene Waite, Delores Woods, Don Ransford, and Reggie Ford. They are all members  
21 of the Olympia Fields Educational Commission who helped with the wonderful selection of our  
22 Mini Grant recipients.

23  
24 Mrs. McCray stated that the first Award will go to Marisa Banowski of Illinois School, District  
25 162, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math. The Grant will be used to purchase five Texas Instruments TI-83  
26 Graphing Calculators and materials to help students become proficient in their use for functions,  
27 algorithms, plot slopes and graphs. This is aligned with the high school Math. The amount of the  
28 Grant is \$820.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs.  
29 McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Marisa Banowski.

30  
31 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Gloria Chatman, Huth Middle School, District  
32 162, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. The Grant will purchase materials for a beading unit combining Art,  
33 Mathematics, Consumer Education and Humanitarianism. Students will create art jewelry,  
34 calculate the cost of labor and materials and determine a retail price. The amount of the Grant is  
35 \$972.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs.  
36 Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Gloria Chatman.

37  
38 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Patti Cocoran, Lincoln-Gavin, District 170,  
39 Special Education Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Students will cultivate a vegetable garden and learn  
40 about a healthy diet. These students with special needs will develop skills in Language Arts,  
41 Math, Science and Writing. The amount of the Grant is \$225.00. (There was a round of  
42 applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd  
43 congratulated Patti Cocoran.

44  
45 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Michelle Dixon, Sauk Elementary, District 162,  
46 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grades. Rainbows for All Children will provide social and emotional learning  
47 through a support group. Students are able to express feelings and share their grief due to death,  
48 divorce, deployment, incarceration, or life-threatening illness. The amount of the Grant is

1 \$379.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs.  
2 Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Michelle Dixon.  
3  
4 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Angela Foushi, Kennedy, District 170, 4<sup>th</sup>  
5 Grade. The Grant will purchase materials for a Reading Center. Set up for independent study for  
6 the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom. The Center will also serve for remedial study for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades and  
7 enrichment for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades. The amount of the Grant is \$903.00. (There was a round of  
8 applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd  
9 congratulated Angela Foushi.  
10  
11 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Kisha Houston, Illinois School, District 162, K  
12 through 8<sup>th</sup> library. Playaway Audiobooks will be purchased for use throughout the grades. They  
13 can be used individually and for classroom or small group activities. The amount of the Grant is  
14 \$966.00 (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs.  
15 Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Kisha Houston.  
16  
17 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Diane Kostovski, Garfield School, District 170,  
18 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. The Grant will purchase supplies to introduce concepts of Operations and Algebraic  
19 thinking, among others. Materials will be shared by three primary classrooms and will include  
20 home extension activities. Includes manipulatives and other center activities. The amount of the  
21 Grant is \$820.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs.  
22 McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Diane Kostovski.  
23  
24 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Leah Lacey, Illinois School, District 162, 4<sup>th</sup>  
25 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. The Grant will purchase materials to start a Peer Mediation Program. Ten  
26 students will be trained in mediation and dispute settlement. Any students among the population  
27 of 250 who need help settling a dispute may be referred by a teacher or themselves to the  
28 mediation process. The amount of the Grant is \$226.00. (There was a round of applause). Village  
29 President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Leah Lacey.  
30  
31 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Klentoria Lee-Clements, Washington-  
32 McKinley, District 170, 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. Materials will be purchased to enhance  
33 vocabulary and reading comprehension for below grade level readers. This “Enrichment Reading  
34 Program” will reinforce basic skills while encouraging independent study. The amount of the  
35 Grant is \$997.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs.  
36 McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Klentoria Lee-Clements.  
37  
38 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Kelli Malone and Nicki Gloude, Illinois School,  
39 District 162. The “in school field trip” will bring Jim Nesci, an expert in reptiles, with his reptiles  
40 to Illinois School for his “Cold Blooded Creatures Educational Show.” Students will be broken  
41 into K through 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade groups for the hands on presentation.  
42 The amount of the Grant is \$1,000.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President  
43 Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Kelli Malone and  
44 Nicki Gloude.  
45  
46 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Meghan Michals, Southland, District 162,  
47 Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. The Grant will fund a Mediation Program to help students manage their  
48 emotions and stress levels. This will also involve mediating peer conflicts and taking

1 responsibility for their actions and creating solutions. The amount of the Grant is \$986.00.  
2 (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite  
3 and Trustee Byrd congratulated Meghan Michals.

4  
5 Mrs. McCray stated that the next Award goes to Elena Morone, Illinois School, District 162, K  
6 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish. All students in this school are learning Spanish. This Grant will  
7 celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the “Restaurante Mejicano.” Students will act as customers, wait  
8 staff and hosts. Spanish speaking parents will also be included. The well-planned comprehensive  
9 program will also get some funding from students and PTO. The amount of the Grant is  
10 \$1,000.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin, Mrs. McCray,  
11 Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Elena Morone.

12  
13 Mrs. McCray stated that the last Award goes to Christine White, Southland, District 162, Grades  
14 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. The Grant will purchase Adobe Photoshop Software for six computers, allowing  
15 opportunities to learn editing skills, basic design principles and creative thinking. Involvement in  
16 projects will teach planning, processing, product creation and innovative problem solving. The  
17 amount of the Grant is \$936.00. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-  
18 Martin, Mrs. McCray, Mrs. Waite and Trustee Byrd congratulated Christine White.

19  
20 Mrs. McCray stated congratulations to all of our Awardees. We have a total of 13 Awards for a  
21 total of \$10,230.00.

22  
23 Administrator Mekarski stated that he wanted to explain to the audience what they just  
24 witnessed. It is a really unique initiative of a local Municipality. We established a local  
25 Educational Commission back in 2006. It is sort of a Blue Ribbon Panel of 15 concerned citizens  
26 with all kinds of expertise in education, and folks that really care about our School System. In  
27 this community we happen to be served by three Primary School Districts, three Secondary  
28 School Districts, and one Charter School. We have seven School Districts: Bloom, Homewood-  
29 Flossmoor, Rich Township, District 162, and our Charter School. The Board appropriates a very  
30 small amount of money to do some initiatives. Our Board uses that very creatively. We take 50%  
31 of our total Budget and we came up with this innovative program to provide Mini Grants. What  
32 is unique about it is we don't give the Grants to the District. We don't give it to the school. We  
33 open up the doors and allow the teachers to apply for a Mini Grant.

34  
35 Mrs. Waite stated that we had 36-Applications this year. Administrator Mekarski stated that it is  
36 always a daunting challenge to hone it down to 10 to 13 Mini Grants. We can only offer a Mini  
37 Grant of up to \$1,000.00. He stated that by giving it to the teachers, it empowers the teachers to  
38 go beyond their normal scope, their normal Budget, and do something special for the kids, do  
39 something unique. We are so proud of it. We are proud of our partnership with District 162 with  
40 Superintendent Blondean Davis. She is in the audience tonight. He stated that not only has she  
41 been a partner on the Mini Grant process, but Dr. Davis has opened up a Career and College  
42 Readiness Program. It is a Workshop that the Educational Commission targets to the middle  
43 school students, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to get them excited about going to college and making  
44 sure that they realize their dreams.

45  
46 Dr. Davis stated that she absolutely wants to thank Olympia Fields. She was here when the idea  
47 of a Commission and the idea of embracing the schools were adopted. She stated very seldom is  
48 there a true partnership between a political entity, a Municipality, and School Districts. She can

1 say with absolute honesty that what you heard Mr. Mekarski say about our Board of Directors,  
2 Board of Trustees, and our Mayor, that is true on a day-to-day basis. We feel the impact of the  
3 partnership. We feel the support. We feel the energy. We always feel that you have faith and  
4 confidence in us and it really stimulates us to make us try even harder. We are very proud to be  
5 here tonight to accept the monetary gift. In her heart and in the hearts of the teachers, the support  
6 that we receive on a daily basis is worth much more than any check that we could receive. Thank  
7 you so much. We appreciate it. (There was a round of applause).

8  
9 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she wanted to give the Educational Commission  
10 credit, and commend them for the hard work that they do every year in order to provide these  
11 Mini Grants to our local School Districts here in the Southland. This program has really grown  
12 from its first initial steps. She remembers that we didn't have many Applications at all and we  
13 didn't really have a lot of participation. We have grown over the years. We are very proud of the  
14 program and the work that the teachers do in order to bring innovation to our children. (There  
15 was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we must inspire them. We  
16 must support them. And we must let them know that we believe in them. This goes a long way in  
17 doing that. It is our small part in helping Dr. Davis, helping our teachers, and helping the schools  
18 provide these types of programs. We are very, very proud. Congratulations again and thank you.  
19 (There was a round of applause).

20  
21 Administrator Mekarski stated let's give them a standing ovation for teachers that are moving  
22 their students to educational excellence. (There was a standing ovation and a round of applause).

23  
24 **Pile of dirt in Olympia Club** – Mr. Lawrence Banks stated that he resides in Olympia Club. He  
25 wanted to know if there is anything that we can do about that pile of dirt that's sitting on Messina  
26 not too far from the railroad track. It is growing weeds, grass, trees, everything. Two of the  
27 neighbors asked him if he could address the Board, and ask if there is anything that they can do  
28 about the hill. If not, what action can they take to get the dirt spread out there? Administrator  
29 Mekarski inquired whether or not this is on the condominium site or The Coves.

30  
31 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Messina is actually in Olympia Club by the railroad  
32 tracks. Mr. Banks stated that this lady would know the hill because she walks it every day at 6  
33 o'clock. Mr. Banks was referring to Trustee Hudson.

34  
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she certainly understands his concern. We will get in  
36 touch with John McDonnell. He is the Building Commissioner. He probably has access to who is  
37 in control of that property now, so that we can appeal to their goodwill to find out what it is that  
38 we can do.

39  
40 Mr. Banks inquired whether or not somebody could get back to him and let him know what  
41 action was taken on the matter. Village President Meyers-Martin asked him to leave his name  
42 and some contact information with Faith; so that we can reach out to you once we have some  
43 idea of what our next steps can be. Administrator Mekarski stated that Mr. Banks will get a call  
44 from the Building Commissioner, John McDonnell, or our Code Enforcement Officer, Reginald  
45 Ford. Mr. Banks thanked the Board. Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications &  
46 Petitions at 8:15 P.M.

1 **CONSENT AGENDA:**  
2

3 **A. Recommendation for Payment of Invoice #15120298 to Robinson Engineering for Work**  
4 **Completed in Connection with the Vollmer Road Reconstruction Preliminary Engineering**  
5 **Project (No. 14-590) in the amount of \$40,362.98.**

6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that brings us to Item 7(A) on our Consent Agenda,  
7 which is a recommendation for payment for Invoice #15120298. The Consent Agenda are items  
8 that are routine and do not require additional discussion.

9 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to approve Consent Agenda Item**  
10 **7(A).**

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

13 **FINANCE:**  
14

15 **Treasurer’s Report of Cash Balances – September 30, 2015** – Trustee Byrd stated that the  
16 first page shows the Banking Institutions that the Village is using. He stated that IMET has at  
17 least 47%, 48% of the monies. The total balance of cash is \$6,351,323.32. The second page  
18 shows the different Funds. There is an Interfund in the amount of \$754,120.00 for the General  
19 Fund. You can see the negative for the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund, and the additional funds  
20 that owe money to that General Fund.  
21

22 **September 2015 Financial Statements** – Trustee Byrd stated that he should receive the October  
23 and November 2015 Financial Statements for the next Board Meeting. Trustee Byrd stated that if  
24 you go to the Revenue side in the General Fund the Village had budgeted \$338,195.00. The  
25 actual Revenue for the month of September was \$480,420.00. It is approximately \$142,000.00  
26 more than what the Village expected. In the Water Fund the Village budgeted \$204,307.00. The  
27 actual Revenue was \$171,776.00. In the Sewer Fund the Village budgeted \$132,206.00. The  
28 actual Revenue was \$117,676.00. The Water Fund and the Sewer Fund did fall under their  
29 prospective Budget for the month of September.  
30

31 Trustee Byrd stated that for Expenses in the General Fund the Village budgeted \$539,459.00 for  
32 the month of September. The actual Expenses were \$439,484.00. It is about \$100,000.00 less in  
33 Expenses than what the Village expected for the month of September. In the Water Fund the  
34 Village budgeted \$182,407.00 in Expenses. The actual Expenses were \$144,335.00, which was  
35 lower than what the Village expected for the month. In the Sewer Fund the Village budgeted  
36 \$48,752.00 in Expenses. The actual Expenses were \$64,445.00. The actual Expenses were about  
37 \$16,000.00 higher.  
38

39 Trustee Byrd stated that for the “Current Month Surplus/Deficit,” in the General Fund due to the  
40 increase in Revenue and the lower Expenses, we have a \$242,000.00 surplus. The Village had  
41 budgeted a deficit in the amount of \$201,264.00. We had a surplus of \$40,936.00 which gave us  
42 a positive \$243,000.00 for the month of September in the General Fund. In the Water Fund  
43 \$21,991.00 was budgeted based on the Revenue and Expenses. The actual was \$26,441.00 which  
44 was a positive. The Sewer Fund failed in the negative due to the fact that we had lower Revenue  
45 and higher expenses. The Village budgeted \$83,454.00. The actual was \$53,230.00.  
46

47 Trustee Byrd stated that with respect to the “Year to Date Surplus/Deficit,” in the General Fund  
48 the Village had budgeted to have a deficit in the amount of \$419,812.00. The actual deficit is

1 \$62,745.00. As of September we are \$357,000.00 positive to our Budget for those first five  
2 months. In the Water Fund the Village budgeted \$204,942.00. The actual is \$217,179.00. In the  
3 Sewer Fund the Village had budgeted a deficit of \$167,349.00 for the first five-months. The  
4 actual deficit is \$69,798.00. All of the Funds are in the positive after the first five-months based  
5 on the Budget. He should have the Financial Statements for October and November at the next  
6 meeting to give you a general idea of where we are after the first seven months. Trustee Byrd  
7 advised everyone to look at the Detailed Reports. Trustee Byrd stated that Chief Krull is doing  
8 an excellent job at staying within his Budget.

9  
10 **BUILDING:**

11  
12 Trustee Hudson stated that she did not have a Formal Report this evening. Village President  
13 Meyers-Martin congratulated Trustee Hudson on the Holiday Awards.

14  
15 **PLANNING:**

16  
17 Trustee Pennington stated that he did not have a Formal Report this evening.

18  
19 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

20  
21 **Fewer Water Main Breaks** - Trustee Waite stated that we experienced far fewer water main  
22 breaks as a result of the cold weather that we have had. He believes that is due to the good  
23 preventative maintenance that the Public Works Department has been doing. Trustee Waite  
24 stated other than that, he did not have a Formal Report this evening.

25  
26 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

27  
28 Trustee Nale stated that she did not have a Formal Report this evening.

29  
30 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

31  
32 **Completion of Bachelors of Arts Degree – Officer Riley Mayer** – Trustee Gibson stated that  
33 she has four items. They are for information only. The first Report is the completion of a  
34 Bachelors of Arts Degree by Officer Riley Mayer.

35  
36 The Police Department is proud to recognize Officer Riley Mayer for his successful completion  
37 of a Bachelors of Arts Degree with honors in Public Safety Administration from Calumet  
38 College of St. Joseph. Officer Mayer took advantage of the Village's Tuition Reimbursement  
39 Program to assist him in completing his degree.

40  
41 Officer Mayer indicated that he has applied for and has been accepted into the eighteen-month  
42 graduate program at Calumet College of St. Joseph, and will begin working toward a Masters  
43 Degree in Public Safety Administration in January 2016.

44  
45 A copy of Officer Mayer's e-mail to the Chief of Police thanking the Village, the elected  
46 officials and the Department for the support in continuing his education is attached.

47



1 We are very, very proud of him. We commend him for his dedication, professionalism, and  
2 determination in his pursuit of academic excellence.

3  
4 **Thank You Telephone Call From a Lansing Resident** – Trustee Gibson stated that the second  
5 item is a thank you call received from a Lansing resident.

6  
7 The Chief of Police received a thank you telephone call from Cheryl Johnson of Lansing  
8 commending the actions of Corporal Don Dean.

9  
10 Ms. Johnson related that on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, her 18 year old son had parked her car in the  
11 203<sup>rd</sup> Street Metra Lot to take the train downtown. Upon returning to the car, her son realized  
12 that he had left the headlights on and that the car would not start.

13  
14 Ms. Johnson’s son did not know what was wrong with the car and subsequently called his  
15 mother who was still at work and 30 minutes away. Corporal Dean was dispatched to the 203<sup>rd</sup>  
16 Street Metra Lot to assist and determined the battery was dead and the car needed to be jump  
17 started. Ms. Johnson continued by stating that her husband recently passed away and that her son  
18 never learned how to jump start a car and wanted to wait for his mother to arrive.

19  
20 Corporal Dean provided his business card and cellular telephone number and related that he  
21 would return to the Metra Lot once Ms. Johnson arrived. After answering other calls for service,  
22 Corporal Dean received a telephone call from Ms. Johnson and went back to the Metra Lot to  
23 assist Ms. Johnson and her son.

24  
25 Ms. Johnson stated not only did Corporal Dean patiently show her son how to jump start a car,  
26 but went “above and beyond” in making sure the car was running properly and that her family  
27 was safe and sound. Corporal Dean’s actions made such a positive impression on Ms. Johnson  
28 that she called Chief Krull and personally recognized the compassion and professionalism  
29 exhibited by Corporal Dean.

30  
31 **Park Forest PD Awards – Officer Kickert and Detective Corporal Akiyama** – Trustee  
32 Gibson stated that the third item is Park Forest Police Department Awards.

33  
34 The Police Department is proud to announce that Officer Daniel Kickert and Detective Corporal  
35 Mark Akiyama were nominated to receive Outstanding Service Awards from the Park Forest  
36 Police Department.

37  
38 Officer Kickert and Detective Akiyama were recognized for their efforts in assisting the Park  
39 Forest Police Department by Chief Peter Green during Park Forest Police Department’s Annual  
40 Honors Ceremony which was held on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at Freedom Hall in Park  
41 Forest.

42  
43 Officer Kickert and Detective Akiyama were accompanied by their children, spouses, and the  
44 Chief of Police at the Honors Ceremony. Park Forest Chief of Police Peter Green personally  
45 thanked each officer and presented each officer with a plaque commemorating their  
46 achievements.

47

1 Officer Kickert and Detective Akiyama should be recognized and commended for their actions  
2 and for the outstanding professionalism they exhibited in assisting the Park Forest Police  
3 Department.  
4

5 A copy of the letter from Park Forest Chief of Police Peter Green is attached. She is sure that will  
6 be put in their record.  
7

8 **Lifesaving Action – Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp** – Trustee Gibson stated that the last one is  
9 very dear to her heart. It’s a lifesaving action done by Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp.  
10

11 The Police Department is proud to recognize Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp for his lifesaving  
12 actions in the early morning hours of December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 near 3432 Parthenon Way.  
13

14 While on residential patrol at approximately 3:00 A.M., Sergeant Beauchamp observed an  
15 elderly female lying in a drainage ditch which was flooded with snow and rainwater. The elderly  
16 female was partially submerged in the freezing water and was attempting to yell for help.  
17

18 Sergeant Beauchamp immediately called for the Chicago Heights paramedics, exited his squad  
19 car and jumped into the freezing water and was able to pull the elderly female to safety. The  
20 elderly female resident was wearing only a night gown, appeared to be somewhat incoherent,  
21 was unable to say how long she had been in the water and was suffering from severe  
22 hypothermia.  
23

24 Sergeant Beauchamp assisted the Chicago Heights paramedics in transporting the elderly  
25 resident to St. James Hospital in Olympia Fields where notification was made to her family  
26 members. While at the hospital, the elderly resident repeatedly stated she needed her robe at  
27 which time Sergeant Beauchamp returned to the scene, located the robe in the water and mud,  
28 retrieved it and proceeded to launder the robe. After the robe was clean and dry, Sergeant  
29 Beauchamp delivered the robe to the elderly resident who had since been admitted to St. James  
30 for observation.  
31

32 Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp should be recognized and commended for his actions which  
33 undoubtedly saved the life of an elderly resident.  
34

35 A copy of the Police Report associated with this incident is attached. She is sure that we will all  
36 be able to commend Sergeant Beauchamp on his wonderful service.  
37

38 Trustee Pennington stated Hear, Hear. (There was a round of applause). Trustee Gibson stated  
39 that she had someone ask her what he was doing out there. Trustee Gibson stated because that  
40 was his job. He is supposed to patrol. We are very happy that he was in the process of doing that.  
41

42 Village President Meyers-Martin echoed Trustee Gibson’s accolades, and recognition, and  
43 congratulations to Officer Riley Mayer and certainly commend Corporal Dean, Officer Kickert,  
44 Detective Corporal Akiyama, and certainly Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp. In this day, and age, and  
45 time where police are having PR issues, they are being vilified, they are being questioned, she  
46 has always said, and she continues to say that our Police Department here in the Village of  
47 Olympia Fields are the best. They are dedicated. They are professional. They are knowledgeable.  
48 We could not do better than Chief Krull and our officers in the Police Department. (There was a



1 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Village President is being modest because The American  
2 Public Works Association basically broke their precedent, and for one of the first times in the  
3 history of the organization, not only did they Award the Village the “Project of the Year Award,”  
4 which is quite an honor for this Board, the community, and the Homeowners Association, but in  
5 going through our Application to which we never even applied, they said that we did such a good  
6 job in working with the Homeowners Association and the community in a series of letters, Public  
7 Hearings, and announcements on the website and phone calls, a lot to the credit of Trustee  
8 Pennington who helped muster all of the help from the Homeowners Association. We had a 94%  
9 participation rate from the residents. The Village had already lined the sewer mains. We had  
10 already improved all the T-Joints where the sewer lateral from the home connects into the sewer  
11 main. That was an effort to stop rainwater from going into the pipes and surcharging the pipes.  
12 When rainwater during storm conditions surcharges the pipes, two real serious things can  
13 happen: 1. Sewers can backup into individual’s basements, and/or in Graymoor many of the first  
14 floor slab homes which can be highly dangerous. 2. Some of that discharge is released into  
15 Butterfield Creek, which is obviously a violation of the Clean Water Act. We put together with  
16 local funds, and with Congresswoman Kelly’s help, and \$500,000.00 from the U.S. Army Corps  
17 of Engineers, and we lined the laterals coming from the house to the main. That was one of the  
18 first of its kind around the country. We were able to do that because of the need to protect public  
19 health and safety, and also the need to protect a regulated Federal stream because the Graymoor  
20 System is actually a tributary of Butterfield Creek. This saved the homeowners somewhere in the  
21 neighborhood of \$15,000.00 to \$21,000.00 each.

22

23 Administrator Mekarski stated that he just learned about this Friday afternoon. He hasn’t had a  
24 chance to inform the Mayor, Trustee Waite our Liaison, or the Board, but we have done some  
25 early flow monitoring. It looks like because of the Lateral Project, we have reduced the amount  
26 of rainfall which is called “I and I,” infiltration and inflow, by 85%. That is a huge, huge effort.  
27 We feel pretty confident that the homes are going to be protected. The creek is going to be  
28 protected. He believes that is why, in part, the Village got the two Awards for “Project of the  
29 Year Award,” and for the best project and citizens participation. It was unprecedented. We  
30 should give a round of applause and a pat on the back for this Board to have this kind of vision to  
31 work on their public infrastructure. (There was a round of applause).

32

33 Trustee Gibson stated that those of us who attended the Award Presentation, it was a very, very  
34 wonderful experience. Trustee Nale stated that it was.

35

36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that they were very complimentary of the Village and  
37 our efforts related to the Sewer Lining Project. That was also very rewarding.

38

39 Trustee Waite inquired of Trustee Pennington how many homes did not participate in the lining  
40 of the laterals. Trustee Pennington stated seven out of 141. Trustee Waite inquired when they get  
41 ready to sell their homes, or if they sell their homes, are they going to be required to bring those  
42 laterals up to Code. Administrator Mekarski stated that is a very good question. We will put  
43 Notices out to those residents to require that they upgrade. We can’t leave that opportunity of I  
44 and I to get into the system. Even though we reduced it 85%, we want to close it at 100%. We  
45 will be working with a Code procedure to get that completed.

46

47 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that anytime you have overflow into Butterfield Creek  
48 then you are prey to the EPA.

1 Trustee Waite stated that to upgrade those homes on an individual basis, it's going to cost  
2 significantly more than the \$20,000.00 that it cost for us to do them all. He inquired whether or  
3 not there was an assessment to do it. Administrator Mekarski stated no. Trustee Pennington  
4 stated that it was zero cost to the residents. Trustee Waite stated zero cost to every homeowner.  
5

6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is unfortunate, because now when they do that  
7 work they will incur those costs. Trustee Waite stated that it is likely to be in the neighborhood  
8 of \$25,000.00 rather than what it was.  
9

10 Administrator Mekarski stated that there are obviously economies of scale when you are doing  
11 141-homes.  
12

13 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we again thank Trustee Pennington because he was  
14 able to galvanize the majority of those homeowners. Trustee Pennington stated thank you, as  
15 well as other members of the Graymoor Land Owners Association Board of Directors.  
16

17 **Upcoming Water Supply Task Force Meeting** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that  
18 she has been talking about the Water Supply Task Force. Their next meeting will be at South  
19 Suburban Mayors and Managers Association on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 P.M. Our  
20 Engineers, Robinson Engineering, will be giving a presentation on a strategy that had been  
21 recommended at one time. The strategy was effective, but they could not get the Villages at that  
22 time to participate fully. They will be talking about that particular strategy on Thursday.  
23

24 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that as President of the South Suburban Mayors and  
25 Managers Association she attended the DuPage County Municipal Mayors Conference recently  
26 representing our council of government in the south suburbs. In attendance at that meeting was  
27 the Lieutenant Governor. She brought a Report that had been done by the Governor from the  
28 Task Force that had been created to talk about the challenges and issues that Municipalities were  
29 having in the state. Unfortunately, there was not one representative from the south suburbs.  
30 When asked how the Task Force was formed, we realized that when the Mayors and Managers  
31 met with Governor Rauner last April, when the Task Force was just being formed, we asked how  
32 is it that we get a representative on the Task Force. That was supposed to be addressed and we  
33 were suppose to get the answers. We were suppose to find out. No one ever provided that  
34 information to the point that when the Lieutenant Governor came and brought the Report which  
35 meant that we had no voice in its compilation at all.  
36

37 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that at our Legislative Breakfast coming up in February,  
38 we again will be reaching out to the Governor to find out how that Report can be amended to  
39 address some of the concerns from the south suburbs. Unfortunately, this Administration  
40 continues to be dismissive of a lot of people, but in particular the Southland Region. We cannot  
41 allow that to continue. We will continue to make our voices heard in Springfield. He has moved  
42 out of the State of Illinois Building into the Bilandic Building. He is not even with us anymore.  
43 We will continue to make our voices heard as others that come down and protest on a daily basis  
44 at the State of Illinois Building. She found it very interesting that we had no representation at all.  
45 The Lieutenant Governor wasn't concerned or interested in that fact.  
46

47 **St. James Consolidation** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that on January 27<sup>th</sup>, the  
48 South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association is holding a Public Safety Committee

1 Meeting to discuss the St. James consolidation. She is sure that everyone has been hearing  
2 feedback either in print or by word of mouth, regarding that consolidation and some of the  
3 problems that are now being addressed being brought to the forefront in terms of that  
4 consolidation. She has been attending the Public Hearings and she will be at that one.  
5 Administrator Mekarski has been to a couple of the Public Hearings. She stated that Trustee  
6 Waite and Trustee Pennington attended the Public Hearing at Victory Apostolic Church in  
7 Matteson. This is an extremely emotional issue. Some of the commentary is emotional in nature.  
8 She understands that. She hopes that going forward at these Public Hearings that we will be able  
9 to get some of the misinformation cleared up. There is a lot of misinformation regarding this  
10 consolidation.

11  
12 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Franciscan Sisters have made a huge  
13 contribution to the south suburbs. They continue to do that. They continue to be mindful of the  
14 needs of the community. It is, in fact, true that in this day and age you cannot have two totally  
15 separate hospitals less than two-miles away from each other. You can't support that. You can't  
16 have two emergency rooms and two intensive care units. You can't have the laboratories. That is  
17 not sustainable economically. She stated that people are saying that the hospital is putting dollars  
18 ahead of people. She stated that not long ago that hospital was up for sale and in danger of  
19 closing both campuses, which we of course don't want to happen.

20  
21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will continue to participate along with St. James  
22 to make that contribution clear to residents as we participate in these Public Hearings.

23  
24 Trustee Waite stated that in his conversations with the Chief Executive Officer, Arnie Kimmel,  
25 he was brought in as an executive and a CEO who was an expert at the liquidation or disposal of  
26 properties. It was in all likelihood the death nil for both of those hospitals. Can you imagine what  
27 this community would be like without either one of them? He stated that with Mr. Kimmel's  
28 expertise he was able to figure out a way not only to sustain the hospitals, but develop a  
29 Reorganization Plan and a Budget of \$137,000,000.00 that will be spent mostly right here in this  
30 community. That's not chump change. That's a lot of money. He calculated that is the same  
31 amount of money to build eight Super Wal-Mart Stores right here in Olympia Fields. That's  
32 incredible. He wanted to give Arnie Kimmel credit. A lot of times the people who show up are  
33 the people who are against what is going on. Some of what was brought out was absolutely rude  
34 and terrible. Some of the protesters were walking around with signs that said, "Apartheid by St.  
35 James." They were marching up and down in front of Victory Apostolic Church. He stated to  
36 question the faith and the desire of bringing medical services to the poor; to question the sisters'  
37 endeavor is just kind of crazy.

38  
39 Administrator Mekarski stated that Arnie Kimmel the CEO of St. James had indicated that he  
40 needs every citizen in the region, but specifically Olympia Fields, to come out to a Public  
41 Hearing on February 8<sup>th</sup> and come to the podium. Administrator Mekarski will be putting a  
42 postcard out to the residents. He inquired what the location is of the Public Hearing. Trustee  
43 Waite stated Bloom High School. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she believes it is  
44 February 9<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Gibson stated it is February 9<sup>th</sup> at Bloom High School.

45  
46 Administrator Mekarski stated that why this is so significant is because this is the one Public  
47 Hearing that is required under the State's Certificate of Need. It will go from 3:30 P.M. to 9:00  
48 P.M. Trustee Hudson stated that you are going to have a break. Trustee Gibson stated that there

1 will be an hour, or an hour and a half break. Administrator Mekarski stated that for Olympia  
2 Fields this is huge. This is probably one of the biggest Economic Development Projects in our  
3 history. They are to spend \$137,000,000.00 in the Consolidation Plan, and the majority of it  
4 within Olympia Fields with probably over \$100,000,000.00 in Olympia Fields.

5  
6 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Plan is to provide hospital services non-acute care in  
7 Chicago Heights. They will repurpose Chicago Heights and move all of the acute care, surgery,  
8 maternity, and the other acute care facilities to Olympia Fields. We will be putting out a postcard  
9 on behalf of the Mayor asking residents to put out a letter to the State supporting it. It can be a  
10 simple paragraph. It is really important to come up to the microphone and speak for a minute or  
11 two and support it. There will be hundreds of residents from Chicago Heights opposing it. The  
12 representative from the State Certificate of Need needs to hear the viewpoint of our citizens. If  
13 you think that economic engine, that \$137,000,000.00 is important for the Village and  
14 consolidating the hospitals to make it more efficient and effective so it's more sustainable in the  
15 future for our region, then come out to that Public Hearing and make a statement. If you can't do  
16 that, drop a letter.

17  
18 Trustee Waite stated that they are not consolidating the hospitals. They are repositioning the  
19 hospitals to serve the market in a much more efficient manner than they are doing it today.  
20 Administrator Mekarski stated thank you. Trustee Waite stated that between the two hospitals  
21 they have 400 or 500-beds of which only 25% of them are occupied at any one night. That is  
22 terribly inefficient. The approach of the Franciscan Sisters is they go where they are needed and  
23 they stay until they are not needed and then leave. You can name off 13 of the biggest hospitals  
24 in America that those sisters founded, developed, and worked. The hospital in Memphis, the  
25 Shriners Hospital, that is one of their hospitals that they founded, and The Cleveland Clinic. He  
26 can't name them all. There are 13 hospitals like those, big, important research hospitals, and  
27 teaching hospitals. We are going to have something like that in Olympia Fields. It just  
28 flabbergasts him that we are not making more out of what this means.

29  
30 Village President Meyers-Martin stated the Public Hearings are extremely important. One of the  
31 facts that came out that was part of the misinformation that is going about is the fact that the  
32 emergency room would just be closed in Chicago Heights, and they will enlarge and expand the  
33 emergency room in Olympia Fields. Mr. Kummel provided the fact that it is illegal to have a  
34 free-standing emergency room. That is what would occur if they close the hospital but leave the  
35 emergency room. That is a fact that is not being discussed. It is not being shared amongst people.  
36 Again, a lot of misinformation. We want everybody to hear all of the facts and have the truth  
37 before they decide how they feel about this repurposing of St. James Hospital. The Public Safety  
38 Meeting is Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Public Hearing where the Certification Representatives  
39 will be there is February 9<sup>th</sup>, at Bloom High School.

40  
41 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

42  
43 **St. James Consolidation** - Trustee Gibson stated that she doesn't have any Unfinished Business.  
44 Her one concern about this whole idea is that the people who seem to be the ones that are so  
45 deathly against what the Franciscan Sisters want to do are not thinking clearly. They are not  
46 thinking that we are talking about health services for the southern suburbs, not their town, not  
47 our town particularly. She stated that they are making it that it seems reasonable and feasible that

1 they would put \$137,000,000.00 into an almost new hospital, rather than trying to bring up-to-  
2 date the hospital that has been there so long.

3  
4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that literally the bricks are falling off of the hospital in  
5 Chicago Heights. It would cost Millions just to bring that up to Code.

6  
7 Trustee Waite stated that the maintenance cost is \$1,000,000.00 a year to keep the bricks from  
8 falling off.

9  
10 Trustee Hudson stated that she believes that it is a concern, and what we are working on is  
11 transportation. She has been to quite a few of the meetings because she is Chicago Heights as  
12 well as Olympia Fields, in that they are inviting all of the churches from Chicago Heights and  
13 their members to come to their meetings. She has been going to their meetings and she has been  
14 getting both sides. The only legitimate reason that they would get upset to her was their  
15 transportation. That is something that we are addressing already.

16  
17 Trustee Byrd stated transportation to the Olympia Fields Hospital. Trustee Hudson stated right.  
18 Trustee Waite stated that 83% of the people that are brought to the emergency rooms don't need  
19 emergency room care. Now think about that. You talk about tying up your emergency rooms.  
20 You need to take care of 17% because there's life and death situations going on, and people are  
21 out there arguing about whether St. James in Chicago Heights is the right place to do it. If you  
22 look at all of the facts, the facts don't support what they are trying to do. Somebody said that one  
23 of the Village's hired a big named Public Relations Firm to support their feeling to be against  
24 this project. Now you talk about craziness, it is right there before your eyes.

25  
26 **NEW BUSINESS:**

27  
28 **Letter from Representative Al Riley** - Trustee Gibson stated that she believes that everybody  
29 on the Board got the letter from Representative Al Riley. She doesn't see it on the Agenda this  
30 evening. She inquired whether or not we are going to have an opportunity to discuss that.

31  
32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are going to have an opportunity to discuss that.  
33 We didn't put it on the Agenda today because we had so many other things going on. She stated  
34 that because you do have the letter you have some specifics now about his plans, and the  
35 parameters of his usage of that building, that we will be able to have an informed discussion  
36 about the pros and cons of doing that.

37  
38 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

39  
40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did not have any Resignations or Appointments  
41 this evening.

42  
43 **ADJOURNMENT:**

44  
45 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Hudson to adjourn at 9:00 P.M.**

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

47  
48 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**