



1 Mr. McCanna stated that what you have in your Budget and in your Audit is the Old Net Debt  
2 Service. That is what the Village owes today. You would get the savings next year.

3  
4 Administrator Mekarski inquired of Mr. McCanna if he could describe the process for the Board  
5 to initiate this formally, and how long it would take, and what actions the Board would have to  
6 take in subsequent meetings.

7  
8 Mr. McCanna stated that the Board would have to vote to authorize us to proceed. We would get  
9 moving with the papers and talking with the Village's Bond Counsel and put together the  
10 offering document. We would work with you on the Bond Rating. Once you have authorized us  
11 to move ahead, the only action would be when we brought back the Bids. It would be a  
12 competitive sale. It would be the morning of a Board Meeting probably in August. We would  
13 come to you that evening and say, "Here is the best Bid on this one and here is the best Bid on  
14 this one." The Board would vote on it at that time. Two or three-weeks after Cindy and everyone  
15 has signed all the documents for Bond Counsel, the Village would get the money. Due to the fact  
16 there is no new money here, what happens is the money from the new Bonds goes into the bank.  
17 It is invested until the call date on the old Bonds. The 2005A Bonds are callable on November  
18 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. If we have a sale in August the Village gets the money in September. It is invested in  
19 U.S. Treasury's for two-months until November 15<sup>th</sup>. On November 15<sup>th</sup> the bank calls in,  
20 redeems the old Bonds, pays them off with those proceeds of the Bonds you just sold and all that  
21 is left outstanding are the 2014s. That would happen with each Series.

22  
23 Administrator Mekarski stated that the next Board Meeting is June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He inquired of Mr.  
24 McCanna whether or not that would be adequate for the Village to authorize it.

25  
26 Mr. McCanna stated sure. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we can bring this to the  
27 Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to authorize our Bond Counsel to proceed.

28  
29 Trustee Byrd inquired of Mr. McCanna whether or not the 2.7% is correct. Mr. McCanna stated  
30 that is where it is hanging out today. Rates have been doing very well. Rates are staying very low  
31 because there aren't enough Bonds out there.

32  
33 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will bring that back to the Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

34  
35 **Standard and Poor's Updated G.O. Rating Criteria Analysis** - Village President Meyers-  
36 Martin stated that Mr. McCanna is going to speak on the Standard and Poor's Updated Rating  
37 Criteria Analysis.

38  
39 Mr. McCanna stated that Standard and Poor's and Moody's changed what they are looking at.  
40 They came out with score cards you can use. Moody doesn't pay much attention to their score  
41 card but Standard and Poor's does. Mr. McCanna stated that we went through the Village's AAA  
42 Bond Rating under the new criteria. It use to be that the ratings were very broadly your debt  
43 picture, your management picture, your socioeconomics and your finances. Those were the four  
44 big categories. They are now deemphasizing some of the socioeconomics, and some of the  
45 economy. They are increasing the emphasis on pensions and on debt. They are going to look at  
46 how much money you have in the bank. They want to know how much liquidity you have and  
47 where is every penny. They look at your institutional framework. You are a non Home Rule unit  
48 of government in the State of Illinois. They are giving 30% weight to the economy. Management

1 is 20% weight. It is hard to measure management except by policies and by performance. Do you  
2 do well each year? How do you perform on your Budget? Do you have policies? Do you have  
3 policies about investments? Questions they ask are how often the Board gets to see what your  
4 investments are. Is it monthly, quarterly? Some places inform the Board through the Audit. Some  
5 places it is much more hands-on. They look at Budget Flexibility, Budget Performance and  
6 Liquidity. It use to be, did you make money in your General Fund or did you not make money in  
7 your General Fund, or have a surplus. Now it is budgetary flexibility, budgetary performance,  
8 and liquidity. He stated that liquidity is a major factor. He stated debt and contingent liability  
9 such as pensions is down to 10%. It use to be a quarter percent of your rating. It isn't that  
10 important anymore. It is much more about financial operations and where is your money.

11  
12 Administrator Mekarski stated that in previous years they were critical of our liquidity,  
13 especially the Unencumbered, Unrestricted, arguing that we may have too much and that might  
14 be reflective that other rates and taxes should be adjusted. It appears to be a 180 degree swing  
15 now.

16  
17 Mr. McCanna stated that we went through this with Cindy and Administrator Mekarski. Each of  
18 those items gets ranked. They have ratings on all of these things. The higher numbers matter. A  
19 Cook County non Home Rule Municipality gets a 2. The economy gets a 1. Management got a 1.  
20 Budgetary Flexibility got a 1. Budgetary Performance got a 2. Liquidity got a 1. Debt got a 3.  
21 That is the only one that got a 3. It is not because the Village has a lot of debt. It is because you  
22 pay your debt so fast so you are paying more each year as a percentage of your overall  
23 expenditures. You are paying a lot of debt over a shorter period of time which is good to most  
24 people, but as a percentage of your cash flow. The Village's average is 1.4. That puts the Village  
25 solidly in the AAA. Their rule is anything between a 1 and a 1.65 is AAA. We feel very, very  
26 strongly that your AAA is safe under their new rules. Village President Meyers-Martin stated  
27 good.

28  
29 Mr. McCanna stated that when they put out these new rules they said that 60% of the towns  
30 nothing is going to happen; 30% will probably go up; 10% are going to go down. They have had  
31 a number of clients who have gone down. The new criteria seem to favor smaller communities.  
32 The bigger, older towns are the ones getting hit.

33  
34 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is wonderful news. It is not 100% in terms of being  
35 able to continue that AAA, but it looks very good that we will be in that category. Village  
36 President Meyers-Martin stated that when that call comes in she is there along with Don  
37 Theobald, Cindy, Administrator Mekarski, and the Finance Liaison. She inquired whether or not  
38 we should have any special preparation.

39  
40 Mr. McCanna stated no. There should be very little difficulty. The rating will be focused on what  
41 has happened since we did the last Bonds. It will be what economic changes have there been.  
42 The main difference in the rating call will be that they are going to spend a lot more time going  
43 through Audit Notes and Audit Pages. They want to know liquidity. They want to look at what  
44 happens every single year. They want to see how you are operating day-to-day without the  
45 extraordinary items there.

46  
47 Administrator Mekarski inquired of Mr. McCanna in practice has he seen that Standard and  
48 Poor's is holding to the rating methodology, or are they applying discretion and how much.

1 Mr. McCanna stated that is the interesting thing between Standard and Poor's and Moody.  
2 Standard and Poor's says that they are allowing themselves one notch above or below on each of  
3 these individual categories. He stated that with debt the Village is paying a lot of debt service. In  
4 terms of overall debt, if you look at the percentage of debt compared to the actual value of the  
5 homes that is a positive because it is a very low number. We were able to boost the score on that.  
6 They allow only one notch boost on each of these items. Moody's does not limit the discretion.

7  
8 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked the Board. She stated that we have always been  
9 fiscally responsible and fiscally frugal, and that certainly has aided us in not only obtaining our  
10 AAA Bond Rating but maintaining it over these past years. She thanked Mr. McCanna for being  
11 here and explaining that to us and assisting the Village in that process.

12  
13 **Traditions IKE Grant Phase II – Storm Water Detention Pond Naturalization**  
14 **Improvements Project** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Item Number 4 is the  
15 Traditions IKE Grant Phase II. Administrator Mekarski is going to give an overview on that  
16 Grant and where we are today. We have gentlemen here that are going to speak to the pond  
17 naturalization.

18  
19 Administrator Mekarski stated that before we go through a short presentation of what the Village  
20 is about to undertake in the Traditions, he wanted to give the entire audience a perspective on  
21 what we thought we were coming here for today, that may have been averted by a very positive  
22 Memo that came from the Traditions Homeowners Association this morning at 7:24 A.M. The  
23 Village was extremely successful in pulling off a tremendous feat in competing for this FEMA  
24 Grant that was administered through HUD, which was designed to help communities that were  
25 distressed by the 2008 Hurricane IKE that came up the coast and caused 500-year storm events.

26  
27 Administrator Mekarski stated at that time the Traditions pond overtopped and flooded Vollmer  
28 and Crawford Road. The roadway didn't drain and remained flooded for almost three-days. That  
29 is a path for emergency vehicles to get to St. James Hospital. With that intersection closed, there  
30 may have been some risk to life to take another route to get to the hospital. The Village applied  
31 for the Grant for two-objectives: 1. The first of which is to correct the Storm Water Management  
32 Pond to make sure that it met engineering specification. We thought at the time the solution  
33 would be to dredge the pond and remove the sedimentation and the muck that was collecting in  
34 there over the short period of time. The second objective was to finish all of the improvements in  
35 the subdivision. This subdivision was defaulted by a developer. There was about another  
36 \$350,000.00 of uncompleted work. The road was crumbling. It needed to be completely repaved,  
37 the base course had to be fixed, and the top course had to be placed on. He stated that curbs had  
38 to be corrected. He stated that inverts and catch basins had to be adjusted. Soil erosion controls  
39 had to be installed. Street trees were fully planted. Sidewalk connections with ADA accessibility  
40 were all provided. We completed 100% of the improvements that was expected of the developer.  
41 We did that without burdening the Village taxpayers, nor did we burden the homeowners who  
42 were willing, because it was in such deplorable condition, to pass an SSA and pass a special tax  
43 on the property tax. Everything went well with Phase I which was the road, sidewalks, street  
44 trees, and erosion control.

45  
46 Administrator Mekarski stated that the last element was the primary part of the Grant, the Storm  
47 Water Management. When we did the Engineering Analysis they did some soundings, and some  
48 depth measurements, and investigations of the muck on the bottom. They realized the

1 sedimentation muck was to the extent that it was compromising significantly the pond, and that  
2 cost to suction dredge it out and put in drying beds would be way beyond the Grant funds and  
3 there would be marginal benefit. In order to get the Grant for Storm Water Management we had  
4 to accept the dedication of the water column. We did not accept the dedication of the shoreline  
5 or the bank of the basin. From the main water mark all the way to the top of the berm that was  
6 still owned by the Traditions residents. The Engineering Analysis determined that the way this  
7 was designed with like a 10 in one slope and sodded all the way to the water column that over  
8 time, and probably a lot faster than Graymoor, this would turn into a nightmare like a 1.8 Million  
9 Dollar solution. That is the current estimate for Graymoor to try to correct their ponds. The  
10 reason why is because grass doesn't hold onto the soil, and through frost/freeze cycles and the  
11 ice bed that is in the shoreline, and hard rains, the soil eventually gets washed into the bottom of  
12 the pond. But also nutrients, phosphorus and nitrogen, both organic and inorganic compounds go  
13 in, pesticides and all kinds of things, but that also causes algae blooms, vegetation blooms, that  
14 stuff goes through a cycle of dying, rotting to the bottom. It depletes the water column of oxygen  
15 and it recreates eutrophication adding a lot of sulfur compounds and gives an odiferous smell to  
16 the ponds which in Graymoor is pretty evident. This pond would probably get to that a lot faster.  
17 The Village Engineer stated that they were going to take a naturalized approach. We are going to  
18 plant wetland species, submergent species under the water column for the first three-feet of the  
19 main water mark and below, and then they are going to plant 10 to 40-feet of wetland vegetation.  
20 This has a deep root system that retains the soil, but also filters out contaminants and nutrients  
21 which stops the cycle of eutrophication. It provides a tremendous habitat and a beautiful  
22 aesthetic value.

23  
24 Administrator Mekarski stated that in order to get this accomplished we needed to modify the  
25 Dedication Agreement. The Board approved a Modification of the Dedication Agreement and we  
26 accepted the rest of the dedication from the main water mark all the way to the top of the berm.  
27 We informed the residents that by the Village doing so, the residents don't have to worry about  
28 liability, accident/injury. They don't have to worry about insurance. They don't have to worry  
29 about maintaining the water column and the shoreline. We agreed to a Management Plan. Over  
30 20-years that would cost the Village about \$5,000.00 a year which is \$100,000.00. At the end of  
31 the day, that \$100,000.00 is a lot better investment for our taxpayers and for our residents than  
32 sodding it and in 10-years having hundreds of thousands of dollars in repair or maybe a Million  
33 Dollars in repair.

34  
35 Administrator Mekarski stated that we entered into negotiations with the Homeowners  
36 Association. We went through various educational sessions with them, bringing in an  
37 environmental consultant who is skilled in wetland plantings. We talked about this natural  
38 planting. If we are going to be taking the dedication, we have to insure for the taxpayers that this  
39 is a sustainable system. The only way we can prove that was through the natural system. The  
40 negotiations broke down. They appeared like they were going well. We got the core of the  
41 Traditions Homeowners Association which was their three-officers. At the final hour they had to  
42 go to a Special Meeting of the Homeowners, and apparently the homeowners expressed concerns  
43 about losing control of the property, about maintenance of the property, and the specifications of  
44 how the Village would maintain it, and concerns about aesthetics. We have had correspondence  
45 going back and forth between our Engineer, our Staff, and the Traditions residents. Last  
46 Wednesday there was a three-hour meeting with Administrator Mekarski, our Engineer, Jeff  
47 Koza from Robinson Engineering, Joe Alexa from Public Works, the Village Attorney, John  
48 Murphey, and the wetland contractors, Pizzo, and the three officers from the Traditions

1 Homeowners Association. They tried to show the cost and benefits of this approach. The wetland  
2 consultants brought out a huge fact that the annual cost of mowing four-acres of lawn on a bank  
3 at a 10 to 1 slope over 20-years would be about \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. He stated that by  
4 taking that grass out and putting in the wetland plantings and having the Village do this minimal  
5 maintenance on it every year we would be saving the residents \$400,000.00.

6  
7 Administrator Mekarski stated that after the meeting we asked if we could get a compromise and  
8 move some of the vegetation back from the top of the berm so the homeowner's view won't be  
9 obstructed and make some adjustments. Ultimately, we could not get a single adjustment made.  
10 The Village Attorney provided a report to the Village President. We placed this on the Agenda.  
11 Administrator Mekarski stated that tonight he was going to come to do two things: 1. Indicate  
12 that we are defaulting on a DCEO Grant and returning \$135,000.00 which is extremely painful  
13 for any Village Administrator. The residents know how hard we worked for this money. 2. We  
14 were going to go ahead and recommend to this Board to vacate or to rescind the dedication.

15  
16 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is all moot now. Administrator Mekarski stated that  
17 is all moot because one of the officers forwarded a letter this morning. The last paragraph states:  
18 "If the Village would still like to continue these talks, let us know and we can setup another  
19 meeting." We have a meeting setup at 3:15 tomorrow. The residents have given us four workable  
20 conditions that our Engineer and our environmental consultants think that they can achieve. We  
21 are elated that this news came in.

22  
23 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not it becomes moot automatically without a vote. He thought  
24 that we had a vote to approve it.

25  
26 Village President Meyers-Martin stated no. What is moot is the fact that we were coming here  
27 tonight to say what the worst case scenario was. We thought we were at a point where we needed  
28 to send back the money. We are not at that point now.

29  
30 Trustee Waite inquired what has changed. Administrator Mekarski stated that the change is the  
31 letter that came before you today. Trustee Waite stated that he thought we had an agreement  
32 amongst the Trustees. Administrator Mekarski stated that the Trustees have agreed to take the  
33 dedication. It required the signature of the Homeowners Association and they did not want to  
34 give us the additional dedication. Trustee Waite inquired whether or not you need a vote of some  
35 sort amongst the Trustees who are under the assumption that this project was moving forward to  
36 say, "We are willing to reopen negotiations."

37  
38 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we never took any formal action. Trustee Waite  
39 inquired whether or not it was a unilateral decision. Administrator Mekarski stated no. We didn't  
40 take any formal vote to close negotiations. The Board approved the Bid of the environmental  
41 contractors conditionally, on the residents agreeing to the Modified Dedication Agreement. The  
42 Board approved the Modified Dedication Agreement. The Village already owns the water  
43 column itself. And then you modified it to take all the banks up to the top of the berm. The Board  
44 approved that. We needed the signature of the Governing Authority of the Homeowners  
45 Association. Initially, they did not want to give us that. This letter today is saying that if you can  
46 work with us on these four conditions, we are willing to sign the Dedication Agreement. Some of  
47 the language in here is going to have to be incorporated into the Dedication Agreement, like our  
48 maintenance responsibilities, and our commitment for maintenance. We will have to come back

1 to the Board. We will have to make a decision on whether or not we call a Special Meeting to get  
2 the Board to approve the second amendment of the Dedication or work with the contractors and  
3 just do it at the regular meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a question of their planting ability because  
4 of the hot weather.

5  
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we won't be at that point until we have this meeting  
7 tomorrow. Trustee Waite inquired why don't we go with their original projection and leave it  
8 there. Village President Meyers-Martin stated because we now have reopened communication  
9 and negotiation. Trustee Waite inquired who is "We?" Village President Meyers-Martin stated  
10 the Village. Trustee Waite stated that he is part of the Village. He didn't know about reopening  
11 negotiations until he got the Memo. Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Trustee Waite  
12 whether or not he was under the impression with the previous meetings that we have had, if we  
13 had arrived at an agreement that we would have moved forward. We are still in that process at  
14 this point. Trustee Waite stated that they rejected that and now they want to reopen it.

15  
16 Administrator Mekarski stated the Administration, which is your Village President, your Village  
17 Administrator, and our consultant team, and our Public Works Director, we are currently  
18 operating on the last action of the Board which was approving the Bid conditionally and  
19 approving the Dedication Agreement, the first Amendment. The construction was authorized to  
20 begin as long as the Traditions residents accepted the Modified Dedication Agreement or the first  
21 Amendment.

22  
23 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that above all, we are a reasonable Board, and so that if  
24 the reasonable strategy is to go back to the table to have this discussion, and work out something  
25 where we, in fact, do not have to send back this money, then that is a reasonable way to proceed.

26  
27 Trustee Waite stated that he was very disappointed in the Memo that he read from their  
28 Homeowners Association. He couldn't understand how they got there. He doesn't know if they  
29 thought they were trying to renegotiate something in that first rejection. It seemed like when they  
30 thought maybe were going to accept it and send back the money that the deal was over, and they  
31 were going to have to worry about this expense, and engineering, and all the rest of it, design  
32 themselves.

33  
34 Administrator Mekarski stated that he doesn't know what the change was. The Village President  
35 and her entire team were just devastated.

36  
37 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not we are going to let small groups in the Village whipsaw  
38 us around like that. That doesn't make any sense from a management standpoint.

39  
40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that what you are leaving out of this equation is that we  
41 are just going back to the point where we were having this discussion and this negotiation about  
42 the elements of what was required under the Grant. We are just going back to that phase. We had  
43 not taken any formal Board action to discontinue those negotiations. So if, in fact, the Traditions  
44 and their Homeowners Association are at the point where they want to go back and revisit that  
45 original Agreement.

46  
47 Trustee Waite stated then they have to remove that first letter. They have to take that back. They  
48 tried to take it back. Now we are at a point whether we want to look at the latest thing that they

1 have given us and say, “Do we want to move that forward under those circumstances?” He is  
2 saying that we should reconsider that. Maybe they should make a larger contribution to the  
3 project than what they were going to make before. When they rejected the first offer, and even  
4 thought it was only exchanges of emails, they put the whole project into jeopardy. We are no  
5 longer under any obligation to accept their second proposal. And we could start negotiations all  
6 over and say, “No, we made you a nice offer. I guess that you didn’t understand. It was a lot of  
7 money to devote to one Homeowners Association that we are not devoting to a whole lot of other  
8 Homeowners Associations.”

9

10 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this was Grant money that had to be used in the  
11 Traditions. It is not like we can use it in other places. It had to be used there. If we don’t use it  
12 there we send it back. That’s the bottom line.

13

14 Trustee Waite stated that is what they risk. Don’t they know it?

15

16 Trustee Oliver inquired whether or not there was a Motion on the floor. Village President  
17 Meyers-Martin stated no. This is a workshop so we are allowed to have this kind of discussion.

18

19 Administrator Mekarski stated that what the Village President and her Administration is asking  
20 is give your team a chance to get the best of the process tomorrow in the sit down session. We  
21 will report to the Board. We have to, either in a Special Meeting depending on the construction  
22 schedule and/or at the Board Meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Then the Board can make a decision of  
23 whether we made a good call or not.

24

25 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not he is the Liaison for Public Works. Administrator  
26 Mekarski stated yes, you are. Trustee Waite inquired why he wasn’t in the original meeting.  
27 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that not all Liaisons take part in every meeting,  
28 negotiation that takes place. Trustee Waite stated maybe they should. Village President Meyers-  
29 Martin stated they don’t. That hasn’t been the policy. Trustee Waite stated that you are going to  
30 have to rethink the way in which you expect us to vote. He could have asked some of the  
31 questions that he has been asking tonight at that meeting. Village President Meyers-Martin stated  
32 that we had our Village Attorney there. We had our Public Works Director there. Trustee Waite  
33 stated so he had nothing to add, right. Is that what you are trying to say? Village President  
34 Meyers-Martin stated that she is telling him who was there. Trustee Waite stated that he doesn’t  
35 care who was there. If he wasn’t there, he doesn’t care if anybody was there. Village President  
36 Meyers-Martin stated okay, fine.

37

38 Administrator Mekarski stated that he wanted to bring up our wetland contractors and our  
39 Engineer to outline the approach. We have guests here from the Graymoor Homeowners  
40 Association. We invited them to get a better understanding of the benefits of this Naturalized  
41 System. People from Graymoor Homeowners Association were calling Administrator Mekarski  
42 to find out how to begin the SSA process to have the partnership with the Village to take a  
43 naturalized approach. They spent two-years studying the approach. They are committed to it.

44

45 Trustee Waite stated that the way Graymoor approached it was like, here’s something among  
46 friends that we are trying to negotiate and come up with what is best for everybody and not try to  
47 hold each other up. That is what he liked about Graymoor and working out the deal with them.  
48 They knew if it was only good for them, it wasn’t going to work. If it was only good for the



1 Village, it wasn't going to work. It had to be good for everybody. It doesn't feel that way to him  
2 as far as the Traditions thing is going. Administrator Mekarski stated that it looks like we are on  
3 the right course.

4  
5 Mr. Koza stated that Mason Shank and Tim Moritz from Pizzo & Associates were the low  
6 bidders on the Traditions Project. They are here to present the basics on naturalization.

7  
8 At this time, Mr. Shank and Mr. Moritz from Pizzo & Associates gave a PowerPoint  
9 Presentation. The PowerPoint consisted of photos of different ponds before and after  
10 naturalization, as well as ponds that are undergoing the naturalization process. There was a photo  
11 of a pond with algae on it.

12  
13 Mr. Shank thanked the Board for letting them be here tonight. He thanked the Graymoor  
14 residents that came out to see what they do. Mr. Shank stated that they provide natural solutions  
15 to engineered problems. He stated that with Traditions they would be putting in a naturalized  
16 buffer. The buffer will create a lot more solutions to what is currently happening right now. It  
17 will slow down a lot of the water intake and not allow it to become overwhelmed with the  
18 amount of water that comes in. It will create an aesthetic and beautiful environment that the  
19 residents will enjoy and the community will benefit from. It will promote a lot of biodiversity.  
20 They will have a lot of different plants and animals that are going to make their home in this  
21 naturalized buffer. It does reduce the amount of geese that you get near ponds. When they see the  
22 buffers they don't know if a predator might be in there so they tend to stay away from there.  
23 They deal with the Ecosystem.

24  
25 Mr. Shank stated that a major thing that is happening at Traditions and a lot of the areas such as  
26 Graymoor are problems with erosion. Those problems arise when you don't have solutions that  
27 take care of erosion such as the grass that is out there is regular turf grass like you have on your  
28 lawn. The problem with that is the root systems run only four, five or six-inches deep. When you  
29 put naturalized plants in there and native plants, things that mother nature has spent years and  
30 years perfecting and engineering for this area, you enable that area to have deep roots and have  
31 that erosion stopped. With the amount of plants and biodiversity you have going on there, it's a  
32 living, dynamic system that is able to not only create stability, but over time it reacts to changes  
33 in environment, weather, people and animals coming in. It has the power to not be static. It has  
34 the power to change and to keep evolving with what is around it.

35  
36 Mr. Shank stated that with the Traditions we have a great opportunity. He believes that everyone  
37 kind of wants the same thing here. Mr. Shank stated that if they are given the opportunity and the  
38 chance to do the installation they are going to knock it out of the park, and it will be a beautiful  
39 asset not only to the community and to the homeowners, but everybody that drives by.

40  
41 Mr. Klisurich inquired of Mr. Shank whether or not they have any installations locally around  
42 here that they have done recently that could be used as examples of what to expect.

43  
44 Mr. Moritz stated that we have done plenty of work in the south suburbs. They have a couple of  
45 sites in Tinley Park. There is a place on 179<sup>th</sup> Street just west of 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Tinley Park took  
46 on some pilot projects to try and promote some of these. They were lucky enough to get a few of  
47 those in the last couple of years. They did a project with the Village of Oak Forest. They have a  
48 similar situation where there is a pond. There is a Homeowners Association. The Village secured

1 some Grant Money. They had it installed 15-years ago. It was poorly maintained or not  
2 maintained at all. We are working to turn that around. They have committed to a 10-year  
3 Maintenance Program.

4  
5 Mr. Moritz stated that they are going to get some newer projects this year with Orland Park.  
6 They have one project that they took over last year in Olympia Fields. That was to fix the failed  
7 installation at Tolentine Park. The original contractor was required to go back and redo the  
8 installation. They provided a lot of consulting on that. They got them to alter their seed mixes  
9 because the seed mixes that were specified as part of the original contract were not sufficient for  
10 the type of planting that they are promoting today. In order for the contractor to get the rest of his  
11 money back, the Park District hired Pizzo & Associates to provide some input as to what that  
12 contractor needed to do to get that thing up to speed. They are currently maintaining it. That  
13 prairie is in progress. It needs a little bit of work. That is a good one to look at in the immediate  
14 area. Within a couple of years you will see a lot of nice, blooming plants. It will be a nice area as  
15 you go through the bike path over there to experience one of these natural areas too.

16  
17 Mr. Shank stated in this photo you see a solution that is commonly used by contractors that don't  
18 use naturalized solutions. This is a stone buffer around the pond. Eventually it will erode into the  
19 water by wind, people, and wave action. The stone buffers are called "Rip-Rap." The "Rip-Rap"  
20 has to be redone every 15 to 20-years depending how bad the erosion is in the area.

21  
22 Mr. Shank had a picture of a pond in Plano that showed the grading and seeding to begin the  
23 naturalization process. He had a picture of it three-years later showing the flowers in bloom and  
24 what it looks like now.

25  
26 Mr. Shank stated that they don't want to block anybody's view of the water. In their seed mixes  
27 they use low profile plants, shorter plants. They don't incorporate a lot of the larger and taller  
28 grasses that are available. They custom make their seed mixes to tailor them to the people that  
29 they are working for.

30  
31 Mr. Shank showed photos of what the Traditions Pond will look like 10 to 15-years out. There  
32 will be a massive amount of erosion on the bank. The grasses on the bank are not doing anything  
33 to hold onto the dirt that is underneath it. He showed pictures of what it could look like after they  
34 do the naturalized process. He showed a photo of what a pond looks like after they have put in  
35 some blanket and some seeding. They put goose fencing around it to protect it. As it germinates  
36 they have to protect it from animals and other disturbances. He showed a photo of what the pond  
37 looks like two-years after they did the naturalization process. The photo portrayed different  
38 flowers and plants.

39  
40 Administrator Mekarski stated that a question had come up previously about the exiting bushes  
41 and trees that are on the bank of the pond.

42  
43 Mr. Shank stated that in the photo they were able to work around the landscaping that was  
44 already there. They will be able to do the same with the Traditions.

45  
46 Trustee Waite stated that in the photo it looks like two trees will eventually fall into the pond.

47

1 Mr. Moritz stated that he doesn't think they will fall into the water. They incorporate trees into  
2 the water as part of their removal to create reptile habitats, a turtle habitat. He stated having a  
3 couple of trees anchored into the water are not necessarily a problem.  
4

5 Trustee Waite stated that they are right on the edge. It seems to him that the soil would get  
6 softened there and if you get a good wind that comes in it could cause them to fall.  
7

8 Mr. Moritz stated that there are trees that are adapted to those areas. Just because a tree is near  
9 the water doesn't necessarily mean it is going to fall into the water. They have been doing this  
10 for nine-years. He is not aware of any extensive tree removal that was required because of trees  
11 falling into the water. They did the job shown in the picture in 2005. They are still maintaining  
12 the project for about \$6,000.00 a year. The plants, once established, do a good job of keeping  
13 weeds out of them. The first couple years required extensive maintenance so they can encourage  
14 the native plants to grow.  
15

16 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not there is a time that you would remove the fence. Mr.  
17 Moritz stated yes, they typically only stay in for two-years. They put the fence in to protect the  
18 plant plugs. He stated that when you put a two-inch plug into the ground before it has a chance to  
19 root itself into the ground a goose can pull it out of the ground. The fences help to keep the geese  
20 out. Once the plants are established, if a goose bites some leaves off of something from the water  
21 line, they can deal with that. They are not removing the plant out of the ground because they are  
22 well-rooted.  
23

24 Mr. Leon Francisco stated that he believes that the shoreline and the vegetation are very, very  
25 appealing and nice. He inquired what it does in terms of helping with the silt and the  
26 sedimentation that has already accumulated in the ponds. He stated that we were 10 to 15-feet  
27 deep. Now we are about two-feet deep. How did it help in terms of projects that you worked on  
28 before in terms of increasing the depths of the pond and getting it set up?  
29

30 Mr. Moritz stated that as far as it having a big impact on improving a poor situation, he can't  
31 attest to the fact that it is going to reverse a situation like that. It will help prevent it from  
32 happening in a situation like Traditions where we are dealing with an eventual erosion issue  
33 where if that soil ends up in the pond, the only way to get it out is to physically or mechanically  
34 remove it. The other factor that Graymoor is probably dealing with has to do with algae blooms.  
35 When the algae comes up and blooms and somebody puts a chemical in there and kills it off, it  
36 sinks to the bottom and slowly stacks up over time. He stated that by installing these we are not  
37 only preventing erosion from happening, but we are also helping to filter that water. There are a  
38 lot of plants that are actually planted in the water column that are competing for the same  
39 nutrients that algae competes for. By pulling some of those nutrients out, the nitrogen and  
40 phosphorus which plants naturally need to grow, we are removing that chain and cycle from the  
41 algae building up, that periodic bloom and die off. We can help prevent those kinds of situations.  
42 He doesn't want to stand here and tell you that it is going to fix something like that.  
43

44 Trustee Waite stated that in a previous presentation that Robinson made, they were talking about  
45 whether or not to dredge the ponds in Graymoor. They found out that it wouldn't do any good.  
46 He stated that from where the water is to the top of the bank, there is probably three to four-feet.  
47 If the pond fills up with water during a flood or something, there is a lot of room there for a lot of

1 water. He stated that there is more than enough room to take care of that level of flooding. They  
2 said it was a waste of money and time to try to dredge it out.  
3  
4 Administrator Mekarski stated that Mr. Koza has an update on it. There will be some dredging.  
5  
6 Mr. Koza stated that Graymoor would have to incorporate some dredging because the system is  
7 so far gone. We are trying to keep it to a minimum. We would like to install this system so that it  
8 doesn't go back to its current condition. There is going to be some removal of sediment. The  
9 goal is to help with plants, keep the plants maintained and that way it is sustainable. Hopefully,  
10 we avoid having to do it again.  
11  
12 Mr. Moritz stated that the goose situation, people don't realize the geese add to that algae  
13 problem. Their waste is full of nutrients that the algae can feed on. He stated that they did some  
14 work in Tinley Park. Tinley Park had them hire an aquatic consultant who came in with some  
15 divers. They had a very similar issue to what Graymoor is experiencing. The divers tested the  
16 depth. They reviewed old engineering drawings. They concluded that the accumulation of goose  
17 waste was not only inches, but feet deep. That tells you not only water quality issues, but your  
18 volume of your pond. We are looking at something that is long-term, something that is  
19 sustainable, and it tackles all of these issues.  
20  
21 Mr. Leon Francisco stated that he is the President of the Landowners Association of Graymoor.  
22 We have been kicking this around for quite some time as to what the solution is for the pond.  
23 Most of the Board is leaning toward the solution that you guys are proposing. He looks at it that  
24 if they were to do it and hand over the ponds and the general area to the Village, he sees this as  
25 Phase I. There is still some dredging that is going to have to be done. He stated that at Phase I we  
26 come in, and then where are we at with the Phase II. Is that something that the Village is going to  
27 assume?  
28  
29 Mr. Koza stated that we would look to address it all in one project and not phase it in. Obviously  
30 the dredging would have to be done first because they will have machinery in there removing the  
31 sediment. Once they have it shaped the way it needs to be shaped, we would come in and plant it.  
32 Hopefully, we have that sustainable solution.  
33  
34 Mr. Francisco stated that he hopes the request for more funding has already been submitted to  
35 FEMA or the Federal Government. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is all about the  
36 Budget. We have to get those numbers from Mr. Koza.  
37  
38 Administrator Mekarski stated that it is important to talk about the stewardship and what is  
39 involved in the first-year, the second-year, the third-year, and thereafter. We are going to be  
40 including some of the stewardship language in the Dedication Agreement. We also reemphasize  
41 that savings of grass cutting as well.  
42  
43 Trustee Waite stated that the property values will certainly be enhanced by a gorgeous  
44 waterscape around those areas. It will also enhance it going some distance away from the  
45 plantings and the pond.  
46  
47 Mr. Moritz stated that they do anything from mowing to brush-cutting. Brush-cutting is more  
48 like a selective mowing. They are out there actively managing the weeds that are unsightly and

1 that cause people problems with allergies. Herbicide application is another tool in their tool box  
2 for controlling invasive species. As a last resort they will go to spot herbicide applications.  
3 Everyone that works for them is licensed in the responsible use of herbicides. They have been  
4 trained in not only native plant identification but also in invasive species identification. They can  
5 treat one plant and not spray all of the other plants around them that they want to keep there. It  
6 takes a while for these areas to get going. Through the use of increase seed mixes and plugs they  
7 try and help that along. They decrease the time it takes for establishment.

8  
9 Mr. Robert Marcus stated that he is on the Board of the Graymoor Landowners Association and  
10 this is of great interest to them as well. He inquired by what percentage of the initial cost of  
11 stewardship do you anticipate the cost will decline, and over what period of time. He inquired  
12 five-years out what is the percentage.

13  
14 Mr. Moritz stated that they typically see from the first year of stewardship to the fifth year, a safe  
15 range is 25% to 30% decrease in maintenance costs. It could be greater than that depending on  
16 the size of the project. If you have a small project and you start out with maintenance costs of  
17 \$5,000.00, there is an initial upfront cost that it costs them to just get out there on a regular basis  
18 and be on the site managing it. If there is a 20-acre site and you start off with a Budget of  
19 \$20,000.00 for maintenance, you can see a huge decrease in those costs comparatively because it  
20 is a larger site. A lot of what it cost to hire a landscaper is just to get them there to the site. Once  
21 they are there they can get a lot of work done. The larger projects will see the cost drop further.  
22 He believes that 25% to 30% is a fair number to use as an average. When it comes to  
23 stewardship, he wants to reiterate that it is as important as a successful restoration putting the  
24 right plants in, the right seed and sticking with the stewardship. The first three-years are the most  
25 crucial. They are not out there once a week. They don't have to do aerating. They are not  
26 fertilizing them. In very few situations do they need to put down fertilizer. He stated that once a  
27 month they are typically onsite. In a situation where they really need to pay attention to  
28 aesthetics, as much or more than the ecology, those maintenance costs may go up because we  
29 may need to be there more. In a situation like Traditions where they are behind people's yards,  
30 they need to make sure that level of maintenance is up so that it meets everybody's expectations.

31  
32 A couple photos of Lakewood Falls shows the construction cycle of the grading and putting in  
33 the plugs. This is Mr. Moritz's Homeowners Association. They have 14-ponds there. The Board  
34 was considering Rip-Rap to the tune of about \$3,000,000.00. That cost wasn't for all of the  
35 ponds. He went to Board Meetings and told them what Pizzo does. The first photo shows where  
36 they are getting ready to do the grading. The second photo shows that the area has been seeded.  
37 The goose fence is going up. They started using steel T-Posts and a finer mesh to reduce the  
38 visibility issues of the fence. There is no more erosion. The blanket is going in and that will  
39 protect the shoreline during establishment and germination. A year later flowers are blooming.  
40 The flowers were planted as a two-inch, round plug. The wave action when the wind blows is  
41 continually lapping at the shoreline. He stated that by planting the shoreline with these nice,  
42 healthy, full-rooted plants, they will prevent that sort of erosion from happening.

43 Mr. Francisco inquired whether or not that is what goes into their decision making for selecting  
44 the plants.

45  
46 Mr. Moritz stated yes. The decision making that goes into it has to do with what they have  
47 observed historically on the pond. Some ponds keep an even water level. He stated that knowing  
48 how the water fluctuates determines where they plant, what they plant, and how high up they go

1 with the wetland species, and when they start the dryer plants or if they have an overlap zone.  
2 There is a lot that goes into developing the plant mixes. Robinson did a great job with what they  
3 specified on this project. It is in line with the type of project they would put together. They put a  
4 lot of seed and a lot of plugs in.  
5  
6 Mr. Peter Klisurich resides in the Traditions. Mr. Klisurich stated that you have seen the  
7 Traditions situation. What would you guess would be the timeframe that you would need to get it  
8 started and in a position where you felt comfortable that you could stand back and see what was  
9 going to happen?  
10  
11 Mr. Shank stated that he has photos of the Traditions on the screen right now. Mr. Moritz stated  
12 that as far as a timeline, we are being held to a timeline of getting this thing installed if we get  
13 approval by September 30<sup>th</sup>.  
14  
15 Administrator Mekarski stated that it has to be September 30<sup>th</sup>. All of the paperwork has to be  
16 into the state and everything closed up by then.  
17  
18 Mr. Moritz stated that if this gets approved we will be in and we will be working on it soon. We  
19 will have this installed and ready to go. The first thing you will see is a heavy, green cover crop.  
20 They put a heavy cover crop in to help temporarily stabilize the shoreline. Next season you will  
21 see the taller flush of the native plants. The plant plugs will get bigger and fuller. You will get  
22 lots of blooming species.  
23  
24 Mr. Klisurich stated that he knows that there have been a number of concerns voiced within the  
25 community itself about the fact that you want to seed the pond. He stated that in our situation, a  
26 lot of these you look out your back window and it is kind of like the pond is just about there.  
27 What do you do about the height of plants? How do you go about anticipating what plant goes  
28 where as far as height is concerned, so that the visibility factor of that pond is fine? The ponds  
29 aren't that big.  
30  
31 Mr. Moritz stated first, the slope is such that we feel that the seed mixes as they have been  
32 designed and where the houses are setback and up from the pond, that the low profile seed mixes  
33 that have been specified on this project will do a good job of staying within a height range that  
34 will meet the owners expectations of the view of the pond. Mr. Klisurich inquired what he  
35 expected that to be.  
36  
37 Mr. Moritz stated that our seed mix we has an average foot height. The majority of the plants in  
38 most years are three-feet and under. What was designed in this project was a strip of a couple of  
39 feet right up against the turf where we will be using Sideoats which is a native grass. That helps  
40 establish a height buffer right up against the turf. It also protects our plantings from any kind of  
41 turf treatments that are being done on the lawn. It helps create a nice transition between the turf  
42 and the rest of the natural area. It gives that planting some room before the slope starts to drop  
43 off. When you consider a three-foot plant on a slope that is like this, it is very easy to see across  
44 the top of it when you are sitting on your back porch. We don't want to block anybody's view of  
45 the water. We want to enhance that view. By putting some flowers in there and still being able to  
46 see the water, we feel that we are going to meet the owner's expectations.  
47

1 Mr. Klisurich inquired what “Rip-Rap” is. Mr. Moritz stated that it is the rocks on the shoreline.  
2 Mr. Klisurich stated that he is not on the Board of Traditions. He wanted to say that we, as a  
3 community, do truly appreciate what the Village has done to help us in developing and getting  
4 the final work done over there. He knows all three of the Board Members. He stated that he can  
5 assure the Village that if there was any sense of an adversarial banter back and forth, it was not  
6 meant to be that. He stated that our guys are concerned about a situation where they say, “Okay,  
7 here we are going to sign this over, now you take our property and it’s gone.” Some of this stuff  
8 has probably been explained. It kind of needs to be explained again, and maybe a third time  
9 because it doesn’t always sink in the first time. He stated but we do truly appreciate the efforts  
10 that the Board has put forth for that development over there. He stated that he wants to thank you  
11 very much for the work that you have done over the years, Madam President, our prior President  
12 Linzey. There has been a lot of work that has gone into this, and a lot of hand-wringing, and a lot  
13 of prayers have gone into it and we do truly appreciate it. Village President Meyers-Martin  
14 thanked Mr. Klisurich.

15

16 Mr. Shank stated that your pond is not performing correctly as we have a sunken inlet there. He  
17 stated that you have an amazing opportunity here. There is no reason that Traditions couldn’t  
18 look something like this. Mr. Shank stated that they do win a fair amount of awards. They are not  
19 their awards; they are for the community that their landscapes are in. They are very proud of that,  
20 that they can bring that sort of value and asset to a community.

21

22 Trustee Waite inquired why we are removing muskrats. Mr. Moritz stated that they are a huge  
23 nuisance. He showed a photo where at the shoreline the muskrat has burrowed underneath and  
24 they make a den in the shoreline. The area underneath the shoreline is hollow. The muskrats only  
25 use the dens for so long and then they move on to another section of shoreline. That section  
26 could be three or four-feet with those holes. Somebody can break their leg or twist an ankle on  
27 that.

28

29 Mr. Francisco inquired if you get everything approved with Traditions, you have got the funding,  
30 is that 100% funding for the project. Administrator Mekarski stated that there is \$135,000.00  
31 remaining in the Grant. The Bid came in at \$119,000.00. He suggested to Mr. Koza that we  
32 reexamine our estimate for Graymoor and while they are out there they could do an estimate for  
33 the Graymoor Ponds for the naturalization section. He stated that you take the naturalization  
34 planting scheme and get an estimate from Pizzo. Mr. Koza is going to revise the ones for the  
35 weir control, the channelization, and the dredging. Then we can see if we can reduce the cost  
36 even further. We are dealing with an SSA and the Village’s Sanitary Sewer Funds. We will still  
37 have to go out and Bid. We will still have to go for the best and lowest Bid.

38

39 Mr. Francisco stated that he heard the possibility of a rebid, a lower Bid for Graymoor.  
40 Administrator Mekarski stated that there was never a formal Bid on Graymoor. Mr. Francisco  
41 stated that there is the possibility of an SSA that the Village would look at.

42

43 Administrator Mekarski stated that he had a long conversation with Dr. Marcus and our Village  
44 Attorney today. We followed it up with some frequently asked questions about SSA’s. We have  
45 a process to get that rolling. The Board had already passed the preliminary basis of the Bond.  
46 That has been held in abeyance until we can do the SSA component.

47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the past when we have had this discussion, SSA's  
2 have always come up in terms of a way to get this done finally. It has always been part of the  
3 discussion.  
4

5 Administrator Mekarski stated that as we get moving towards the SSA Process in Graymoor, we  
6 will probably have to hold a Town Hall Meeting and make sure that everybody understands the  
7 SSA process and the project itself. We will be working with Robinson and an environmental  
8 contractor like Pizzo to explain it.  
9

10 Mr. Daily inquired what is "SSA?" Administrator Mekarski stated that it is a special assessment  
11 area. The homeowners are agreeing to put a special property tax on their bill for a defined period  
12 of time. It could be through the 10-year amortization period, or 20-year amortization period. That  
13 is available for any Homeowners Association. He stated that if a Homeowners Association  
14 wanted to manage its common areas, its fence perimeter, paving a road, SSA's are a mechanism  
15 especially for a Homeowners Association that doesn't have Covenants and Restrictions that force  
16 homeowners to pay. If there are public improvements or common area improvements that the  
17 Homeowners Association wants to do, it is an ideal mechanism. The Board passes the  
18 Ordinance. They need 50% of the homeowners plus one, and 50% of the registered voters plus  
19 one. It will go forward unless the residents petition during the petition period which is like a 90-  
20 day period, and they actually petition showing in writing that 50% of the residents plus one are  
21 opposed, and 50% of the registered voters plus one are opposed. If they don't take that  
22 aggressive action to petition and demonstrate those numbers in writing with the signatures  
23 verified, the project goes forward. The residents that are opposed to it have to initiate the petition  
24 to stop it.  
25

26 Administrator Mekarski stated that he had one question, timing. Is this a matter that we modify  
27 the Dedication Agreement and bring it back to the Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and we still have time to  
28 construct even though we have hot weather, or do we need a Special Meeting of the Board. The  
29 Village President needs to be aware whether she needs to call a Special Board Meeting to get this  
30 revised Dedication Agreement approved.  
31

32 Mr. Moritz stated that his initial thought was waiting until the 23<sup>rd</sup> would be sufficient. He  
33 believes that if they wait until the 23<sup>rd</sup> it is fine. They have to make some adjustments on their  
34 side based on schedule. He stated that knowing that they have until September to get this done  
35 that should be enough time.  
36

37 Administrator Mekarski asked Mr. Koza to talk about if we get dry or hot weather he has some  
38 contingency in the Budget.  
39

40 Mr. Koza stated that given that the Bid came in approximately \$19,000.00 under Budget, we do  
41 have some availability, if due to weather we have to increase the amount of watering that was in  
42 the specifications already. If it is hotter out they will have to add some more water and it would  
43 be able to be covered by the Grant. The DCEO wants to make sure that we move forward on the  
44 project.  
45

46 Trustee Waite stated that if you need irrigation could you drop a pump in the pond. Mr. Moritz  
47 stated that is what we are looking into right now, the best way to set up a temporary Irrigation  
48 System. He was looking at that this morning to see if it would cost more in labor to pay



1 somebody to walk around with a sprinkler every so often or making the initial investment for the  
2 equipment for something that is automated to just pull from a pump based on a timer. They need  
3 to weigh those factors in. He stated that we have sufficient rainfall right now for an installation  
4 this spring. He stated that things can change.

5  
6 Trustee Waite stated that you just want to get it well-rooted by October. Mr. Moritz stated that as  
7 long as it gets sufficient water to get rooted in, these plants are extremely hardy. Most of the  
8 plugs go very close to the water line. The germination of the seed will be delayed based on the  
9 weather. They want to encourage that cover crop to come up. That provides some quick  
10 stabilization via rooting that they definitely want to promote. He stated that fortunately the plants  
11 do well without a lot of irrigation. He is leaning towards getting something setup so that they  
12 don't have to worry about scheduling somebody to go out there. It is ready to go and it takes care  
13 of itself. The more water they put on it the better it will do. They will present something to the  
14 Village based on various options they can put together. They will have something well in  
15 advance of the next Board Meeting. Administrator Mekarski stated that would be perfect.

16  
17 Administrator Mekarski stated that you have a traditional guarantee standing behind your  
18 product and your installation.

19  
20 Mr. Moritz stated that on all of our contracts we have our standard terms and conditions; it is  
21 written into the Bidding Specifications, as long as they are maintaining an area, and as long as  
22 they are being held to regular stewardship activities they warranty all of their work. If there are  
23 areas after a couple of years that are underperforming, bare areas, the plugs that they install die  
24 because of the weather, or their irrigation system fails, they stand behind everything that they do.  
25 They will replant it at their cost to insure these successful projects. It was brought up by some of  
26 the Homeowners Association Board Members that were here the last time on what is the  
27 guarantee that the Village will stand behind this. They don't have a guarantee. He heard the  
28 Village talk; they couldn't say it any different ways from what he heard that they are going to  
29 stand behind this. He stated that the only guarantee that he has is if left alone this pond will  
30 continue to degrade and within 10-years you are going to end up with a situation that will cost  
31 you a whole heck of a lot more money than what you are dealing with right now. That is the  
32 situation that Traditions is in. It is an unfortunate situation. It is definitely not past the point of  
33 repairing and preventing bad functional issues with the pond and aesthetic issues.

34  
35 Administrator Mekarski stated that the rate of decline would be substantially faster than the  
36 decline in Graymoor because the slope is so steep. Mr. Moritz stated that is a huge contributing  
37 factor in this situation. He stated that they are really excited to get going on this project. They  
38 want to help the Village and the Traditions turn this pond around.

39  
40 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Pizzo, and the members of the Traditions for being  
41 here tonight, and the members of the Graymoor Homeowners Association that are here tonight.

42  
43 **Joshua Griffin Running for Illinois House of Representatives 80<sup>th</sup> District** - Mr. Joshua  
44 Griffin stated that he is running to be your State Representative for the 80<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois.  
45 He is running as an Independent Candidate. He is not tied to any political group or organization.  
46 Mr. Griffin only cares about one thing and that is good policy without the politics. The State of  
47 Illinois currently is in dire trouble. The Democratic and the Republican Party currently, as it sits,  
48 both have an agenda that pushes all constituencies either far to the left or far to the right. He is a

1 15-year resident of Olympia Fields. He moved here when he was eight-years old. His mother  
2 was a flight attendant for United Airlines. His father was a United States Marine. He understands  
3 that great companies can fail and that even though you go through some tough times you have to  
4 push through. He graduated from Rich Central High School. He is an Olympian. He is proud to  
5 say it. What we are seeing in our District is frustrating. What we are seeing in our township is  
6 frustrating. When he left high school he went immediately into the United States Air Force. He  
7 served five-years. In 2008 he went to Iraq. He got back and he got an Honorable Discharge. He  
8 was hired by Norfolk Southern Railroad as a conductor. He worked out of Chicago. Norfolk  
9 Southern is the premiere transportation hub or agency that moves our nation's coal from the East  
10 Coast all the way to the West Coast. He did that for about a year. He got promoted to become a  
11 Training Operations Manager. In that capacity it was his goal to hire as many minorities as  
12 possible to gain employment in a unionized, corporate entity. They promoted him to Regional  
13 HR Manager. In that capacity he was overseeing training and hiring. He did that for a year. He  
14 decided to come back to Illinois. He was living in Detroit looking over four states, Illinois,  
15 Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

16

17 Mr. Griffin decided to return to Illinois because he saw some of the decadent behavior that our  
18 State politicians were putting the constituents under. He got a job working for Illinois State  
19 Senator, Michael Hastings. They worked closely to try to galvanize some enthusiasm around  
20 better politics. After the election of Senator Hastings he did some work for the Governor. He was  
21 appointed as the Bureau Chief for the State of Illinois Small Business Enterprises. It was his duty  
22 to make sure that we had women being able to qualify for State Funded Contracts as minorities.

23

24 Mr. Griffin stated that today we are in dire need of new leadership. That is why he is running as  
25 an Independent. That is why he is going against the two systems that are currently drifting us far  
26 away from where we were intended to go. He stated that he appreciates the time. There are four  
27 things he cares about: 1. Home value; 2. Protection; 3. Education Reform. He stated that we need  
28 to do something about fiscal responsibility. 4. Education. District 227, Madam President, needs  
29 help. The Board, District 227 needs help. Olympia Fields, District 227 needs help. This is the  
30 new millennial generation we can lead that charge. He is willing to lead the charge.

31

32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated thank you.

33

34 **“Coffee with the President”** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this Saturday, June  
35 14<sup>th</sup>, is our sixth “Coffee with the Village President,” starting at 8:30 A.M. at Village Hall. Chief  
36 Krull will be accompanying her that morning.

37

38 **ADJOURNMENT:**

39

40 **Motion by Trustee Hudson, second by Trustee Nale to adjourn at 9:17 P.M.**

41

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

42

43 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**

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