

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**
2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **Held on May 8, 2017**
4

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

10 Present: Trustees – Gibson, Robinson, Pennington, Byrd, and Matz
11 Village President Debra Meyers-Martin
12 Director of Finance/Deputy Village Clerk, Cynthia Saenz
13

14 Absent: Trustee Hudson
15 Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David Mekarski
16

17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
18

19 **Motion by Trustee Matz, second by Trustee Pennington to Suspend with the Reading of the**
20 **Minutes of the April 24th, 2017, Board Meeting.**

21 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
22

23 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Robinson, to Approve the Minutes of the**
24 **April 24th, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, as presented.**

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

27 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**
28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has Bills for Approval totaling \$418,023.96. She
30 stated that there is a Cover Memo designating the more significant payouts.

31 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Payment of Bills**
32 **for May 8th, 2017, in the total amount of \$418,023.96.**

33 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**
34

35 **Scholarship Award Presentations – 2016 Village President’s Golf Outing & Scholarship**
36 **Fund -**

37 **Camille Johnson – Southland College Preparatory Charter High School**
38 **Jacob Washington – Rich Central High School**
39

40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this was a Scholarship that was created by my office
41 three-years ago, in order to assist students that live in the Village of Olympia Fields. It didn’t
42 matter what school they went to. It was just that they were residents of the Village. This came
43 out of our Golf Outing, which the President has held for the past 16-years, our former President,
44 Linzey Jones, and she continued that. She stated that always generated money for the
45 Homeowners Associations. She stated that three-years ago we decided to create a Scholarship to
46 further enhance those funds that we created through the Golf Outing. She is proud to say that this
47 is the third year. It was always vetted by our Educational Commission. Village President

1 Meyers-Martin thanked Cheryl Rutherford, Chairperson of the Scholarship Subcommittee from
2 the Educational Commission who was present in the audience. She thanked Cheryl for her
3 assistance, and for the Educational Commission vetting that process so we made sure the process
4 was fair. We did want to recognize and celebrate students that do well in school. There is a
5 whole set of criteria that the Educational Commission brought forth for the students.
6

7 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this year we have two winners. The first is Camille
8 Johnson. (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Camille
9 is a senior at Southland College Preparatory Charter High School. She will attend the University
10 of Chicago majoring in Biological Science with a minor in Cancer Biology. (There was a round
11 of applause). She participated in the continuing umbrella of the Research Experience Program, a
12 two-year, paid Internship Program that introduces students to Cancer Research at the University
13 of Chicago's Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is the founder, coordinator, and tutor for the
14 Southland College Prep's Enigma STEM Tutoring Program. She is a member of the National
15 Honor Society, and a member of the Speech Team. Trustee Pennington stated "Hear, Hear."
16 (There was a round of applause).
17

18 Village President Meyers-Martin congratulated Camille and presented her with a \$1,000.00
19 check payable to the University of Chicago. Miss Johnson stated thank you. (There was a round
20 of applause). Mr. Yuan Liang stated that he graduated from the University of Chicago, Class of
21 1951.
22

23 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that our second student is Jacob Washington. Mr.
24 Washington was not in attendance this evening nor his parents. Village President Meyers-Martin
25 stated that she knew that he had a conflict. She stated that Jacob Washington is a senior at Rich
26 Central High School. He will attend Augustana College. He is pursuing a Degree in Film,
27 Cinema, and Creative Writing. He is a Drum Major and Percussionist with the Marching Band,
28 the Symphonic Band, and a member of the Drum Line. He is a member of the National Honor
29 Society. He is a member of the Prairie State College Wind Ensemble. He volunteers with the
30 National Council of Jewish Women and the Rich Township Food Pantry. (There was a round of
31 applause). Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we congratulate Jacob Washington.
32 (There was a round of applause). She stated that we are so proud that we were able to use the
33 Golf Outing in order to enrich and enhance our students that live in the Village of Olympia
34 Fields. She stated congratulations to Camille and Jacob. Good luck. Best wishes. Please let us
35 know how you are doing in school. We are very interested in your success. (There was a round
36 of applause).
37

38 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
39

40 Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 7:08 P.M.
41

42 **Thank you to Village President Meyers-Martin, Trustees Arthur Byrd and Howard**
43 **Robinson** - Mrs. Beverly Sokol stated that she resides at 10 Wysteria Drive. Mrs. Sokol stated
44 the following: "I want to thank Debbie, Arthur Byrd, and Howard Robinson. It is a special night.
45 I want to thank you for giving us the highest level of integrity, accessibility, openness and
46 accountability during your terms of office.
47

1 I've lived in the Village for 54-years. The new Administration's victory by only 76 votes tells us
2 that now, more than ever, we must attend Board Meetings, and serve on Committees and
3 Commissions. The positive direction of the Village is in our hands now. As good citizens, it is
4 our responsibility to burnish the "Jewel of the South Suburbs". Thank you for that. That is just
5 beautiful terminology, "The Jewel of the South Suburbs." Thank you all. Thank you for
6 listening." (There was a round of applause).
7

8 **Thank you to the Board and Inquiry on Sewer Work Being Done - Mrs. Bolivia Moore**
9 stated that she is a new resident of four-months in the Village. She is loving it so far. She resides
10 at 20633 Promephan Way. She wanted to say "Hello" to the Board. You have done some great
11 things that she has heard of. That is one of the reasons why she moved here. She had a question.
12 She noticed that there is some new sewage piping that is going on at the end of Promephan
13 Way. Some are larger pieces. Some are smaller pieces. She inquired whether or not it is just
14 going to be on the end, or if you are going to do that throughout that entire block. She is just
15 asking about that. She stated that if it is, that is some really great news. She stated thank you for
16 getting that process started.
17

18 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired whether or not Jim Landini is within earshot. Trustee
19 Gibson stated that he is in the building. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will have
20 Jim Landini get in contact with you. He is not in the room proper. She is confident that he will be
21 able to answer her questions. Mrs. Moore stated that's fine. Thank you so much. It looks like
22 there is some really great progress. Thank you so much. Village President Meyers-Martin closed
23 Communications & Petitions at 7:12 P.M.
24

25 **Resolution #2017-10** – A Resolution Imposing a Moratorium on Enforcing Sec. 21-21, "Rate
26 Adjustments," of the Village of Olympia Fields Municipal Code for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 –
27 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that brings us to Resolution #2017-10 – A Resolution
28 Imposing a Moratorium on Enforcing Sec. 21-21, "Rate Adjustments," of the Village of Olympia
29 Fields Municipal Code for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, which is related to the increase that we
30 received from the Village of Oak Lawn, via the City of Chicago. She hopes that everyone read
31 the Memo.

32 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to Approve Resolution #2017-**
33 **10- A Resolution Imposing a Moratorium on Enforcing Sec. 21-21, "Rate Adjustments," of**
34 **the Village of Olympia Fields Municipal Code for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.**

35 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**
36

37 **Appointment to the Police Pension Board – Johnny Morris** – Village President Meyers-
38 Martin stated that she has for you tonight, a request for approval of the candidacy of Johnny
39 Morris to the Village of Olympia Fields Police Pension Board. As you know, Mr. Hampton, a
40 long, long running member of that Board retired. Due to the fact, there is contract negotiations
41 coming up and Pension Funds are crucial to that negotiation, she determined a new member of
42 that Police Pension Board.

43 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Byrd to Approve the Candidacy of Johnny**
44 **Morris to the Village of Olympia Fields Police Pension Board for a Term Continuing until**
45 **a New Appointment is made by the Village President.**

46 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin congratulated Mr. Morris who was in the audience, and
2 welcomed him to the Police Pension Board. (There was a round of applause). She stated that she
3 just got back from Springfield and Police Pensions will make or break all of the Villages because
4 everybody is suffering with those contributions. She thanked Mr. Morris for agreeing to do that.

5
6 **Comments from Village President Debbie Meyers-Martin and Departing Trustees – Arthur**
7 **Byrd and Howard O. Robinson** – Trustee Robinson stated the following: “I am former Trustee
8 Howard Robinson. I would like to thank the President, Debbie Meyers-Martin, and the Board for
9 appointing me to this position back in October of last year. It really gave me an opportunity to
10 get involved in the community once I retired from the military after 30-years. I enjoyed every
11 moment of it. I enjoyed working with the Board and working with the residents of Olympia
12 Fields. I promise that I will continue to work within the community. I wanted to thank the new
13 Board Members. I wanted to thank our new Village President. I wish you all the very best in
14 your future endeavors. If there is anything that I can do or my family, we will do so. Thank you.”
15 (There was a round of applause).

16
17 **Comments by Trustee Byrd** - Trustee Byrd stated the following: “First of all, I want to thank
18 the residents for allowing me to serve you for the past four-years. It doesn’t mean that I am going
19 anywhere. It just means that I will be wearing a different hat, working in a different position
20 working for this Village. I have been a resident for 31-years. I have been actively working in the
21 Village for at least the last 15 to 20-years. I will continue to do that, not as your Trustee, but as
22 one of the residents of this Village. By nature, I’m a servant. My life has been a servant to people
23 and I will continue to be a servant to people.

24
25 I’d like to thank the Board Members here for the times that we have spent together working on
26 things in order to move this Village forward. So far as the Finance Committee, and I can’t say
27 anything about the guys from the Finance Committee. They have been great individuals that I
28 have worked with at least for the last 10 to 12-years. I don’t see anyone out there except my good
29 brother, Ernie Gibson, out there. Here again, the Educational Commission, we did some great
30 things there. I will continue to be around if I am needed. I was also working on the Economic
31 Development Commission. Here again, I will be there for them too if they need me, or have a
32 question, or anything that needs to be answered, I’m always there. I was involved in a lot of
33 things. I have accumulated a lot of knowledge in these last few years that I’ve been here. It has
34 been a blessing to me.

35
36 Mainly, I just want to leave you with one little thing. Basically, how I live my life is, it’s a little
37 saying that says: “Try to forget yourself in the service of others, for when we think too much of
38 ourselves and our interests we easily become despondent. But when we work for others, our
39 effort returns to bless us.” I have been blessed. I will continue to be blessed because I felt I have
40 worked to serve the Village of Olympia Fields and the residents of this Village. I have kept that
41 faith and I will continue to keep that faith. That’s it, Madam President.” (There was a round of
42 applause).

43
44 **Comments by Village President Meyers-Martin** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated the
45 following: “I’d like to thank the residents and the Board as well. I’ve lived in Olympia Fields for
46 over 26-years. Raised my daughters here. Have served on a Board where State Representative Al
47 Riley was a Trustee, sat right next to me. Our State Senator, Toi Hutchinson, was the Clerk.

1 Board Members have come and gone. I've been on this Board as I said over 16-years. I've really
2 enjoyed, I've appreciated, I've learned, but most of all I was rewarded because I would have so
3 many people come to me and say, "Thank you for your service. Thank you for helping out.
4 Thank you for making this Village progressive and the type of Village that they wanted to live
5 in." I've always felt that the residents here had value that was beyond compare to other Villages,
6 to other Municipalities. We had a staff that was upstanding, so committed to the residents on a
7 daily basis. I got to see that more as Village President than I ever did as a Trustee. But,
8 nevertheless, they were always committed and dedicated to the residents here. I just said the
9 other day, this was the luckiest Village because we had people that really, really cared. It wasn't
10 just a job. They really cared. And the same way with the Board.

11
12 We all live here, and so every decision that was made affected all of us. Sometimes that got lost
13 in the chatter. Everything affected us just like it affected everyone else. I think that we always
14 did the best job that we could do. I think that we always cared about what was best for the
15 Village, not just one person, but what was best for the Village. I am very proud of that work. I
16 am very proud to have been a Trustee, as well as Village President. And certainly, to be a
17 resident in the "Jewel of the South Suburbs." Actually, that has caught on to the point that I go
18 outside the Village and it is like, "Oh, the Jewel. Yes, the Jewel." We are special. This is a
19 special town. I want us to always remember that and to remain that way, because I know that I
20 will always feel that way. And I will always have heartfelt memories of the job that we did here
21 on this dais, day in, day out.

22
23 Somebody just told me how many Budgets we passed, and how many Ordinances we passed,
24 and how many Town Hall Meetings we had, and how many Budget Reviews we had. And that
25 being said, it was all worth it. We enjoyed it because it was an effort of love for this Village. I
26 thank you so much for that, Trustees. (There was a round of applause). We could not have done
27 it without Cindy Saenz running our Budget, because she is the numbers girl." (There was a round
28 of applause).

29
30 **Presidential Proclamation of Appreciation for Trustee Arthur Byrd and Trustee Howard**
31 **O. Robinson –**

32
33 **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR TRUSTEE ARTHUR BYRD**

34
35 **"WHEREAS,** Trustee Arthur Byrd was elected to serve as Trustee for the Village of
36 Olympia Fields on April 2013, and;

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Trustee Byrd was appointed to serve as Trustee Liaison to the Village's
39 Finance Committee and through his leadership combined with his fiduciary oversight, Trustee
40 Byrd ensured balanced budgets, strong unencumbered financial reserves, excellent bond ratings
41 and an unprecedented record of accomplishments in rehabilitating and managing the Village's
42 infrastructure needs, and;

43
44 **WHEREAS,** In his capacity as Trustee Liaison to the Village's Educational
45 Commission, Trustee Byrd supported numerous programs and initiatives that fostered
46 educational excellence to the Village's seven school districts including the "College & Career
47 Readiness Program," the "Mini Grant Program," and the "Annual School Report Card," and;

1 **WHEREAS**, As Trustee Liaison to the Village’s Economic Development Commission,
2 Trustee Byrd fostered small business entrepreneurialism, strategic planning with Franciscan St.
3 James Hospital, the creation of the Village’s first Medical Campus area, as well as, paving new
4 paths to engage our high school students to explore careers in medicine and health care, and;
5

6 **WHEREAS**, His dedication, commitment and relentless determination to enhance our
7 economy, educational system, and financial position has made the Village stand out as a leader
8 within the South Suburban Region;
9

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Village President Debbie Meyers-
11 Martin and the entire Board of Trustees hereby bestow the Presidential Honor of Distinguished
12 Service to Trustee Arthur Byrd for his leadership, commitment and dedication to enhance the
13 Village’s Quality of Life.
14

15 Dated this 8th day of May 2017.” (There was a round of applause).
16

17 **PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION FOR HOWARD O. ROBINSON**
18

19 **“WHEREAS**, Trustee Howard O. Robinson was appointed Trustee for the Village of
20 Olympia Fields on October 2016, and;
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Trustee Robinson served with distinction as Liaison to the Human
23 Resources Committee, and;
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Trustee Robinson served as Chair of the Executive Safety Committee
26 working with the Village Administrator and Department Heads on a Comprehensive Risk
27 Management Plan to reduce the Village’s insurance liability, and;
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Trustee Robinson was a contributing member to the Village’s Veterans
30 Affairs Committee relentlessly working to protect and honor our men and women who served
31 this Country, and;
32

33 **WHEREAS**, In all of his assignments as Committee Member, Chairperson, Trustee
34 Liaison and Trustee member, Trustee Robinson served our community with integrity, dedication,
35 commitment and honor, and;
36

37 **WHEREAS**, Trustee Robinson will be remembered for his leadership and courage for
38 standing behind the Village’s commitment to live by the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
39 of tolerance, respect, and the protection of civil rights for all, and;
40

41 **WHEREAS**, Through his personal example of deliberating on issues with civility,
42 honesty and integrity, the Village and its people have grown in stature and respect within the
43 region;
44

45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Village President Debbie Meyers-
46 Martin and the entire Board of Trustees hereby bestow the Presidential Honor of Distinguished

1 Service to Trustee Howard O. Robinson for his leadership, commitment and dedication to
2 enhance the Village’s Quality of Life.

3
4 Dated this 8th day of May 2017.” (There was a round of applause).

5
6 **Comments from Continuing Trustees – Carolyn Gibson, Willet Hudson and Willis**
7 **Pennington** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are at Item 10 of the Agenda
8 which calls for comments from the continuing Trustees, Trustee Carolyn Gibson, Trustee
9 Hudson is not here, and Trustee Willis Pennington.

10
11 **Comments by Trustee Gibson** - “Madam President, it gives me great pleasure to have worked
12 with you and Trustees Arthur Byrd and Howard Robinson. I am saddened by your loss because
13 you have exercised integrity, fiduciary responsibility and honesty in approaching and approving
14 alternative ways to cover Municipal needs which assured that all residents have not been
15 burdened with extra financial responsibilities, and many more choices that have kept our Village
16 solvent.

17
18 Trustee Byrd, I have enjoyed the fellowship and the utmost trust that you have rendered
19 on this Board for the citizens of the Village. Trustee Robinson, although you have had a short
20 term of office, I have also come to know you and witnessed the outstanding service that you have
21 rendered for the citizens of our outstanding Village.

22
23 Madam President, Debbie Meyers-Martin, we began this journey in the Village years ago
24 together. In fact, 16 or 17-years ago, and have had great success in keeping services for our
25 constituents safe and financially solvent. We have been the “Jewel of the Southland,” which is
26 evident in the number of well-educated, financially able citizens that have moved to Olympia
27 Fields and made it their home.

28
29 My hope is that as devoted citizens of our chosen home, each of you will continue your
30 commitment to the welfare and continued success of this Municipality. You have assisted in
31 making our Village stand tall as a leader in the Southland Region. Good luck to all of you in your
32 future endeavors as you move forward, and best wishes. I will miss each of you.” (There was a
33 round of applause).

34
35 **Comments by Trustee Pennington** – “Madam President, I echo the words of Trustee Gibson.
36 You and I have worked on this Board as Trustees and later under your tutelage as President. We
37 have accomplished a lot. We didn’t see eye to eye on many things, but we always came out on
38 one accord. To me that is important. I wish you the very best in all that you do. I trust that you
39 will stay engaged here in the Village of Olympia Fields. And that we could call upon you from
40 time to time for advice and counsel.

41
42 To Trustee Byrd, we’ve worked together for 12-years on the Finance Committee. I
43 cannot think of a better person to work with during that time than you. I wish you the very best. I
44 thank you for your service. I know you will remain engaged here in the Village. I trust that I, as a
45 personal friend, can call upon you from time to time. I value you as a valued friend. It’s going to
46 be sad to see you go, but I know you will be around.

1 With Command Sergeant Major Robinson, I say that because he is a Command Sergeant
2 Major. (There was a round of applause). Although we’ve worked together for a short period of
3 time, but during that period you and I have accomplished a lot with the Veterans Committee. I
4 value your expertise. I value your advice as it relates to the Veterans Committee. And I hope and
5 pray that you will continue to serve as a member of that very important Committee here in the
6 Village, because we want to reach out to every Veteran here that is a resident of the Village of
7 Olympia Fields. To that end, I wish you the very best sir. You are a valued friend as well. I hope
8 and pray that you will continue to stay engaged and be a part of this very fine Village. The
9 Village that we want to see to be the very best in this region. Thank you very much sir.” Trustee
10 Robinson stated you are welcome. (There was a round of applause).

11
12 Trustee Matz inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin that although she is not
13 scheduled to speak, could she say a few words. Village President Meyers-Martin stated yes.
14 Trustee Matz stated the following: “I want to present my colleagues, Command Sergeant Major
15 Robinson, and Trustee Byrd with a gift, a token of my appreciation for serving with you, the
16 three meetings that I had, and also serving with you on the Legislative side. I want to thank you
17 for your service.

18
19 Also, Madam President, I want to present you with a gift as well for being one of the best
20 Presidents who represented us well, and you will continue to represent us. What I have for you is
21 a book. A leather-bound book with a prayer. And from the words of Tupac Shakur, “Life goes
22 on.” (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Trustee Matz.

23
24 Village President Meyers-Martin stated the following: “I am very proud of being able to create
25 the Veterans Committee with such fine Veterans serving on that Committee. Brookdale has over
26 60-Veterans there.” Trustee Pennington stated 89. Village President Meyers-Martin stated “and
27 even a Tuskegee Airman lives there as well. I was very, very excited when I had the opportunity
28 to create that Committee. I thank you so much for serving on that, and again, hope that you will
29 continue, as well as the Economic Development Commission and Trustee Byrd, working on that.
30 That was something that had never been in place here before to that extent. I am very proud of
31 that as well.”

32
33 **Resolution #2017-11** – A Resolution of Appreciation for Village President Debbie Meyers-
34 Martin (Trustee Carolyn Gibson – On Behalf of the Board of Trustees) – Trustee Gibson stated
35 that she would like to present to all of you Resolution #2017-11. It is a Resolution of
36 Appreciation of Village President Debbie Meyers-Martin. It is one that the Board of Trustees has
37 put together. We know that these are things that she has been successful in.

38
39 **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR**
40 **VILLAGE PRESIDENT DEBBIE MEYERS-MARTIN**

41
42 **“BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF**
43 **OLYMPIA FIELDS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS** as follows:

44
45 **WHEREAS,** Village President Debbie Meyers-Martin has served the Village of Olympia
46 Fields with honor and distinction, and;

47

1 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin selflessly gave 16 years of dedicated and
2 committed service for the betterment and welfare of our community, and;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin faithfully served as Village Trustee for over 10
5 years, before receiving the honor of leading our Village for six additional years as Village
6 President, and;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Under President Meyers-Martin’s leadership, the Village has garnered a
9 strong fiscal position through the achievement of annual balanced budgets, high unencumbered
10 reserves, excellent bond ratings and low debt capacity ratios, and;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin assembled a high caliber professional team
13 recognized for their numerous state and regional awards across all departments; and known for
14 their integrity, hard work, creativity, resourcefulness, transparency, accountability, dedication
15 and commitment to the welfare of our community, and;

16
17 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin should be publicly credited and applauded for her
18 unprecedented level of achievements and accomplishments included, but not limited to; the
19 expansion and enhancement to our Property and Code Enforcement Program; the rewriting of
20 Zoning & Regulatory Codes; the creation of the Town Center Master Plan; the Vollmer Road &
21 Bridge Improvement Project; the expansion of our economic base with the opening of new retail
22 establishments, the Electrical Aggregation Program, the seven mile Phase I Road Repaving
23 Program; the creation of the Village’s First Medical Campus area and her assistance in
24 stewarding the \$132M expansion and consolidation of the Franciscan St. James Hospital, and;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin delivered numerous public-private partnerships
27 garnering the Village millions of dollars, such as the Chicago Heights Fire & EMS Services
28 Agreement; the Olympia Fields Country Club and Village Road and Water Improvement Project;
29 the Advocate Medical Water Tower Licensing Agreement; and the Southland Regional Water
30 Authority Project, and;

31
32 **WHEREAS**, President Meyers-Martin has strengthened the long-term financial
33 sustainability of the Village through the formulation of the strategic long range 2030 Financial
34 Plan; the doubling of our sales tax revenue with the passage of the non-home rule sales tax
35 initiative; the Video Traffic Enforcement Program; the capture of uncollected revenue utilizing
36 the State’s Local Debt Recovering Program; and the unparalleled and unprecedented level of
37 Federal, State and Regional grants awarded to the Village to accomplish local public works,
38 infrastructure and quality of life improvements;

39
40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Board of Trustees hereby
41 bestows its highest level of appreciation, respect and tribute to the Honorable Village President
42 Debbie Meyers-Martin for her unwavering dedication, commitment and leadership delivered to
43 the Village of Olympia Fields which will be forever recognized as the “Jewel of the South
44 Suburbs.”

45 Passed this 8th day of May 2017.” (There was a round of applause). Trustee Gibson stated
46 that she will sign this as Village President Pro-Tem and give you a copy.

47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated, “Thank you very much. Thank you everyone. Thank
2 you, Board for the Resolution, and thank you, Village.” She stated that her portion is done.

3

4 **ADJOURNMENT:**

5

6 **Motion by Trustee Byrd second by Trustee Robinson to adjourn Sine Die at 7:42 P.M.**

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

8

9 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

10

11

12

13

14

15

1 Trustee to the best of my ability so help me God.” The Honorable Drella Savage stated
2 congratulations. (There was a round of applause).

3

4 **Administration of Oath to Trustee Janice Thomas** - The Honorable Drella C. Savage
5 administered the Oath to Trustee Janice Thomas as follows: “I, Janice R. Thomas, having been
6 elected to the Office of Village Trustee, in the Village of Olympia Fields, County of Cook, do
7 solemnly affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and the
8 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as the Office of
9 Village Trustee to the best of my ability so help me God.” The Honorable Drella Savage stated
10 congratulations. (There was a round of applause).

11

12 Village President Pro-Tem Carolyn Gibson stated that she didn’t say at the end of the swearing-
13 in, each Trustee-Elect should take a seat on the dais followed by the Village President-Elect.

14

15 **Administration of Oath to Village President Sterling M. Burke** - The Honorable Drella C.
16 Savage administered the Oath to Village President Sterling M. Burke as follows: “I, Sterling M.
17 Burke, having been elected to the Office of Village President, in the Village of Olympia Fields,
18 County of Cook, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of
19 America, and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and I will faithfully discharge the duties as
20 the Office of Village President to the best of my ability so help me God.” The Honorable Drella
21 Savage stated congratulations. (There was a round of applause and a standing ovation).

22

23 **New Village President Sterling M. Burke Requests Deputy Village Clerk to Conduct Roll**
24 **Call of the New Board** – The Director of Finance/Deputy Village Clerk Cindy Saenz conducts
25 the Roll Call of the New Board.

26

27 Present: Trustees – Gibson, Oliver, Pennington, Matz and Thomas
28 Village President Sterling M. Burke
29 Director of Finance/Deputy Village Clerk, Cynthia Saenz

30

31 Absent: Trustee Hudson
32 Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David Mekarski

33

34 **Trustee Willis Pennington Calls Pastor Andrew D. Singleton, Jr., Victory Apostolic**
35 **Church, Matteson, IL for Prayer and Blessing** – Trustee Pennington stated that he is pleased
36 and honored to call to the podium Pastor Andrew D. Singleton, Jr., Senior Pastor of Victory
37 Apostolic Church in Matteson, Illinois for Prayer and Blessings. (There was a round of
38 applause).

39

40 **Prayer and Blessing – Pastor Andrew D. Singleton, Jr.** – Pastor Singleton stated as follows:
41 “Good evening, everyone. Hey, Pastor Bill Winston, glad to see you. This is, of course, an
42 awesome, awesome occasion. And one of the things they neglected to say, I am Senior Pastor of
43 Victory in Matteson, but I am a 15-year resident of Olympia Fields. As a matter of fact, I bought
44 the home right there from Stanley King in 2002 and his wife Valerie. My wife Brenda and I are
45 glad to be here with you on this auspicious occasion.

46

1 Let us now bow our heads according to our own faith tradition. Our present Heavenly Father, in
2 your name do we call right now, as always giving you praise, glory, and honor. At this time, Oh,
3 Lord, it is important that we give custom whom custom is due, honor to whom honor is due, and
4 tribute to whom tribute is due. So, we honor the outgoing President Debbie Meyers-Martin and
5 all the Trustees for their years and years of selfless hard work to the Village. We also now come
6 together in prayer on behalf of the new Village President, Sterling Burke, and all the new
7 Trustees and the Trustees that are continuing. You said in your word, “How can two walk
8 together except they be agreed?” It is important that they work together in forwarding the goals
9 and agenda of this Village of Olympia Fields. And we know Lord there is always signs of when
10 two are walking together, because the Scriptures are clear again, that where there is strife and
11 confusion there is every evil word. We pray Lord that there will not be strife, that there will not
12 be confusion. We pray that you will give them all the spirit of wisdom and cooperation, and to let
13 them know that ultimately power comes to you, and you are the only one that has all power. We
14 ask right now, Lord, that you will help them to come together with the spirit of compromise and
15 negotiation. Always understanding that is the one thing that eradicates and rises above all
16 differences and all approaches. That they are here to work together for the good of the members,
17 good for the citizens of the Village of Olympia Fields. And we know that if they submit to you,
18 you will give them wisdom. You will give them leadence. You will give them guidance. You
19 will give them direction as we further the economic development, the safety and stability issues
20 that we all want confronted, and all want to continue to do better in this place where we reside.
21 So right now, we ask that your spirit will be in every meeting, in every difficult situation. We
22 pray Lord that there will be humility that will be expressed in leadership that is so critical to
23 moving ahead, and that instead of a spirit of selfishness there will be a spirit of selflessness. And
24 when that is done every demon has to pack their bags and leave because they cannot flourish in
25 an environment of love, and peace, and goodwill one toward another. So, Lord we put all of this
26 into your hands, and ask that you bless not only them in their roles, but you bless their families,
27 you bless all that they seek to do, you bless their health, their strength, and keep them going
28 forward, and that they will also have the time they need to come together to enjoy you, and to
29 enjoy one another and let them see the fruit from all their labor come to pass in this Village. In
30 Jesus name we pray, and everyone said Amen.” (There was a round of applause). Village
31 President Burke thanked Pastor Singleton.

32

33 **Trustee Willis Pennington Calls Distinguished Guest and Friend, Pastor Bill Winston,**
34 **Living Word Christian Center, Forest Park, IL for Remarks** – Trustee Pennington stated that
35 it is his distinct honor to call Dr. Bill Winston, Founding Pastor of Living Word Christian Center
36 of Forest Park, Illinois. (There was a round of applause).

37

38 **Remarks – Pastor Bill Winston** – Pastor Winston stated the following: “First of all,
39 congratulations to the President, and the Trustees those who remain, and those who are coming
40 in new. It is my privilege to come today. When I was told about this occasion from my long, and
41 dear friend, Stoney Burke, I thought it was a privilege that I could come and just say some things
42 that I felt were relevant on his behalf, because I think he’s like an esta, He’s here for such a time
43 as this. To the outgoing President, there has been great things that have been done. Now, it’s just
44 a new season. I think some things are really beginning to happen.

45

46 I want to say first, I’ve been knowing him over 35-years. We were both at IBM together. We
47 were both Managers together at IBM. He was in Systems. I was in Sales. We, for some reason,

1 just began to flow together. I think one of the reasons why is because both of us were Air Force
2 Pilots. Pardon me. I was an Air Force Pilot and he was Navy, and I forgive him. But we flew
3 together all the time and just had a great time. He was very, very instrumental in me meeting a
4 person who worked for him as Assistant Engineer, and I saw her. And once I saw her something
5 just came alive inside of me. We've been married now for over 33-years, my wife, Veronica.
6 Stand up so they can see you please. (There was a round of applause).

7
8 And a couple other things, we also had times together where we would share things, share some
9 of the things that we would hope for in terms of the young people being able to be educated,
10 being mentored. His wife, that I have known also for years and years, Arlene, once a year she
11 would bring her class out to our Aviation Department out at Midway. We have a corporate jet.
12 She would bring them out and let them just go through it, and walk through it, and feel it and
13 touch it. We would give them presentations and so forth why we believe in mentoring the next
14 group of people that are coming up. He and I were always concerned about our youth. What are
15 we doing with our youth? So that happened.

16
17 I just want to say that in knowing him, it has just been a pleasure. One of the things I found out
18 about him is like myself, he is a hard worker. He believes in problem solving. Lots of times some
19 people run from a problem but he runs to them. So, it is no surprise to me that he is in this
20 particular job because we are living in some challenging times right now. And everybody is
21 going to have to pull together. Also, very accountable in terms of him doing something. We all
22 have that opinion if you can't measure it you can't manage it. He's up to being accountable for
23 whatever there is to do. Also, seemingly he has always been determined to make a difference in
24 everything. I was brought up in Tuskegee, Alabama. The way that I began to fly is I was seeing
25 the pilots, they were all our dads, but seeing the pilots fly, Chappie James and all of those. As a
26 matter of fact, I use to be sweet on Chappie James daughter. That was in the second-grade. I am
27 saying that he has done a lot. He has achieved a lot. I saw it myself. I was just elated when he
28 called me and said, "Hey, guess what happened?" I just want to let you know too, on the way
29 over here Mayor Calderone of Forest Park called me. I told him about your Installation tonight.
30 He said, "Please tell him I said congratulations and if you need anything, or anything you want to
31 talk to him about he is available."

32
33 Let me just say in closing, he has done a lot. I really believe that he's again like an esta. He's
34 here for such a time as this. I want to say that he is a good man, hard working. I want to say the
35 last thing I like to call him "my friend." When I say that, I don't say that frivolously. I think that
36 he is a person that has always stood by me. I've always stood by him. And he has proved to be
37 very faithful. I just want to acknowledge him as a good leader and a person for the job. Thank
38 you. President Burke." (There was a round of applause).

39
40 Village President Burke thanked Pastor Winston. He stated that he will forgive that comment
41 about him being in the Air Force. We have this little thing about Navy Pilots and Air Force
42 Pilots. Air Force Pilots need 10,000 feet of runway. Navy Pilots need about 200-feet of aircraft
43 carrier. That kind of tells you who was the best pilot. Thanks again.

44
45 **Village President Requests Comments from the New Trustees – Cassandra J. Matz, Kelvin**
46 **Oliver and Janice R. Thomas** – Village President Sterling Burke stated that the next item is
47 comments from the New Trustees, Cassandra Matz, Kelvin Oliver, and Janice Thomas.

1 **Comments from Trustee Cassandra Matz** – Trustee Matz stated the following: “Good
2 evening, President Burke, Board of Trustees, Village Staff, residents, families, and friends. Let
3 me just first make mention of my pride and joy, two out of three that are here, my oldest son,
4 Chretien Donovan. My baby boy, Savyon Emeril. My daughter, Mercedes, gets a pass tonight
5 because she graduates from Howard University this Friday.” (There was a round of applause).

6
7 “First of all, I would like to acknowledge the three other individuals that were standing with me
8 today: Judge Linzey Jones, Commissioner Tim Bradford, and Senator Michael E. Hastings of the
9 19th Legislative District. I would like to thank them for their support, guidance, and for setting a
10 great example of what a committed public servant looks like. Most of all, I want to thank each of
11 them for being a loyal friend and making me part of their family. Today makes a special
12 occasion for me and I am honored to serve as a Trustee for the Village of Olympia Fields. I’m
13 looking forward to continuing the positive direction of the Village and its brighter future. I’m
14 eager to learn from the incumbent members of the Board and the new leadership assembled here
15 today. We can all build from the collective knowledge you hold. I also look forward to sharing
16 my knowledge gained from my life experiences. These experiences stem from my advanced
17 Degree, working in Corporate America, being a stay-at-home mom for 20-years if that counts for
18 anything.” A woman in the audience stated that counts for something. “Running my own Real
19 Estate Brokerage Firm, and for the past four-years I’ve been Chief of Staff for Senator Michael
20 E. Hastings of the 19th District which Olympia Fields falls within that District.

21
22 I know that I have a sound temperament, acumen and love for this community to serve as your
23 Trustee for the Village of Olympia Fields. I look forward to open communication, participation
24 between all levels of government. I plan to always search for synergies amongst the residents,
25 business community throughout my time in office. I am very hopeful of the future growth of
26 Olympia Fields. Look forward to having face-to-face discussions, finding common grounds,
27 obtaining positive solutions for keeping our Village great. I plan to help economic development
28 through retention of our current businesses and attracting new businesses in this competitive,
29 challenging retail environment.

30
31 I believe we are not on an island by ourselves. Progress starts through having a collaborative
32 vision. Olympia Fields must find ways to collaboratively partner with our park and School
33 Districts to ensure communication and cohesiveness for the future betterment of our Village. I
34 also know that the keys to building a healthy Village is to create and develop a Plan that
35 maximizes the community’s strength and minimizes weaknesses. It is vital that the citizens and
36 businesses are included in planning and execution of all stages of the Village’s growth. Each
37 Trustee should be an Ambassador for the Village of Olympia Fields. We must find ways to stay
38 active in the community at the ground level, and volunteer our time in the community and
39 through the Committees we serve.

40
41 As your Trustee, I will stay active in the community. Listen to the residents’ concerns, but we
42 must do so in a positive manner that doesn’t hinder the growth of our great Village or our
43 neighboring communities. We have everything a thriving town needs: Location, transportation,
44 land, and most importantly a diverse group of residents with common goals. Change does not
45 come easy. And we must build on what the past Administration has accomplished to move us in
46 the right direction. Now is the time we should move even faster as long as we have a shared
47 vision for our great Village.

1 Finally, we must continue to invest in our children by finding ways to continue working closely
2 with our School Boards, Township, State, and Federal Government. Olympia Fields let's get to
3 work. The challenges ahead of us aren't insurmountable, but they are doable as long as we all
4 work together. I look forward to representing you as your Trustee and working to achieve new
5 milestones in 2017 and beyond. I believe good governance is being a good neighbor. With that
6 being said, thank you all again for this opportunity and great honor to be the voice for the
7 citizens of Olympia Fields." (There was a round of applause).

8
9 **Comments from Trustee Kelvin Oliver** – Trustee Oliver stated the following: "Well, it looks
10 like I'm not going to start off very well because my comments are going to be very brief. So, let
11 me just start off by saying next month, June, my wife and I, Pamela, will have been married 34-
12 years. Pam stand up. (There was a round of applause). And tonight, also who have come here to
13 join me is my mom, Dorothy Oliver. Stand up. (There was a round of applause). Usually, she's
14 ridiculing me, but it's my turn now. I've got the mic. She and my dad have taught me the sincere
15 values of being a politician. That it should be noble work. And that's what I intend to do. I'm
16 glad that she was here to witness my swearing-in.

17
18 I am the oldest of five siblings. My youngest sibling Cynthia, stand up, is here with me too.
19 (There was a round of applause). Thank you all for participating with me on this. I have a few
20 other people that I want to thank. There's actually a lot of people. But more importantly, there is
21 a Grass Roots Group called "Our Future." I can't name them all. There is more than what is in
22 this room. But "Our Future," you know who you are. You guys have just been so stellar in
23 helping make this Village, not just those who ran for Village Board, but the School District too.
24 There's a group of people that really, sincerely care about things that are going on in this region
25 and it goes beyond just politics. It's us. I just want to be so thankful just publicly to the "Our
26 Future Team."

27
28 And then something that is just so remarkable to me, is the fact that in this room in a building of
29 government we have religious leaders here to pray over us. That means a lot to me. I thank you
30 very much. (There was a round of applause).

31
32 On the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Village, the hopes, dreams, and aspirations are
33 just as meaningful now as it was then. Regardless of who you voted for, or who you supported. I
34 wish to thank the 33% of this Village who made the effort to be engaged in this age old political
35 process of our forefathers who fought for this by voting.

36
37 I pray God provide me with the wisdom and discernment as a steward of this great Village,
38 Olympia Fields. And as Cassandra Matz said, "Now, let us go forth and do great things." Thank
39 you." (There was a round of applause).

40
41 **Comments from Trustee Janice R. Thomas** – Trustee Thomas stated the following: "Good
42 evening, everyone. I first would have to give all glory and all honor to God who is the head of
43 my life. Because it is in him that I live, I move, and I have my being. And I thank God for this
44 opportunity. When I look back over my life and I think about where he has brought me from,
45 where I am, and where he has taken me, I can't help but to rejoice in him.

1 I was born and raised in Evergreen, Alabama. Many of you probably haven't heard of that. But I
2 have some aunties in the room that I am very glad to have here. My daughter is the third
3 generation. I am the second. And then we have some fourth generation. So, all my family, can
4 you just wave your hand. I have my aunts, my Aunt Olivia, my Aunt Vivian, my Aunt Essie, and
5 my Aunt Martha. (There was a round of applause). I am grateful for family. Also, I want to
6 acknowledge the beautiful young lady that was standing with me. That is my daughter,
7 Shandrell. I have a son, Pastor Trent Pressley who lives in Alabama still. I also have my church
8 members, Hazel Crest Assembly Apostolic Church. Can you say "Praise the Lord" in the room.
9 (There was a round of applause).

10
11 To all of my friends that are in the room, and my neighbors from Olympia Club, "Can you say
12 "Hello?" Hey, that's how we do it. Also, I want to acknowledge, I believe my godbrother is
13 looking through the window out there. He can't hear me.

14
15 Having gotten that out of the way, I want to say that I am here because I care. I am here because
16 I believe in collaboration. I believe in the theory of family. I believe that united we stand, divided
17 we fall. I also believe that change is never easy, but it's always necessary. I also believe that I am
18 here because God has called me to this place. A place that I did not seek. Even though when I
19 read one of my favorite Scriptures it says, "If you delight yourself in him he'll give you the
20 desires of your heart." Sometimes you don't know what those desires are. Amen. He's in charge.
21 So here I am.

22
23 I want to work with you. I want to work for you because I am a servant. What you will get from
24 me is what you hear and see now, a person that believes in honesty, believes in transparency. I
25 know that there are things that we need to address. There have been a lot of good things that have
26 gone on in the Village and those good things will continue. But there are issues that we need to
27 peel back the onion. And those of you that are cooks from Alabama, I am a cook, onions burn
28 my eyes. But they are necessary to add seasoning and flavor to the food. So, as we begin to peel
29 back the onion, we will identify things that need to be addressed. We will identify things that are
30 good, and if it is not broke you don't need to fix it. You just keep it moving. But we need to
31 make sure that we are inclusive in our process. As we are being inclusive and transparent, I
32 believe that will get us to where we want to be. I believe that this is a beautiful place. That is
33 why I sold my house in Park Forest and purchased a home here, because it is a beautiful place. It
34 is a safe place. We want to maintain that. We want to address the issues, but we want to address
35 them with you. We want you to know that we are here for you. We want to listen to you. I'm not
36 going to always say what you want to hear, and you are not always going to say what I want to
37 hear. But that's okay, because we're all in it for a common good. How many are in it because
38 you love where you live? How many love where you live? (There was a round of applause). I
39 love where I live, so I have a dedication and a determination to serve you, to work with my
40 fellow Trustees, to help hold up and support our Mayor, our Staff that is here, because we want
41 to do this thing because God is in control of everything. And as we move forward, I want you to
42 know that we are here for you. We are just a touch away. Each one, reach one, teach one. As my
43 grandmother would always say, "Nothing fails but a try." So here I am." (There was a round of
44 applause).

45
46 **Village President Requests Comments from Continuing Trustees – Carolyn Gibson, Willet**
47 **Hudson, and Willis Pennington** – Village President Burke stated thank you all very much. The

1 next section is comments from the continuing Trustees, Carolyn Gibson. Willet is not here, and
2 Willis Pennington.

3

4 **Comments from Trustee Carolyn Gibson** – Trustee Gibson stated as follows: “Thank you, Mr.
5 President. President-Elect Sterling Burke, Trustee Cassandra Matz, Trustee Kelvin Oliver and
6 Trustee Janice Thomas, congratulations on your victory. You have been given a vote of
7 confidence by some of the citizens of this Village. As a sitting Trustee for the past 16-years, I
8 fully understand the honor which you have been bestowed. The citizens have spoken and will
9 expect from you positive, honest action, commitment towards being fiduciary responsible, and
10 work very hard to service the needs of all citizens.

11

12 Likewise, I will support the positiveness of your approach to all Legislative Rules. Remember
13 that we all have a title. However, that does not mean that we are entitled to do our own bidding.
14 The moral of government is how a government treats all of their constituents. Welcome to the
15 Village of Olympia Fields Board. And as the French would say, “C’est la vie.” (There was a
16 round of applause).

17

18 **Comments from Trustee Willis Pennington** – Trustee Pennington stated the following: “Mr.
19 President, Trustee Matz, Trustee Thomas, Trustee Oliver, I am indeed pleased to welcome you to
20 this dais. Trustee Oliver, I welcome you back because we have been on this Board together 12-
21 years ago. I look forward to working with you again. I’m sure that we will do what is expected of
22 us here on the Board.

23

24 Trustee Matz, I welcome you as I did before. And I look forward to working with you in every
25 capacity that we might endure.

26

27 Trustee Thomas, you and I go back a little ways too. When I was on the Board of Directors with
28 Metra, you and I collaborated on a number of things as it relates to DBE in your capacity as a
29 Director within Metra. I look forward to working with you and collaborating with you on ideas.

30

31 President Burke, I’m honored to have you sit next to me, although you may move down one, I
32 don’t know if you decide to do so. I look forward to working with you. I congratulate you as well
33 as all the other Trustees on your win. I will simply just say this. A lot of us have talked about
34 change this evening here on the dais. But change at any level is in most cases difficult to accept.
35 It’s difficult purely from the standpoint that the vision, aspirations, and desires of the new
36 Administration is not fully known. I am reminded of a quote made by James L. Hayes who was a
37 former President of the American Management Association who stated: “An effective
38 organization has a purpose that is shared by all its members and to which they will willingly
39 commit their efforts. People working together can do most anything.”

40

41 This Board of Trustees and this Administration is in a new season. This is a new season for the
42 Village of Olympia Fields. And I pray that the Administration, the Board of Trustees,
43 Department Heads, everyone associated with this Village, including the residents, will take part
44 in that overall coming out and working together. It’s essential. It’s needed. We do have some
45 issues that we need to deal with, but we will deal with them. So, to restate Mr. Hayes, “People
46 working together can do almost anything” and we will do just that. Thank you very much and
47 congratulations Mr. President and Trustees.” (There was a round of applause).

1 **Village President Sterling M. Burke Delivers Vision and Aspirations of the New Board and**
2 **Calls for Unity of the Old and New** – Village President Burke stated as follows: “Thank you
3 all. I really believe that we will do a great job working together. What I am going to do next is
4 give you, the audience, the people of Olympia Fields, some of the things that I see us working on
5 in the next four-years and what my overall vision is.

6
7 I would like to thank Pastor Singleton not only for being a resident, but also being the person that
8 did an outstanding job of opening up our official start. Thank you very much.

9
10 I would also like to thank Pastor Winston. And thank you for letting me see Veronica once again,
11 since you stole her from me. I appreciate it. I had great, great promise for her career. The funny
12 thing about it, she was interested in leaving IBM Company. We were just about to promote her. I
13 asked her to talk to my very good friend, Bill Winston, who did a great job of balancing his
14 church life and his career as a Manager at IBM. A week later they eloped. That was something
15 that was very good.

16
17 I would also like to thank the outgoing Board and Debbie Meyers-Martin for her stewardship and
18 undying support for our Village. You did a great job. And as most people will say, they all had
19 very kind things to say about all the members of that Board and I feel the same way. They did a
20 great job. It’s just that things change. And sometimes you have to go in a different direction.

21
22 I would also like to thank the people who worked so hard to make this a successful campaign for
23 the three of us that are new to the Board. Many of which I only met in the last eight-months. You
24 think about that. I just met these people in the last eight-months. We all had something that was
25 very much in common. We all came together and we ran a very successful campaign. As Kelvin
26 said earlier, “Our Future.” It was all about our future. It wasn’t about any one of us. It was about
27 what we thought we could do for the Village of Olympia Fields. As he said, there is too many of
28 those people to mention, but it is a lot larger than what you might think.

29
30 The last thing I would like to say, I would like to thank the people of the Village of Olympia
31 Fields for having faith in us and participating in the Democratic process. You do not have a
32 Democracy unless you have a difference of opinion and have people to come forward with
33 different ideas. There is no room in a Democracy for apathy. Okay, 33% Kelvin is saying that’s a
34 good number. I can tell you 4,142 people voted for the Presidential Election. We had somewhere
35 around 33% of that. We need to do better at getting more people involved in the process.

36
37 We live in a world where anything and everything is possible especially when you share a
38 common vision as you’ve heard Miss Matz and just about everybody up here talk about. A
39 common vision is very important. In my introduction letter, I indicated that I hope to have an
40 opportunity to meet as many people as possible and go to their homes and actually talk to them.
41 During my campaign, I spent nearly five-hours a day walking around, knocking on doors and
42 talking to people all over this Village. When I knocked on doors I was welcomed into many of
43 your beautiful homes. We discussed many subjects, including falling property values, high water
44 bills, and out of control taxes.

45
46 More importantly, we shared a common dream of why we all moved to the Village of Olympia
47 Fields, and how much we love the safe, quiet, wooded community that we all share. Olympia

1 Fields continues to have a strong reputation as a sought-after destination. I was very happy to see
2 that we all share that mutual belief. Everybody in this room feels that way. Many of you are
3 longtime residents with 20 to 35-years in this Village. And to my surprise, I also found a large
4 number of residents that have less than five-years in our Village.

5
6 During the time I walked around, I also spent some time with a very long-term resident, a lady
7 by the name of Laura Shinker. She lives in Suburban Woods. She has been a resident of the
8 Village of Olympia Fields since 1961. That's the year I started high school. And I'm old. That
9 was a longtime ago. Okay. And she's still here. And she loves Olympia Fields just like all the
10 rest of us.

11
12 Diversity and the common value proposition of investing in your dream community was very
13 high on everyone's list. Everyone I spoke to had a strong sense of community, but were not
14 satisfied with some of the existing infrastructure or retail opportunities.

15
16 It also was very obvious to me that we have an abundance of very talented, untapped resources
17 that have ideas and would like to get involved in our community, but they haven't necessarily
18 done so.

19
20 One of the keys to insuring that our future remains a bright one, you must use the resources that
21 exist in the community that you live in. Olympia Fields has always, and still is, full of
22 professionals. We have lawyers, doctors, dentists, consultants, educators, entrepreneurs and
23 seasoned business leaders that could help drive our local business efforts. We will be tapping
24 into this house of resources to expand our economic base. We have way too many people who
25 can do worlds of good for this Village that we just have not utilized. In fact, there's so many
26 people in this Village that I was amazed that I don't know. I know the people who live in my
27 subdivision because I've been the President and Treasurer over there. I know every one of them.
28 I know all their kids. I'm just mystified by how many people in this Village the rest of us really
29 don't know. And we have to get out and get to know who these folks are.

30
31 Rebuilding our commercial tax base is paramount if we are to provide a more balanced approach
32 to revenue funding. A more balanced approach would help improve property values for the
33 residents of the Village of Olympia Fields. We need real economic development that augments
34 and supports a Village like atmosphere and positions us to take advantage of current and future
35 trends. What I mean by "a Village," Olympia Fields is not Orland Park. Olympia Fields is a town
36 of 5,000 people. If you go to Europe, towns with 5,000 people in it have all kinds of small
37 businesses. And those small businesses are run by those people who physically live in that town.
38 We have the kind of talent that can do these things and we need to take more advantage of them
39 and get them involved.

40
41 To attract young, upward mobile families, we need to market Olympia Fields not only as a great
42 place to live and raise a family, but also a great place to start and run a business. Right now,
43 there is very little marketing of the Village of Olympia Fields. We have outsourced this to some
44 consultants. And we, as individuals, have gone out and talked to some people. But what we lack
45 is a person, or several people who actually go out and market our town. We can't be so smug to
46 think that people are just going to come to Olympia Fields. We all did it, but these are changing
47 times. We have to do some things to get more people involved in our community.

1 Our future depends on each of us working together to ensure that Olympia Fields remains the
2 dream that we all bought into. This journey is not about any individual, but it is about all of us
3 working collectively together. You heard that over, and over, and over.

4
5 Collectively, this Board, the Village Staff, will be working to serve and protect the interests and
6 investments of both the local businesses and the residents of Olympia Fields. This is all of our
7 town and our future. We will need your ideas and personal help to ensure that this will be
8 successful.

9
10 Now, since the Election, my day normally starts around 7:30 when I start getting texts from
11 people and it goes until 11 o'clock at night. I have spent probably three, four-hours a day
12 speaking to all of the Department Heads in the Village. I sat down and talked with Cindy. They
13 very much understand where I'm coming from, and what I'm interested in, and what we need to
14 do. All the people who are the staff in our wonderful Village, they are not going anywhere. I
15 know there was a rumor that I was going to come in and fire all these people. That's just not true.
16 We got some really, really, really, really good people that are working here. And they need to
17 have the opportunity to go out and do those things that makes a difference for our town. And that
18 has not necessarily happened. We've already established an environment where I've asked each
19 one of the Department Heads to come up with those things that they think that we can do that is
20 going to enhance and make things better in the Village of Olympia Fields. Every one of them has
21 stepped up and come up with ideas. They've come up with ways to potentially trim the Budget.
22 They've come up with ways to make sure that each and every one of you are satisfied customers.
23 So, when you come to Village Hall you are going to have an opportunity to speak to some people
24 who I'm going to say have a little bit different attitude about who the customers are, and who the
25 investors are. I feel very confident that they are going to do a wonderful job.

26
27 I've heard Pastor Singleton and Pastor Winston both talk about having a vision and a dream of
28 what you want to accomplish. You have to have an image in your mind of what you want to do.
29 They both stressed the importance of committing yourself to ensure that the dream is
30 accomplished. But we must be prepared to continue the work in preserving that vision or dream
31 after you've obtained it. So, we all moved here to Olympia Fields. And just because we are here,
32 does not mean it's going to stay that way for the rest of our lives. In the 32-years that I worked
33 for the IBM Company, and I was a consultant, I was in a changed business. There's lots of times
34 I would go out and talk to people, and they didn't quite understand that change was occurring all
35 around them, and when someone moved their cheese, they were lost. Some of our cheese has
36 been moved. We need to do some things to be more aggressive about making sure the dream that
37 we all bought into is going to be one that is going to be sustainable.

38
39 As much as we would like to relax and enjoy life, and the fruits of our labor, our world
40 experience has taught us that we must always be looking for the next new wave. Things are
41 going to change. Will that new wave swamp us? Or will it provide us with opportunities to
42 flourish? I've always been the type of person that I'm looking for that new wave all the time.
43 And I'm trying to figure out a way how I can take advantage of it. I want to try to find a way to
44 make sure that we take advantage of the new wave in the Village of Olympia Fields.

45
46 Let's talk about Homewood for a second. The homes in Olympia Fields are fabulous homes.
47 There is not a home in Homewood that can hold a candle to what we have here in Olympia

1 Fields. They have something that we do not have. And that is, a booming, Economic
2 Development Corridor on Halsted. Those homes are a lot smaller. Their government is a lot
3 larger. And they need to drive an economic base to support that government and to support that
4 big-box environment.

5
6 Matteson, on the other hand, had Lincoln Mall. We all know that Lincoln Mall is not here
7 anymore. Matteson is under tremendous stress right now because they are trying to figure out a
8 way to come up with enough revenue to go do something about that.

9
10 Olympia Fields on the other hand, is a small town, made up of unique homes. I think there is an
11 Ordinance that says, "Every home has to look different." We have a unique set of homes. And
12 we have a highly professional group of people who live here. And what works in Homewood, or
13 what works in Matteson, does not necessarily work for us.

14
15 There are three important objectives that I would like to accomplish and for our Board to
16 accomplish. We want to maintain the beauty and the charm of the Village of Olympia Fields
17 which is our greatest asset. That is what we all bought into. And we are going to do everything
18 we can to maintain that. We must maintain this Village nature of the Village of Olympia Fields.
19 It will always come first. This Administration will not sacrifice the nature of our Village, the
20 image of our Village, or the values and the interests of those people who live here. So that will
21 be the number one thing that we are going to make sure that we promise you that is going to
22 happen while this group is in place.

23
24 Number 2. We want to improve the efficiency of our government. I kind of touched on that
25 already. I've talked to Cindy. As I said before, I've talked to just about all of the staff members. I
26 am going to spend at least two-hours a day with every person who works in this Village to
27 understand what they do in their job. I did this all my adult life. I intend on doing this as we go
28 forward. So far, everyone that I have spoken to has some ideas that can make things better
29 around here.

30
31 The third thing is to protect the Village of Olympia Fields property values with an Economic
32 Development Program that is consistent with future lifestyles and new economy business
33 models. How many of you buy online from Amazon? You raise your hand. Because when I walk
34 around I see Amazon boxes all over the place. They are everywhere. We are at a pivotal point
35 now, where big-box stores, and shopping malls are going to be going away. Things are going to
36 be delivered directly to your door. Peapod already does this with food. Amazon, Macy's, Sears,
37 everybody delivers directly to your door. And so, having big-box stores that are going to go off
38 and leave us when they can't make money anymore, that's not necessarily what the new
39 technology is all about. Oh, by the way, the people who live in this Village, are the ones that will
40 spend money and buy things online. I know some of you want to go to nice stores and walk
41 around and go shopping. Trust me. We are past the point where 50% of what we buy in total
42 gross product is bought online. We need to look at how we're going to do things from a high-
43 tech standpoint. That's something I actually spoke to Cindy already about. How much money do
44 we actually get in taxes from Internet sales? I can tell you all the things that I'm buying online,
45 I'm paying a lot of taxes. I want to make sure that they show up here in Olympia Fields.

46

1 As I said before, we are at a pivotal point in our history. Our size, and social economic nature of
2 our demographics, the \$150,000,000.00 investment that St. James is making, our access to
3 Chicago is a huge asset as we transition to this new technology income model.
4

5 The Village of Olympia Fields is better positioned to flourish and take advantage of this new
6 Internet based economy than any of the communities that are around us. Those communities
7 depend on tax revenues as I said from big-box stores and shopping centers. They will be under
8 greater stress and at a disadvantage as Internet sales continue to grow. We are pursuing Village
9 oriented businesses and high tech companies to help balance our economic development needs.
10 That does not mean we won't get people like Bed Bath & Beyond, or Starbucks, and things like
11 that. The kind of economic development that we want to look at is going to be Whole Foods. It is
12 going to be companies that meet the kind of demographics that live here. We are going to really
13 have a prioritized list of who these people are. The Economic Development Commission is
14 working to create a strategic list of who those people are. We are going to execute that list and
15 then we are going to go after those people.
16

17 With your help, this Administration will take advantage of every practical resource to ensure that
18 we will be able to maintain our preeminent role in the Southern Suburbs. We have an
19 opportunity to control our future. Historically, Olympia Fields has been a destination that other
20 surrounding suburbs have all sought to be. Some have a tremendous economic development
21 advantage. but we are better positioned to take advantage of the new economy. We must work
22 together if we are to maintain the dream that we all invested in. We need to continue to build
23 upon what made Olympia Fields what our outgoing President Debbie Meyers-Martin calls "The
24 Jewel of the Southern Suburbs." That's not going away. We are going to keep that. Nothing in
25 this world stays the same for it is always changing. Together we can ensure that the change is
26 beneficial to those who invested in Olympia Fields. The people who live here and invest in
27 Olympia Fields are the ones that we are going to pay attention to.
28

29 There are a lot of outside forces that impact who can afford to live in our Village and our
30 property values. Some of these things are beyond our control. But for those of us who are
31 residents, it is incumbent upon us to utilize the vast number of skills and resources that exist in
32 our Village to do everything that we can to control our own destiny. We must do everything
33 practical to ensure that we remain the destination that we all have invested in. So that's my
34 vision. And that's what I'm going to push our Board to do. That's what I'm challenging the staff
35 to do. And so far, I think we are going to be very successful. I hope that all of you have your
36 ideas of what we need to do. One of the things that we are going to do is, we are going to have an
37 opportunity for you to give us ideas. If there are issues that you have in the Village, we want to
38 know what those are. We are going to measure people by how well they get back to you. I know
39 the young lady earlier asked about what is going to happen with the sewer lining. We are going
40 to get her name and we are going to get back to her tomorrow. And we are going to do our very
41 best to make sure that in every situation, when any of you have a question, we are going to get
42 back to you the next day with an answer. That's going to be something that we promise you that
43 we are going to do. So, with that, that concludes my remarks." (There was a round of applause).
44
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47

