

1 Weeks passed, letters and e-mails were sent, and many phone calls were made by myself,
2 neighbors, members of the SHARP Community Watch, and Chief Krull. Each time, someone
3 from Nicor came out, and I was told it would be six months or more before the repair might be
4 made.

5
6 Chief Krull called Nicor again on January 22nd, and sent an e-mail to me to let me know
7 someone would be there in 45 minutes. Two of my neighbors, my husband and I went out and
8 spoke to Reggie from the Glenwood Nicor. Reggie told us it might be six months to a year
9 before the repair might be made. My neighbor went into her house and called Nicor not happy
10 with the answer we received. Nicor told her the leak was now being put on the list.

11
12 The final call was made on Monday, January 27th by the Fire Department who could smell gas at
13 203rd Street. Tuesday morning, Greg from Joliet Nicor showed up at our door at 7:30 A.M. and
14 stated our house was “Class 1.” His meter read 99%, and was appalled the leak had not been
15 repaired. Greg placed a call to Nicor and reported his findings. The reply was “We’ll be there
16 today.” Greg’s response was “You’ll be here NOW!” Greg stated he would wait at the house
17 until a crew arrived.

18
19 Trucks and equipment arrived at 9:00 A.M. and the job was completed by noon. During that
20 time, Greg asked me, “So, how do you know the Police Chief?” Our Chief, who stayed vigilant
21 with his calls to Nicor and also stayed in constant contact with me.

22
23 I want to thank everyone involved, who took the time to write a letter, send an e-mail, make a
24 phone call, but truly believe Chief Krull’s involvement made the most impact. Chief Krull went
25 above and beyond the call of duty and showed true leadership by example. So, “Thanks” to Chief
26 Krull who is truly a Super-Hero!” (There was a round of applause).

27
28 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Mrs. Dietz for bringing the letter to the Board. Trustee
29 Gibson requested a copy of the letter.

30
31 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired what kind of gas leak can you wait for six months to
32 repair. She doesn’t understand that.

33
34 Chief Krull stated that they have a Classification System they use. It is a way for them to
35 prioritize in order to keep track and to cue what kinds of repairs need to be made. At first they
36 thought the leak wasn’t that “important.” It was a Class 2. As it turns out, it got worse. Chief
37 Krull stated that he is thankful for the involvement of the entire community there. They were
38 able to get it repaired. He has been known to be an “e-mail terrorist.” He likes to send things out
39 by e-mail to try to start documenting things. He believes that probably helped a little bit. He
40 stated that you have to give credit to the Chicago Heights Fire Department. They did a fantastic
41 job. They came out and with all of the calls they finally got it fixed.

42
43 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Chief Krull for his efforts. Village President Meyers-
44 Martin closed Communications and Petitions at 7:10 P.M.

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1 **FINANCE:**

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3 **Finance Committee Meeting** - Trustee Byrd stated that he did not have a Formal Report this
4 evening. He wanted to remind everyone that it is Budget time. The Finance Committee will be
5 meeting Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 A.M. to discuss the Budget that he will be receiving
6 from Cindy Saenz sometime Wednesday.

7

8 **BUILDING:**

9

10 Trustee Hudson stated that she did not have a Formal Report this evening.

11

12 **PLANNING:**

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14 Trustee Oliver state that he did not have a Formal Report this evening.

15

16 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

17

18 **Meeting with Public Works Department** – Trustee Waite stated that he did not have a Formal
19 Report this evening. He stated that we had a meeting with the Public Works Department looking
20 over the Budget. It is probably 98% in place or closer.

21

22 **Village Received More Salt** – Trustee Waite stated that the Village has gotten a few loads of
23 salt in. The Village had to pay extra for it because it was outside of our original forecast, but it
24 wasn't enough to throw the Budget out of whack. They have been mixing some sand with the
25 salt in order to make the salt go a little further. That has been occurring for the last several
26 weeks. He stated that with the temperatures as cold as they have been, the salt doesn't really
27 work all that well. The sand keeps the ice from being too slippery.

28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did speak with Commissioner Sims on Saturday.
30 Commissioner Sims offered that if the Village is running short, she has some resources available
31 that the Village could tap into. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is good for Joe Alexa
32 to know. He doesn't know that yet.

33

34 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

35

36 **Upcoming Office Ergonomics Seminar** – Trustee Nale stated that she did not have a Formal
37 Report this evening. Trustee Nale stated that she has in the making plans for an Office
38 Ergonomics Seminar sometime in April. She stated that you will be hearing further about that.

39

40 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

41

42 **Thank you from Rich Township District 227** – Trustee Gibson stated that she has three items
43 that she wants to report on. The first item is a thank you from Rich Township District 227. The
44 police department received a thank you card on February 4th from Rich Township District 227
45 Interim Superintendent Ronald Patton for participating in a focus group to assist in the School
46 District's Superintendent Search.

47

1 Assisting the search firm during this focus group session were Village President Meyers-Martin,
2 Village Administrator David Mekarski and Chief of Police John Krull. Members of the Village's
3 Educational Commission included Dr. Ernie Gibson, Michael McNeal, Fred Veazey, Reginald
4 Ford, Cheryl Rutherford, and Trustee Oliver participated in the afternoon focus group for this
5 critically important position. A copy of the thank you card is attached for reference purposes.
6

7 **Assistant State's Attorney Recognition – Detective Corporal Akiyama** – Trustee Gibson
8 stated that the second item that she has is the police department received a telephone call from
9 Assistant State's Attorney Gool on Monday, February 3rd, concerning the actions and
10 professionalism of Detective Corporal Mark Akiyama regarding a recent felony theft
11 investigation.
12

13 The officers assigned to the initial theft report on December 20th, 2013, at our McDonald's were
14 Officer John Pearson and Officer Mark Twilley. Officer's Pearson and Twilley gathered the
15 preliminary information and learned the incident was an employee related theft of approximately
16 \$3,500.00 and due to the nature and complexity of the incident; they turned their report over to
17 Detective Corporal Akiyama for further investigation.
18

19 Detective Corporal Akiyama, working in conjunction with McDonald's Director of Operations
20 Ms. Garza reviewed many hours of video recordings and receipts from the cash register the
21 offender was assigned to. After gathering all of the evidence and piecing together the dates,
22 times, dollar amounts and ultimately determining how the offender was able to defeat the cash
23 counting procedures designed to prevent this type of theft, Detective Corporal Akiyama located
24 the offender and contacted the Assistant State's Attorney's Office.
25

26 Detective Corporal Akiyama presented his investigation to the Assistant State's Attorney's
27 Office who approved felony theft charges against a 19-year old from Park Forest, Illinois. Due to
28 the level of detail contained in Detective Corporal Akiyama's report, the offender agreed to
29 make full restitution to the owner of McDonald's eliminating the need for a lengthy trial and a
30 potential jail sentence.
31

32 Detective Corporal Akiyama should be recognized and commended for his actions while
33 investigating a felony theft incident at our McDonald's. Detective Corporal Akiyama's
34 investigation resulted in felony charges and restitution to McDonald's.
35

36 Trustee Waite inquired of Trustee Gibson whether or not the offender realizes how lucky he was
37 to not have that go forward as a felony. Trustee Gibson stated that she is hoping that he or she
38 does realize how lucky they are. Trustee Waite stated that it sounds like a real learning moment
39 there. Trustee Gibson stated yes.
40

41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she wants to commend Detective Corporal Akiyama.
42 He has been fabulous lately in the work that he has been doing in his role as Detective Corporal.
43 She would echo the Assistant State's Attorney's compliment for him.
44

45 **Community Relations Commission – Volunteer Appreciation Reception Update** – Trustee
46 Gibson stated that the Community Relations Commission's Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will
47 be held on Saturday, April 12th, at the Olympia Fields Country Club. She stated that it is our

1 usual, grand celebration of our wonderful volunteers. Registration at the desk is at 9:30 A.M.
2 The brunch is from 10:00 A.M. to noon. There will be music and awards will be given out. She
3 stated that individuals that are on Commissions and Committees and that volunteer with the
4 Homeowners Associations will be receiving an invitation to attend.

5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated unfortunately, due to a slight glitch that ends up being
7 the same day as “Coffee with the Village President.” That is the reason for the push back on the
8 time a little bit. She stated that it isn’t a problem.

9
10 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked the Community Relations Commission for allowing
11 the Economic Development Committee to hand out their awards for the businesses at that event
12 as well.

13
14 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

15
16 **Approval of the Concealed Carry Policy** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
17 under Administrator Mekarski’s Report is the approval of the Concealed Carry Policy. It has
18 come to her attention over the course of the last few days that there have been some concerns
19 expressed by Trustees regarding a Concealed Carry Policy. She believes that the item should be
20 tabled until the Board can have a Work Session. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the
21 Board will be changing their format in March of this year. The second Monday of the month will
22 be a Work Session for the Board. The fourth Monday of the month will be the actual Business
23 Meeting of the Board where it will take any action on items discussed during the Work Session.

24 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to table this until the Board has a**
25 **discussion during its Work Session on Monday, March 10th.**

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

27
28 Administrator Mekarski stated that he discussed with the Village President the possibility of
29 inviting a representative from IRMA as well as possibly their legal counsel, Susan Garvey, so
30 that we can discuss the State Law, our authority under State Law to adopt this Policy and how
31 this affects also a Federal Law regarding carrying weapons or firearms to retired police officers
32 as well. Chief Krull had asked Administrator Mekarski to look into that. Administrator Mekarski
33 stated that there are considerable items to deliberate on and to get an understanding, and we
34 certainly have the time to get that completed.

35
36 **REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

37
38 **IDOT – Preconstruction Notice – 207th Street/Governors Highway Pedestrian Safety**
39 **Construction Project – TCSP Grant – IL09(44)** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
40 she wanted to provide some information regarding the Illinois Department of Transportation
41 Preconstruction Notice on the 207th Street Project. That is scheduled to start in April of this year.
42 All of the work is to be completed by August 2014. The project will encompass a whole, new
43 lighting system along 207th Street, sidewalks, a bicycle path and a crosswalk at 207th Street going
44 to the Tolentine Park with a Pedestrian Activated Warning System. It is not a traffic light. It will
45 allow motorists to know that there is someone that needs to cross going to the park.

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that unfortunately IDOT did not feel that corner
2 warranted a traffic signal. She is still upset about it. They need to see the pedestrian traffic going
3 forward in order for them to make that determination. She stated that until that point, we will
4 have these safety features in place. The work is scheduled to begin in April and be completed in
5 August. Village President Meyers-Martin believes that will bring much improvement along that
6 corridor. It is a Grant that the Village received from IDOT in the amount of \$528,245.40. It is an
7 extensive project. The Village is looking forward to that work being completed.
8

9 **“Coffee with the Village President” the Second Saturday of Every Month** – Village
10 President Meyers-Martin stated that on Saturday, February 8th, we had our second “Coffee with
11 the Village President.” It was very enjoyable and very informative. Two of our residents that
12 were there on Saturday are in the audience this evening. They have attended both Coffees with
13 the Village President. She thanked them for coming. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
14 they had new residents that came in. They had a lively conversation. They got to discuss a lot of
15 topics that you normally don’t get to discuss at that level or that depth. Village President Meyers-
16 Martin thanked Chief Krull for sitting with her that morning. She stated that a lot of people had
17 questions for him. She stated that we talked about the Vollmer Road Project. She thought that it
18 was very productive and very valuable. She is looking forward to future coffees. Village
19 President Meyers-Martin invited the Trustees to attend.
20

21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the next “Coffee with the Village President” will be
22 held on Saturday, March 8th, 2014, from 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. The Director of Public Works,
23 Joe Alexa, will be sitting with the Village President that day. Mr. Alexa will be there if anyone
24 has any questions regarding streets, sewers, or water.
25

26 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
27

28 **Protocol Responding to the Press** – Trustee Oliver stated that at the last Board Meeting we
29 discussed a little bit about the Public Works issue of salt and how the region was depleting its
30 salt supply. He stated that ironically the very next day the media wanted to find out more
31 information about the impact that the snow was causing to the salt supply in the suburban areas.
32 He believes that Channel 5 contacted the Village to obtain more information. They weren’t able
33 to reach the Village President or the Village Administrator because they were in meetings.
34 Trustee Oliver inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin whether or not the Village has a
35 media protocol on how to answer questions like that.
36

37 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she had mentioned at the last Board Meeting that the
38 supplies of salt were being depleted, but that the Public Works Directors from the region were
39 reaching out to their consortium to find salt. When the inquiry was made about the shortage of
40 salt, the Village had just gotten assurances that it was not short any longer. The Village had
41 supplies coming in. She believes that it was directed to Joe Alexa because he knows about the
42 salt. She thought that perhaps since the Village had salt, that Mr. Alexa may have felt that he had
43 nothing to say.
44

45 Administrator Mekarski stated that he and the Village President were detained in outside
46 meetings and were not able to respond to that in a timely fashion. Mr. Alexa wanted to address it

1 but was taxed with the outside activities of snowplowing and salting. Due to the limited Public
2 Works Staff they were literally working around the clock.

3
4 Administrator Mekarski stated that generally our policy with communication with the press is the
5 request goes to the Village President or to the Village Administrator. If the request goes to the
6 Village Administrator he will e-mail or text the Village President to let her know that members
7 of the press are inquiring. He stated that in regard to that incident, when he received the message
8 that the press was calling he contacted Joe Alexa and the Village President through text
9 indicating that NBC was looking for comments. He stated that if it is a police matter, Chief Krull
10 would be the spokesman for any kind of public safety matter, emergency matter, or a matter
11 under criminal investigation. The Chief can designate a spokesman on behalf of the department.
12 Customarily that has been the Deputy Chief. He stated that until such time as designated by the
13 Chief, it would be the Chief of Police.

14
15 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it comes to her, it comes to Administrator Mekarski,
16 and then it goes to the specific Department Head that should address it.

17
18 Trustee Oliver inquired that if folks are not available does it end there. He inquired whether or
19 not it would be appropriate if they wanted to interview Gladys or the Trustee over Public Works.

20
21 Administrator Mekarski stated that it wouldn't be appropriate for the Administrator's Assistant
22 to respond to it or a subordinate employee. The Department Heads are an extension of
23 Administrator Mekarski's staff. Administrator Mekarski stated that if he was not available and
24 the Village President was not available then any of the Department Heads could represent the
25 Chief Elected Official or the Village Administrator's Office. The Trustee Liaison is an Elected
26 Official and has the prerogative to address issues that are germane to that functional area. It
27 would be beneficial that prior to the Trustee entering into that dialog of advising the Chief
28 Elected Official that that communication is being made. The Chief Elected Official here is the
29 Village President. She is the spokesman for Village Policy for the entire Board. While there may
30 be dissenting opinions from each of the six Trustees, only one voice of the Board can express
31 what the adopted policy is and the position of the Board. He stated that if a Trustee wanted to
32 make a comment, it would be appropriate to inform the Village President so that the Village
33 President can add additional comments that represent the uniformity of the Board.

34
35 Trustee Waite stated that Mr. Alexa told him that there were four or five rail cars of 90 tons each
36 of salt coming in. Trustee Waite stated that all he could have said is that it is his understanding
37 that we have five rail cars of salt coming in but you might want to check with the Village
38 President or the Village Administrator to see if they have more information.

39
40 Administrator Mekarski stated that would be appropriate because the hand off is made to the
41 Village President. The Village President may be aware of communications just delivered to her
42 by the Village Administrator's Office or through the Department Heads.

43
44 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is the policy.

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1 **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

4
5 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

6
7 **Appointment to the Beautification Committee – Mark C. Miller -** Village President Meyers-
8 Martin stated that she is happy to have the recommendation of an appointment to the
9 Beautification Committee of Mr. Mark C. Miller. Mr. Miller is in the audience. She stated that
10 the Board has a copy of his Application to join the Beautification Committee. He has been a
11 resident for over three-years. He is a Manager of Architecture. Mr. Miller is interested in
12 improving the community from a standpoint of economic, cultural and civic development.
13 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Nale to approve the candidacy of Mark C.**
14 **Miller to the Village of Olympia Fields Beautification Committee for the term expiring on**
15 **January 2016 or until their successor has been appointed and qualified.**

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

17
18 Village President Meyers-Martin welcomed Mr. Miller to the Beautification Committee. She
19 stated that Trustee Willett Hudson is the Liaison to the Beautification Committee so you will be
20 working very closely with her.

21
22 Trustee Waite stated that he noticed that Mr. Miller is a graduate architect so he brings a lot of
23 talent. Village President Meyers-Martin stated absolutely.

24
25 **February Educational Commission Meeting –** Administrator Mekarski stated that he had two
26 announcements to make. Administrator Mekarski stated that this month’s Educational
27 Commission Meeting was scheduled for the first Tuesday in February. The meeting was
28 postponed because of not achieving a quorum. There was some conflict with our members and
29 the weather also contributed to that. It was rescheduled for Tuesday, February 11th. He was
30 notified by a number of the Commission Members that they have some conflicts associated with
31 their responsibilities with the Superintendent Search and the focus group report that is going to
32 be delivered to District 227. We are postponing the meeting a second time. It will be held on
33 Tuesday, February 18th. It is a very important meeting. We received over 60-Applications for
34 Mini Grants. These are small allocations up to \$1,000.00 apiece. They go directly to the teacher.
35 The Educational Commission received Applications from all the School Districts that serve our
36 Village. Out of the 60-Applications, the Commission will select 10. They would like to formally
37 vote on those and bring those recommendations to this Board on February 24th. He stated that it
38 would be very exciting for the Southtown Star to get a sense of what the teachers are bringing to
39 the Educational Commission and how they went through the deliberative process to make their
40 selection.

41
42 Administrator Mekarski stated that this Board and the Educational Commission is stimulating
43 and motivating the teachers to think out of the box and go in exceptional ways to do something
44 creative to better enhance the quality of education for our children. It is creating so much energy
45 in the schools. The first year we had just over 10-Applications. In the third year it has grown to
46 60-Applications. The members of the Mini Grant Committee are as follows: Ilene Waite,

1 Reginald Ford and Greg Foster. They have vetted those Applications out and they will be
2 reporting at the next meeting.

3
4 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not we are running out of time.
5 Administrator Mekarski stated yes. That is why we can't afford to postpone the Educational
6 Commission Meeting. We have to have that meeting next Tuesday. We need eight members to
7 have a quorum.

8
9 **Town Hall Meeting for the New Town Center** - Administrator Mekarski stated that the other
10 thing that he wanted to announce is that the Village President is sending out a postcard. It will
11 arrive at your homes in the next few days. It is for a Town Hall Meeting at the Rich Central High
12 School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 P.M. It is for the planning process for
13 the Town Center bounded by Vollmer Road to the north, to the west Kedzie Avenue, to the east
14 the railroad tracks or the Country Club, and to the south 203rd Street. The Village received a
15 \$55,000.00 Grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. They went through an
16 RFP Process. We selected Camiros. They have gone through a Detailed Market Analysis and
17 alternative plans. It is really critical to take the consensus plan and roll it out to the public and see
18 if this is the plan that meets your vision. If it is not, then we will go back to the drawing board.
19 Mr. Miller is excited about it. He expressed interest to attend. He will be at that meeting. The
20 Planning Commission will be at the meeting. It is critical for the Board of Trustees.

21
22 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she was going to mention that everyone will be
23 receiving a postcard that has all of the details about the time and location. It is very important
24 that the community come out and be involved. She stated that we want your input. It is probably
25 going to be a pretty expensive project because the plans are very extensive. Village President
26 Meyers-Martin believes that the other element that they want included is a phase of the project so
27 that you just don't plan and plan and you never break ground on anything. They want to look at
28 what is doable, what is going to be the most attractive, and what is going to be the most essential
29 thing that we want to get done first. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that your input as far
30 as what should be Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III is important as well. She hopes that everyone
31 is available on February 19th for that meeting.

32
33 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

34
35 **To Discuss Matter of Personnel – Open Meetings Act Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) – With a**
36 **Need to Reconvene -**
37 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Gibson to go into Executive Session at 7:40**
38 **P.M. to discuss matters of Personnel according to the Open Meetings Act, Section**
39 **5ILCS120/2(c)(1) with a need to reconvene.**

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

41
42 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will be coming back into Open Session once the
43 Executive Session is over.

1 **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

2
3 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Gibson to go back into Open Session at 7:52**
4 **P.M.**

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

6
7 **Public Safety Trustee Gibson – Police Chief 2013 Annual Leave Payout –**
8 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Nale to authorize the Finance Director to**
9 **process the Police Chief’s Annual Leave Payout for Calendar Year 2013, due to duty**
10 **responsibilities, temporary loss of the Department’s employee complement and unforeseen**
11 **circumstances which prevented the Chief from taking his Annual Leave Allotment. This is**
12 **being done by transferring \$16,000.00 from the Village’s Building Department Software**
13 **Line Item to the Police Department’s Full-Time Salary Line Item.**

14
15 Administrator Mekarski stated that he wanted to clarify that we are transferring \$16,000.00
16 which is the variance that is not being utilized in the Building Department. But the payout is only
17 \$7,285.76. He wanted to make sure that is part of the Public Record.

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

19
20 **ADJOURNMENT:**

21
22 **Motion by Trustee Waite, second by Trustee Nale to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.**

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

24 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**

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