

1                   **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS SPECIAL**  
2                   **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3                   **Held on June 12, 2017**

4  
5     The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the  
6     Linzey D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Sterling M.  
7     Burke at 6:30 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator  
8     Mekarski/Village Clerk called the roll.

9  
10    Present: Trustees – Gibson, Pennington, Thomas (Telephonic Conference), Hudson, and Matz  
11                    Village President Sterling M. Burke  
12                    Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David Mekarski

13  
14    Absent: Trustee Oliver (Arrived at 6:45 P.M.)

15  
16    Administrator Mekarski stated that we will have one Trustee on Telephonic Conference both in  
17    Executive Session and the Regular Meeting. Trustee Oliver is currently absent, but will probably  
18    just be late.

19  
20    **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

21  
22    **To Discuss Matters of Collective Bargaining - Open Meetings Act Section**  
23    **5ILCS120/2(c)(2) –**

24  
25    **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Matz to go into Executive Session to**  
26    **Discuss Matters of Collective Bargaining According to the Open Meetings Act Section**  
27    **5ILCS120/2(c)(2) at 6:32 P.M.**

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

29  
30    **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:**

31  
32    **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Hudson to Return to Open Session at**  
33    **7:00 P.M.**

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

35  
36    **(The Special Board Meeting Reconvened at 7:05 P.M.)**

37    Present: Trustees – Gibson, Oliver, Pennington, Thomas (Telephonic Conference), Hudson, and  
38                    Matz  
39                    Village President Sterling M. Burke  
40                    Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David Mekarski

41  
42    Village President Burke stated that Trustee Thomas is attending a Conference out of town. She is  
43    participating via Telephonic Conference. He stated that you are probably wondering why the  
44    chairs are like this. The purpose is to be a little bit closer to the public. There's a public  
45    discussion about a few things that we would like to have your input.

1 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

2  
3 Village President Burke stated that you have Bills for Approval tonight in the amount of  
4 \$134,104.00.

5 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Payment of Bills**  
6 **for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in the Total Amount of \$134,104.00.**

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

8  
9 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

10  
11 Village President Burke opened Communications & Petitions at 7:08 P.M.

12  
13 **Resident's Comment** - Mrs. Beverly Sokol stated that she lives at 10 Wysteria Drive. She stated  
14 President Burke on your political website, ourfutureolympiafi.wixsite.com/mysite it stated in an  
15 article titled "Closing Statement." "They, meaning the residents, are appalled at the increasing  
16 number of back door tax increases and the lack of transparency associated with the growing  
17 Village issues. Olympia Fields debt has grown from \$2 Million to over \$15.7 Million since  
18 2008."

19  
20 The fact that your new Administration won by only 72-votes does not warrant your political  
21 action committee stating that there were MANY appalled residents. Before your new  
22 Administration took office, the Village was only at 8% of its total debt capacity.

23  
24 Furthermore, it is misleading to refer to BACK DOOR increases when there is and always has  
25 been an OPEN FRONT DOOR for any resident to obtain any Village information that is  
26 requested. I ask that your new Administration practice the UNITY you are espousing and to  
27 move forward with integrity, accountability and demonstrated motivation to be reliable and  
28 consistent Truth Sayers.

29  
30 My second comment: As a member of a financially responsible Homeowners Association, the  
31 Wysteria Homeowners Association, I will vote if allowed to, to oppose the use of our funds for  
32 the use of a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Village Picnic. I also recommend that all residents, not just  
33 Homeowners Association Presidents, be offered the opportunity to serve on any 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
34 Celebration and that no Village funds be used to support such a celebration."

35  
36 Mrs. Sokol stated just a suggestion, it would be a very positive thing to use some of the funds  
37 that you are suggesting that you use for the picnic to grant possibly Scholarships, or do  
38 something from the best school in Olympia Fields, little Arcadia School. She stated just a  
39 suggestion. Thank you for your time.

40  
41 Village President Burke stated that he appreciates her input. We will be looking at the 90<sup>th</sup>  
42 Anniversary. It's something that we want to do to pull the Village together. It will be made up of  
43 people from all over the Village. It's not a Committee that is any one particular group. There's a  
44 number of different people who are participating in that program.

1 Mr. Pat Collier inquired whether or not he could make a comment to Mrs. Sokol. He stated in  
2 your initial address to Stoney, you indicated that the Website was Stoney's, and that he had  
3 control. How did you describe that? You said it was his Website?  
4

5 Mrs. Sokol stated that she thought that it was his Political Website for your group of people. Mr.  
6 Collier stated that you said it was Stoney's Political Website. Mrs. Sokol stated that if it was  
7 interpreted that way she didn't mean it that way. What she meant was the Political Website that  
8 Stoney has used to express himself and all of you, your slate. She has many, many papers from  
9 that Website espousing your political philosophies. Mr. Collier stated that he just wanted  
10 clarification as to whether or not you are stating it is Stoney's Website. He doesn't think that is  
11 correct. Mrs. Sokol stated that as she said, and she will repeat, she did not mean to infer that it  
12 was only Stoney's Website. Mr. Collier stated that was his point.  
13

14 Village President Burke stated that if we can, the Election is over. He thinks that we need to try  
15 to refrain from relitigating this Election. He doesn't care if it was won by one vote. The majority  
16 won. If he recalls, when Linzey Jones won, he won by one vote. He doesn't care if it was 72 or  
17 500, it is over. The objective here is for all of us to work together. There are things in the month  
18 and a half that he has been in office that he has been able to go through and work with the fine  
19 Staff that we have. The Staff is 100% behind what he is trying to do. They are coming up with  
20 ideas every day on how to save money. He had a goal and an objective to find \$750,000.00. He  
21 stated that with the Staff that we have in place we found over \$500,000.00 in savings. He stands  
22 by what his original campaign material was that there is a potential better way of improving the  
23 financials in the Village. The Staff has done a marvelous job of supporting and finding that.  
24 There will be things that you will see in the future that you will be amazed at how much better  
25 we are going to be able to perform.  
26

27 Mrs. Sokol stated that she hopes that is true. She wishes him well. Village President Burke stated  
28 thank you very much.  
29

30 Mr. Carlando Owens stated that 15-years ago the Village had a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.  
31 Does anyone know how much the Village put out towards that?  
32

33 Trustee Gibson stated nothing. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which was 15-years ago, did not cost  
34 anything to the Village. The Village residents paid to come because they were very interested in  
35 gathering together and being a cohesive group. They had the Gala at the Country Club. There  
36 was not any cost at all to the Village.  
37

38 Trustee Gibson stated that while she is talking about that kind of thing, she wanted to make  
39 reference to the fact that every 25-years we have had a Gala. She believes, in her opinion, that a  
40 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary would be much better to have than a 90<sup>th</sup>. The reason is, we will follow the  
41 usual steps, and we will have enough time to plan for it. Right now, something is happening in  
42 September, and here it is in June. It doesn't seem as if we have the time and constraints, and all  
43 the things that are going to be necessary to get that to a place where we can all be proud of. That  
44 is just a suggestion on her part.  
45

46 Trustee Thomas stated that she needs some clarification. It seems as though this conversation is  
47 turning to the Board is planning our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Village. It was her understanding

1 that the information we received was coming from the Homeowners Associations within the  
2 Village. She needs to understand why we are spending this time debating something that is not  
3 an Agenda item that the Board is pushing. This was an item that was just brought to us as  
4 information from the Homeowners Associations. Is there any way that this conversation can be  
5 tabled so we can better understand it, or at least get on the right track so it doesn't come across  
6 that we are taking a different position from the Homeowners Associations, when this is not a  
7 Board of Trustees Agenda Item? This is not something that we brought to the public. It was  
8 something that was announced at the last Board Meeting as information for us. That is just her  
9 position and question. She stated that now she is beginning to think that we are sending a  
10 message that this is something that we want to do. That is not how she received the information.

11  
12 Trustee Matz stated that she believes the reason why the residents think that this is an Agenda  
13 Item and that the Board is a part of it, is because the President himself said that he too met with  
14 Lee Langon and some other Committee Members. You also said that you met with Cindy to see  
15 if we had any monies that we can put towards this. This is why the residents think that the Board  
16 is a part of this.

17  
18 Trustee Thomas stated that we are talking about the last time. She doesn't think that all of the  
19 residents are thinking anything. We just heard a few comments. She stated that before we go  
20 down this pathway, she would suggest that we table this if we are going to have further  
21 conversation. Right now, she doesn't think that this is the forum to continue a conversation when  
22 we don't even have all of the facts. When we start to say, "All the residents," we don't know that  
23 to be factual that "all the residents" would be in agreement for celebrating Olympia Fields 90<sup>th</sup>  
24 Anniversary.

25  
26 Village President Burke stated that he is going to take Trustee Thomas's suggestion about tabling  
27 it. The original objective of this was to try to pull the Village together as a Village, and to  
28 celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village. Whether or not it materializes or not, right now  
29 there is a Subcommittee who is working on it, trying to figure out the potential details on it. If it  
30 turns out that it is something that cannot be done, then it won't be done. We haven't spent any  
31 money. There is a group of people who are meeting to determine whether or not we could pull  
32 this off. There are some things that we need to do to market the Village of Olympia Fields, to get  
33 people to know who we are to take advantage of that to do economic development, to drive more  
34 people to buy our homes. The more things that we can do together to help that, the better it is  
35 going to be. Right now, we are going to table it for the time being. That was not necessarily  
36 something on the Agenda. We were responding to a comment that an individual made here at  
37 this Meeting.

38  
39 Administrator Mekarski stated as a point of order, there is no need to table it, because it is not an  
40 Agenda Item. It is just under Public Comment.

41  
42 **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** - Mr. Lee Langon stated that he lives at 20111 Aegina Drive in  
43 Olympia Club. He is the Chairman of the Presidents Association. The Presidents Association  
44 decided to forego the Holiday Party last year in order to have a summer celebration in Olympia  
45 Fields. It is something that we do not enjoy. We do not have a celebration every year in the  
46 Village of Olympia Fields celebrating Olympia Fields. We said that we would try to partner with  
47 the Village Administration, whoever that Administration was in order to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup>

1 Anniversary of Olympia Fields. There is nothing wrong with celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,  
2 and also celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We ought to celebrate every year.

3  
4 Mr. Langon stated that you mentioned that you celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with what, 200  
5 people at a private Country Club out of 5,000 residents, and a whole lot of people were not going  
6 to buy that ticket. He hardly calls that a celebration of Olympia Fields at a private event at the  
7 Country Club with a couple hundred people. We're talking about having a celebration for the  
8 entire Village. We are working on this. It is June. The event will be in September. It is absolutely  
9 plenty of time. That is his comment.

10  
11 Mrs. Doris Langon stated that she lives at the same address. Recently, we were just in the State  
12 of Texas from the bottom to the top. Every weekend there are major celebrations, fiestas, that  
13 occur. They are not just only to celebrate. They are basically economic engines for those various  
14 communities, towns, cities, Villages, that put those entities on the maps and people come not  
15 only to celebrate, but to buy, eat, and visualize that as a place that they may want to settle and  
16 raise their families and put a business. She is all for it. She doesn't know why the climate for it is  
17 not accepting. As a citizen of Olympia Fields, and as a traveler, she would like to be able to say,  
18 "Yes, I live in Olympia Fields." And people know where that is. We are getting ready to have an  
19 International Golf Event. When you say that, people say, "Oh, it is going to be there?" We need  
20 to be on the map just for economic development alone, period. Village President Burke closed  
21 Communications & Petitions at 7:25 P.M.

22  
23 **Ordinance #2017-16 – An Ordinance Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing**  
24 **Its Sale and Disposition [First and Second Reading]** – Chief Krull stated that before you is  
25 Ordinance #2017-16. This is an Ordinance that is needed. We need to dispose of a 2012  
26 Chevrolet Tahoe that was used as a squad for routine and random patrol. That was the vehicle  
27 that he spoke of that had 126,000-miles on it. It suffered a catastrophic engine failure. He stated  
28 to replace that motor is about \$8,000.00. It is not worth throwing a new motor in that car and  
29 trying to put it back on the street. It is Village-owned property. He stated that because of that  
30 reason he needs to get rid of that vehicle. You have the work product in front of you. He will be  
31 happy to answer any questions.

32 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Hudson to Waive First Reading and**  
33 **Adopt in Second Ordinance #2017-16 – An Ordinance Declaring Certain Property Surplus**  
34 **and Authorizing Its Sale and Disposition.**

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

36  
37 **Announcement – Police Department Student Intern** – Chief Krull stated that you have a work  
38 product in your Packet dated June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a very exciting time for the Police Department.  
39 This is the first time in our history that we have had a Police Intern. We have had people ride  
40 along with us. We've had residents ride along with us. He welcomes that. It is a really good  
41 learning experience.

42  
43 Chief Krull stated that he got a call from Andrew in January or February. He was absolutely  
44 impressed with this young man. His name is Andrew Venerable. He lives on the 700 Block of  
45 Brookwood Drive. He is going to the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, where he is  
46 studying Sociology and Criminal Justice. He has a fantastic grade point average. He is a resident

1 and he is a solid young man. That's why he is so excited. Chief Krull stated that he wants to open  
2 up the doors here to the Police Department and try to get more people involved.

3  
4 Chief Krull stated that Andrew is doing an unpaid Internship here. He needs to do that in order to  
5 graduate. He will be working about 20-hours a week for us, primarily on Fridays, Saturdays, and  
6 Sundays, when he is not working his usual full-time job trying to earn money over the summer  
7 so he can go back to school. We had to create some paperwork. We had to create some Waivers.  
8 He had to work through our insurance company to make sure that everything was fine and the  
9 young man was safe riding around with us. He started last Friday. He has been very well  
10 received. He is sure that it is going to be an eye-opening experience.

11  
12 Mr. Andrew Venerable stated hello to everyone. He stated that it is nice to meet everyone. He is  
13 excited for this opportunity. He looks forward to the experience here in Olympia Fields. He has  
14 only been here for three-years. He loves it. It is quiet. The residents seem to love it as well. He  
15 looks forward to seeing you guys around the community and he wishes everyone a fantastic  
16 summer. (There was a round of applause).

17  
18 Village President Burke stated that he hopes before the evening is out that you get an opportunity  
19 to spend some time speaking with him. He is a great kid. He would like to challenge as many  
20 people in Olympia Fields to think about what we are doing, and that is to create Internships for  
21 the students who live in the Village. There are a lot of people who own their own businesses. A  
22 lot of people who are professionals. He stated to have Internships made available to residents  
23 would be a great thing to do. We want to try to make this an Official Program going forward.  
24 Thank you very much for making the phone call. He is a great guy. Hopefully, all of you have an  
25 opportunity to spend a little time with him. We wanted to bring him out so that you could see  
26 him. He's a great kid.

27  
28 **Discussion Only: Code of Ordinance Chapter 12 – Article 3 – Canvassers – John**  
29 **McDonnell, Building Commissioner** – Village President Burke stated that the next item is for  
30 discussion. It is Code of Ordinance Chapter 12 – Article 3, Canvassers. He asked Mr. McDonnell  
31 to come forward and explain that to the Board and to the public.

32  
33 Mr. John McDonnell stated that he wanted to reach out to the Village President and the Village  
34 Board just for a question. We have a Canvassing Ordinance in the Village for people that are  
35 soliciting our residents for any type of work, or selling things. We have some Rules and  
36 Regulations for them to go by. He has heard from a lot of the residents, that the residents don't  
37 quite like the Solicitors coming by. There is a way to keep them from coming by, and knocking  
38 on your door, and ringing your doorbell. That is to put a sticker or a sign on your door that says,  
39 "No Soliciting Allowed." He has read a few articles on solicitation and how people have  
40 challenged that in other communities. We have not had a challenge on it yet. We do restrict our  
41 Canvassers to two-days right now. They register with the Village and fill-out a whole lot of  
42 paperwork. They get a little ID Badge from the Village. They pay for that ID Badge. Then they  
43 can knock on our residents' doors.

44  
45 Mr. McDonnell would like to get an opinion from the Board. He would like to provide those  
46 decals, or stickers, or a small sign for our residents, especially our new residents coming to town.  
47 We have a New Resident Packet that we hand out to them. He would like that sticker and the

1 Ordinance with all of the Rules to be attached to that sticker. He stated about 500 of those  
2 stickers cost about \$300.00. If he orders more stickers, the price goes down from there as you  
3 purchase them per unit. He would like to get an opinion from the Board whether this is  
4 something that we would like to offer to the residents. He stated with the new residents coming  
5 in town, they don't always know the Rules and Regulations that are required in the Village. In  
6 our daily routine of going through the neighborhoods, we have stopped unregistered Solicitors  
7 that are in the town doing that type of business. We just want to get the word out there that this is  
8 available. He stated perhaps when somebody comes in to pay their water bill we could hand  
9 them a sticker. We could let them know that if they have a sticker then people won't be ringing  
10 their doorbell at 6 o'clock trying to sell them something.

11  
12 Village President Burke stated that he, along with Administrator Mekariski, and the Staff, have a  
13 Staff Meeting every other Monday. It lasts about two-hours. What we are doing now is  
14 discussing issues that would improve life in the Village of Olympia Fields. We talk about things  
15 like squatters. We talk about things like group homes. We are talking about how many  
16 Foreclosures there are. The reason to have all of us together to discuss this, we need a cross  
17 pollination of ideas about how we can address things. This subject came up about solicitation in  
18 the Village. It was something that we had in place already. He doesn't think it has been talked  
19 about recently. We want to come up with a program that will allow us to get that word out again.  
20 He has asked the Chief to look at a special document that we would like to pass out that would  
21 put all of your vital information for medical purposes in case someone had a stroke, and the  
22 police or Fire Department had to come. They would have everything about your medicine, and  
23 who to call, and things like that. These are things that we are going to be trying to collect to  
24 disseminate to the public. There's a lot of things that we know about in the Village that people  
25 may have forgotten that is there. This sticker that you put on your door is there. In many cases, a  
26 lot of people don't have it and they are not aware that we do have an Ordinance that talks about  
27 that.

28  
29 Mr. McDonnell stated that the reason why he brings this up that the Village provide these  
30 stickers is, many, many years ago he purchased one of these stickers from an Ace Hardware  
31 Store. He went to an Ace Hardware Store a couple of weeks ago, he couldn't find one. He went  
32 to the local Home Depo out here, they looked at him like he was green and had antennas coming  
33 out of his head. They didn't know what "No solicitation" even meant. We can go out for a quote  
34 to our local provider that does our printing and things like that. There are many options. You can  
35 have a nice, city scene on it of the Village for very little cost.

36  
37 Trustee Oliver inquired of Mr. McDonnell what exactly is a Canvasser, or someone who might  
38 be doing solicitation. How do you define that?

39  
40 Mr. McDonnell stated that generally they are construction companies. Everybody knows the Girl  
41 Scouts, they sell cookies. Generally, they are construction companies. They are storm chasers. A  
42 little while ago here during the winter, we had a little bit of a hail storm. That triggers these  
43 storm chasers to come into town and ring your doorbell and say, "Hey, we think you may have  
44 storm damage because your area was approved for these types of repairs." They will go on your  
45 roof and say, "Oh, yes, you need a new \$18,000.00 roof. We will talk to your insurance company  
46 for you." They will get that claim process going. They will actually meet your insurance  
47 company out there. He is not saying that they are doing anything wrong. They are definitely

1 helping you out. He had his roof taken care of by the insurance company because of a storm. He  
2 knows that is very helpful to people, especially if you have a 20-year old roof and it gets  
3 replaced and it is not costing you a lot of money unless your insurance company drops you.  
4 There's that reason for them to be out there. They can also be selling you any type of  
5 construction work, siding, gutters, because those items can be damaged during a storm surge as  
6 well. That's generally who is going to be knocking on your door other than the Girl Scouts  
7 selling cookies.

8  
9 Trustee Gibson stated that there are other businesses. Any day of the month or the week you can  
10 find AT&T people coming around, students coming around saying we need to get you involved  
11 in AT&T. She stated that about two-years ago she was not at home. Her husband was home. This  
12 young man and this young lady came. They were going to give us such a great deal for switching  
13 over from Comcast to AT&T. Her husband didn't sign anything. He told them that he is not the  
14 boss here. "You have to come back when my wife is here." Within three-days their Comcast  
15 complete system was gone. It has not come back to where it is supposed to be today because in  
16 the cutting off of everything, they had a program where they could send a Fax. They took the Fax  
17 Number because according to Comcast it belonged to AT&T. They took it away. She didn't  
18 realize that they were being charged for the Fax Machine, until one day she looked and said,  
19 "That's not the number." She called them and they said they were sorry they can't do anything.  
20 She told them to just turn it off. It is the religious people also that come in and want you to listen  
21 to them. For the past 22-years she has had a "No Solicitation" sign on her door. It doesn't help.

22  
23 Mr. McDonnell stated that from what he found, it is State Law that anybody soliciting, if there is  
24 a sticker they are supposed to walk away. They are not supposed to trouble you. Trustee Hudson  
25 inquired did you call the police. Trustee Gibson stated that's what we do.

26  
27 Trustee Pennington stated that he has the same problem in Graymoor with certain religious  
28 groups coming around, as well as fly-by-night contractors who want to sealcoat your driveway,  
29 etcetera. A lot of the homes in Graymoor have the "No Solicitors Allowed" signs. He has three  
30 of them on his house. Trustee Gibson is correct. They totally ignore it. He asks if they are  
31 registered with the Village of Olympia Fields, and that in order for them to conduct business in  
32 Graymoor, they have to be registered with the Village. If they are not registered with the Village,  
33 you have to leave my property. He stated and they do. Sometimes they want to give back talk.  
34 He stated that the sign says, Solicitors are not Allowed." Unless, you are registered with the  
35 Village you can't do anything here.

36  
37 Mr. Collier stated that you are talking about making this available. Can it be done such that  
38 people know they have to get a Certificate from the Village in order to solicit? There's a sign on  
39 the door that says, "No Soliciting." If someone comes and is not registered with the Village, and  
40 if they do solicit you and they are not supposed to be there, can we call the police and have them  
41 dealt with?

42  
43 Mr. McDonnell stated that you can call the police. The police would like you to call them. Mr.  
44 Collier stated wouldn't that solve your problem. Instead of having to deal with them, just call the  
45 police. They don't have a right to be soliciting. Do what you got to do. Did the police come? And  
46 they took care of it?

47



1 Trustee Gibson stated that the police did come. They found the persons. They instructed them  
2 that if they did not have a Permit they could not stay there. Mr. Collier stated let's make it a  
3 \$100.00 fine.  
4

5 Mrs. Geraldine Tyler stated that if she needs to have something done around her property she has  
6 sense enough to look in the phonebook or solicit her own services. You are only going to be  
7 satisfied until someone comes in your house and half kills you. It is just too much going on. Her  
8 issue was she didn't want strangers coming into her community. You might want them in yours,  
9 or what have you. That is the issue that she was raising. You don't know anything about these  
10 people that are coming in. She is just talking about the danger factor. If she needs services, she  
11 knows who to go get. She doesn't want anybody in there. She isn't like Mrs. Sokol, she can't  
12 speak for everybody. She can only speak for herself. She doesn't want anybody coming into her  
13 community. If she needs services she can get them. She stated that \$500.00 for 300-stickers that  
14 is a little expensive.  
15

16 Village President Burke stated that the purpose of this, this is on the books. We are having a  
17 Staff Meeting every other week. We are discussing issues in the Village. This was one of the  
18 things that came up. Apparently, some people have these and some people do not. There is  
19 nothing wrong with letting people know that one of the things that you should do if someone  
20 approaches your property, or you feel they shouldn't be there, the Chief is onboard, they will  
21 send somebody out and address the issue. If they don't have a Permit, we can fine them. We can  
22 arrest them and we can fine them. We want to get the public to understand that this exists. We  
23 will try to find a way to get the necessary stickers for those who don't have them. This is a way  
24 of trying to get the public to be aware of some of the things that we have that we have to start  
25 enforcing.  
26

27 Mrs. Sokol inquired of Mr. McDonnell that there are two-days when Solicitors are allowed. Mr.  
28 McDonnell stated yes. When we give them the ID Badges to solicit in town, we only allow them  
29 two-days. Mrs. Sokol inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not those are specified days, or just  
30 any two days of the week. Mr. McDonnell stated any two days of their choice.  
31

32 Mrs. Langon inquired whether or not there is a possibility that you have no solicitation. Her  
33 concern is individuals who drive around looking, and she thinks looking for opportunities. She  
34 doesn't know if other towns have that. You said it is on your door and they don't pay it any  
35 mind. You have a senior population, senior abuse, look at this. You can go online to find what  
36 you want. You can have a Vendor Fair. The concern is individuals who come out here and look  
37 for opportunities. Where she is, she has seen them driving in and driving out. We have had some  
38 burglaries. They need to be known by everybody when they happen so we can better prepare and  
39 respond. She knows that there are subdivisions and gated communities that say, "No  
40 Solicitation." That's her concern.  
41

42 Mr. Collier stated true story. About a year ago, one of his senior neighbors, her husband had died  
43 and she was living there by herself. Two men came to the door and said that they were working  
44 with the Country Club and they needed to check out something in her backyard. She took one of  
45 them back there to look at it. While she did that, the other person came into her home, up into her  
46 bedroom, and took almost all of her jewelry. The next night her children came to get her. She  
47 never spent another night in that home. They sold that home. The people who bought that home

1 got it for a steal. They were looking up in Lincoln Park but this home was so cheap that they had  
2 to take it. It was in good shape. He stated that he would go along with Geraldine, no solicitation.  
3 That doesn't allow anyone to come on your property, or sneak in there to see what you got or  
4 anything. He would vote for no solicitation at all.

5  
6 Mr. McDonnell stated that he could speak to that a little bit. He is not an Attorney. He has seen  
7 on the Internet, cases where Villages and towns have been part of a lawsuit for having No  
8 Solicitation Laws. He doesn't know if that holds true today. That's certainly something that the  
9 Board could approve the Village Attorney to look into. The stickers can have any type of writing  
10 that we want on them. He has seen samples. They do say, "No Solicitation and we do call 911,"  
11 or "We do call the police." He thinks that we need to get out that they need to call the police.

12  
13 Mrs. Collier stated that you mentioned that they are assigned two-days out of a week. What  
14 would happen if we had two predesignated days so that we, as residents, knew on Tuesdays and  
15 Thursdays Solicitors are allowed, rather than having it all over the week? She thought that might  
16 be one way to make us more aware of the possibility that these are Solicitors that have a right to  
17 be there. She stated that is just an idea.

18  
19 Mr. McDonnell stated that he believes that is something we could look into. We certainly could  
20 contact our Village Attorney and ask them these questions that are coming up tonight. That's  
21 what is up for discussion to get the view of the President, the Board, and the residents on this  
22 item.

23  
24 Mrs. Burke inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not the word "Canvasser" in the Ordinance,  
25 includes or excludes political campaigners. Mr. McDonnell stated that he does not know.

26  
27 Mrs. Wynette Head stated that she has a question and a comment. That was going to be her  
28 question. She is an Attorney. She is speaking from the standpoint of a resident. She certainly  
29 does not want anyone coming to her door and soliciting. As an Attorney, the simple law of  
30 trespass would kick in for her. She doesn't want you at her door. So, she is going to call the  
31 police because you are trespassing on her property. She doesn't know that we need an Ordinance  
32 to tell us whether or not we can allow someone to come on our property and solicit. You can  
33 certainly always call the police because you have a right to privacy in your own home. And you  
34 don't have to open the door and allow people to come upon your property, or don't answer the  
35 door.

36  
37 Trustee Hudson stated that she believes that some of the problems that was mentioned, we  
38 should have a Committee, or someone that is talking to our senior citizens and telling them the  
39 situations that they should try to avoid. Younger people would be able to say the things that we  
40 are saying. We all should be very aware of who we have asked to come to our house to do work  
41 or whatever. A senior citizen is normally looking for someone to do something for them at a  
42 lesser price than someone else maybe. They would be more subject to have someone come in  
43 when they are not the right people that are coming in. Mr. McDonnell stated thank you.

44  
45 Village President Burke stated that we wanted to get some feedback. He believes that we have  
46 gotten it. People are more aware of the issue. One of the purposes as you indicated, Trustee  
47 Hudson, about Committees and Commissions, that is one of the things that he is personally

1 looking at right now is possibly restructuring some of these Committees to bring them up-to-date  
2 on the things that we are concerned about, and having a Senior Citizens Committee would be  
3 something that we definitely need to look at. The purpose of this was to get some feedback from  
4 not only the Board, but also from the public to see some of the things that we need to concentrate  
5 on. This sounds like a topic that generated a lot of discussion.

6  
7 Trustee Gibson stated that her comment is this and it comes right at the right time. The  
8 Community Relations Commission is getting ready to organize a Senior Advisory Committee.  
9 We did not have our Meeting. This was supposed to have been discussed at our last Meeting.  
10 Our Chairman of the CRC has been very ill and we couldn't have the Meeting. We will have a  
11 Meeting very shortly. The Commission Members are very excited about it. It is something that  
12 we don't have to start from scratch because we have a lot of Senior Organizations around that  
13 can give us some ideas about how to go about this. Mr. McDonnell stated great. Thank you.  
14 Village President Burke stated thank you very much.

15  
16 **Discussion Only: New IDOT Local Government Requirements for Consultant**  
17 **Procurement of Engineering & Design Services Now Requiring Competitive Qualification**  
18 **Evaluation (Consultant Qualification Based Selections)** – Village President Burke stated that  
19 the next item for discussion is the new IDOT Local Government Requirements for Consultant  
20 Procurement of Engineering and Design.

21  
22 Administrator Mekarski stated that this is exciting news. It came out of the Federal Government.  
23 In May of 2015, the Federal Government passed a new Federal Law for all Highway Projects  
24 that are funded in whole, or in part, with Federal Dollars. This went to Federal Regulations in  
25 May of 2015. It was to be complied with by June of 2016. Illinois asked for an extension. That  
26 extension is June 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year. This is requiring all local governments to ensure that there is a  
27 Consultant Qualification Based Selection when we are going forth with any kind of an  
28 Engineering Design or Architectural Services. In the past what has occurred, is that local  
29 Municipalities would appoint their local engineer as one of the officials on an annual basis,  
30 and/or enter into a Retainage Contract. If there were Federal Funds coming up for engineering or  
31 design, those would be awarded by the Board of Trustees to the Village Engineer. That will no  
32 longer be allowed by IDOT. The Village will be an active partner along with the South Suburban  
33 Mayors and Managers Association's Transportation Coordination Committee. A lot of the  
34 Federal Funds that we do receive from the Federal Government through IDOT goes through the  
35 Transportation Coordinating Committee to set priorities and Budget line items.

36  
37 Administrator Mekarski stated that essentially the Consultant Procurement Process will require  
38 us to solicit competitive Proposals. That will be both a request for qualifications and a request for  
39 Proposals. We will be involved in the evaluation of those Proposals. We will be involved with  
40 the selection of the awarded engineering, planning, or architectural firm. We would contract out  
41 locally here with the Board of Trustees.

42  
43 Mr. Earl Bell inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not he could tell the public what  
44 the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association is. Administrator Mekarski stated that the  
45 South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association is a council of governments. It is an  
46 Association. It is formed by an Intergovernmental Agreement between 44 local Municipalities in  
47 the south suburbs. Every section of the State has a Coordinating Council, a Planning Council. In

1 the Chicagoland area, it is the Chicago Metropolitan Agency in Planning. There are a number of  
2 council governments that collaborate and assist Mayors and Managers on State, Federal, and  
3 Regional issues.

4  
5 Mr. Bell stated that another thing it does, if there was a problem with projects, getting them  
6 done, the communities all decided it is better to have an organization that can help coordinate  
7 this and cut out some of the competition. It works. It has worked really well, he thinks.

8  
9 Administrator Mekarski stated that it is important to note this Consultant Selection Process is  
10 based on best qualified and not the lowest Bid. We will be involved as it relates to Engineering  
11 and Design Related Services. It's for Program Management. It's for Construction Management.  
12 It's for Feasibility Studies. It's for Preliminary Engineering. It's for Design and Engineering. It's  
13 for Surveying and Mapping. It's for Architectural Related Services. The Village Board will be  
14 involved with the requirement to demonstrate that we have the organizational capacity or the  
15 Procurement, Management, and Administration of these types of contracts. We will have the  
16 responsibility to work with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and other  
17 local governments to prepare and maintain Written Policies and Procedures in accordance with  
18 the Federal Regulations. Establish a procedure for estimating resources and costs of needed  
19 consultant services. Procure, manage, and administrator consultant services in accordance with  
20 the applicable Federal and State Laws. Administer sub-awards in accordance with State Laws  
21 and Procedures. This will involve the development by the Administrative Team to the drafting  
22 and adoption of Written Policies which we will include in our Fiscal Policies that the Board of  
23 Trustees annually updates.

24  
25 Administrator Mekarski stated that there will be more to come in the next few months. This will  
26 take effect on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will apply to the next Federal Project. Currently, we have a number  
27 of projects that are occurring in the Village that this would apply to, but they are already  
28 underway. We have the Vollmer Road underpass, bridge raising, road widening. We have the  
29 Early Warning Design System which is an Interim Design System to prevent catastrophic  
30 crashes. That's for a five to 10-year period until the \$45,000,000.00 is awarded to the County  
31 and the two Municipalities, the Village of Flossmoor and the Village of Olympia Fields. We also  
32 have the construction of a Bike Path along Vollmer Road. It will go from Kedzie Avenue all the  
33 way to the Nature Preserves. We are finalizing the final stages for the beautification, both  
34 landscaping and a pedestrian path from our Rail Station on 211<sup>th</sup> Street all the way down to the  
35 Wal-Mart. That's on the north side of Lincoln Highway. Village President Burke thanked  
36 Administrator Mekarski.

37  
38 Mrs. Langon inquired whether or not she could ask a question.

39 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Hudson to open up for public comment.**  
40 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**

41  
42 Mrs. Langon stated that just listening and understanding that there is a new Policy, she didn't  
43 hear anything about how the laws regarding minority and women involved would continue to  
44 insure access from management to individuals working on the street, gender and color issues.  
45 Administrator Mekarski stated that he doesn't have the specific criteria. The Federal Government  
46 does require the solicitation of minority and women enterprises. In the case of Disadvantage  
47 Business Enterprises, (DBE's), they do allow some non-qualification based criteria to open the

1 door and give more opportunity for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. He doesn't have the  
2 specific Regulations in front of him relating to that. At a future Board Meeting he can report  
3 back pulling the Regulations from the Federal Registry.  
4

5 Mrs. Head inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not he had the Citation. Administrator  
6 Mekarski stated that he does and he will forward it to her.  
7

8 Trustee Pennington inquired how will this new directive impact those ongoing projects that we  
9 already have. Administrator Mekarski stated that the ongoing projects will be allowed to  
10 continue in their current management process. Any new phases would have to go through  
11 Competitive Qualification Based Criteria. We are completed with the Preliminary and the Final  
12 Engineering to go to Bid for the Bike Path from Kedzie Avenue to the Nature Preserve. That  
13 process would not go through this Qualification Based Criteria. The Bidding and the  
14 Construction Management would. In the case of Vollmer Road, only Phase I Preliminary  
15 Engineering has been completed, about \$1,360,000.00. Phase 2 which was estimated to be  
16 \$2,000,000.00 to \$3,000,000.00 would require the Qualification Based Criteria. The RTA, the  
17 Grant that enhances Lincoln Highway with both a safety path and beautification, hasn't been  
18 awarded in a formal Grant yet. It is 80% approved. We are probably months away before we get  
19 the contract. That will require all the preliminary and the Phase II, and the construction to  
20 comply with this new law.  
21

22 Mr. Leon Francisco inquired whether or not the list of projects that Administrator Mekarski just  
23 articulated have been approved by this Board for Federal Funding. Administrator Mekarski  
24 stated that they have been in some form or another. Lincoln Highway has been approved by the  
25 Board for solicitation of the Grant for the establishment of a local match. That was required for  
26 approval of a County Match which also would be added to the construction element. That has  
27 been approved. Vollmer Road has gone through the Board, both on the original \$1,000,000.00  
28 allocation, the \$360,000.00 second allocation. We have been coordinating with the Board over a  
29 number of years on the Early Warning System which was awarded by the State MFT Funds.  
30

31 Mr. Francisco stated that we have been talking for a long time about Storm Water Systems. He  
32 didn't hear anything about the ponds in Olympia Fields. He stated for a lot of years we have been  
33 going through and trying to get government funding for ponds to try and get a better  
34 Management System for these ponds. He didn't hear anything in terms of us going in to try to get  
35 some of these funds to be allocated towards that. Is there any reason for that?  
36

37 Administrator Mekarski stated that is a great question. It is very timely. It's not consistent with  
38 what he was addressing today regarding the Qualification Based Selection Criteria. This is for  
39 Federal Dollars going into Road Projects, either directly from the Federal Government or  
40 channeled through IDOT, (Illinois Department of Transportation). He stated that on the  
41 President's desk, and it recently arrived on his desk, was a request for Proposals to the  
42 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Green Infrastructure Projects, for innovative, green  
43 designs for Storm Water Management. Administrator Mekarski stated that he and the President  
44 were discussing various projects last week on that request. The Village President is going to be  
45 meeting with Administrator Mekarski's Office and the Department Heads to look at a number of  
46 projects that might be applicable. Graymoor was discussed last week as one of the candidates.  
47

1 Mr. Francisco stated that he would like to somehow get some input into that discussion for  
2 Graymoor because we internally, as the Graymoor residents, we've gotten a Bid that we wanted  
3 to include this Board in. The Bids that we have gotten in the past historically have been  
4 astronomical. We found someone through our own volition that is considerably less and can do  
5 the job that we have been looking for. When you talk about the Highway System, if you don't do  
6 anything for Storm Water Management, the flooding comes all the way over that Vollmer Road  
7 that you are looking for. He would think that you would want to look at that to try to prevent that  
8 from happening. You are going to spend X number of dollars to fix that viaduct and you will still  
9 get flooded down there.

10

11 Village President Burke stated that as Administrator Mekarski indicated, we got something last  
12 Thursday on this. It has to do with how to make improvements. The flooding in Graymoor is an  
13 issue. The discussion that we had was whether or not it is the ponds, or is it the swales that need  
14 to be addressed to get the water to the ponds. One of the things that we debated back and forth  
15 was do we put a Proposal in to address the swales first versus the ponds. We are still open switch  
16 about that.

17

18 Village President Burke stated that he will let you know where we are. He will take your input.  
19 He will talk about it with Mr. Francisco. It's not just your subdivision. It is also places like  
20 Arcadia. There are several other neighborhoods in the town that actually flood. A lot of the  
21 problems has a lot to do with we have not necessarily enforced the consistency from one house,  
22 to another house, to another house, to make sure the swales are flowing like they should. There is  
23 one house that he can think of when he was out campaigning that the people actually built a  
24 small Eerie Canal. They damned it up. The people upstream from them, the water backed up and  
25 they got a dam. Somehow, we have to do an assessment to see where are the bottlenecks and  
26 what is causing the bottlenecks. This Grant might give us an opportunity to do that. The purpose  
27 of what Administrator Mekarski just talked about was a change in how you qualify people for a  
28 job. It was not necessarily a comprehensive list of what we are actually going to do. That's all it  
29 really was. It was for the Board to be aware of the fact that there are some changes in the  
30 requirements that people need to be aware of, so when we go forward we have an opportunity to  
31 understand what the new Rules and Regulations are. The actual projects are some things that we  
32 will look at. We are going to make a list. We are going to prioritize that list. Based on that list is  
33 what we are going to go after. We will be getting input from various neighborhoods to make sure  
34 that we address the highest need first.

35

36 Administrator Mekarski stated that these new Federal Regulations are consistent with the new  
37 vision and direction of our Village President, opening up a competitive process for Engineering  
38 and Design Services. Village President Burke stated that we are going to close public comment  
39 and move on to the final item on the list.

40

41 **Discussion Only: Consideration of an "Opt Out Ordinance" – Cook County Minimum**  
42 **Wage Ordinance** – Village President Burke stated that the next item is the subject of an Opt Out  
43 Ordinance that has to do with the Minimum Wage. The current minimum wage is \$8.25. The  
44 County of Cook has proposed a new Ordinance that guarantees an increase in the minimum wage  
45 up to \$13.00 an hour over a four-year period. If we do nothing, then we will be included in that  
46 new minimum wage. We have the opportunity to opt out of this Minimum Wage Ordinance. He  
47 hopes that the Board had an opportunity to look at the Ordinance that the County put in place.

1 The purpose of this is to discuss what we might want to do when it comes down to staying in or  
2 opting out of it. There will be some people who will think that it is wonderful, that everyone  
3 should be able to make a living wage. He stated that \$8.25 may not be an appropriate level. He  
4 stated that going up to \$13.00 an hour is something that should be reasonable. The flip side from  
5 an economic development standpoint, if we are the only ones that go to the \$13.00 an hour and  
6 stay in with the County, the other towns around us who opted out may have a competitive  
7 advantage over the Village of Olympia Fields when it comes down to competitive advantage of  
8 getting new businesses to move into the Village. Village President Burke stated that he was  
9 going to open it up for discussion from the Board.

10

11 Trustee Matz stated that she had the opportunity to talk to the Municipalities that are surrounding  
12 us. The majority of them have opted out. She also talked to our local businesses to see how this  
13 would affect them. They agree that \$10.00 is not that much, but what would hurt them is if it  
14 goes up \$1.00 the next year, and the next year, and their business isn't keeping up with that. She  
15 strongly believes that we should really look into this and consider opting out.

16

17 Mr. Bell stated that he believes the exact opposite. He has done a lot of work on this and that's  
18 why he is here.

19

20 Village President Burke stated that first he wants to get some input from the Board and then we  
21 will open it up for public comment. Mr. Bell stated that he was sorry. Village President Burke  
22 stated that's okay. That's why we are doing this this way. We want to be able to have open  
23 discussion.

24

25 Trustee Hudson stated that the merchants that we have currently, they are already above the  
26 \$8.25. Most of them are paying their employees \$10.00 that she talked to. She only spoke with  
27 Wal-Mart and McDonald's. She is not sure if we would be hurting the merchants that we have,  
28 or helping them. She believes that we would be hurting them in a sense. Trustee Hudson stated  
29 that she believes that she would be in favor of opting out.

30

31 Trustee Oliver stated that when he looks at this material, it seems like everyone is doing the  
32 opting out, and particularly looking at it from the point of view of the businesses and he could  
33 understand that. Especially when we are trying to develop some businesses in this area. He stated  
34 that on the flip side of that, he can't help but think about those who are trying to seek  
35 employment. Most of those, particularly in the minimum wage group, it use to be high school  
36 kids. Now these are adults seeking jobs. These adults are seeking jobs because jobs are so few in  
37 this area. These are people who are trying to make it as best as they can. When he has seen some  
38 of these protests, these were adults, not kids complaining about this \$8.25. You have to feel for  
39 them as well because most of them are black and brown people. The flip side of keeping it down  
40 to \$8.25 an hour, when you think about all of the other issues, he read in here that Chicago they  
41 are trying to do the minimum wage up to \$13.00, \$14.00 an hour or something like that. Mr.  
42 Francisco stated \$15.00.

43

44 Trustee Oliver stated and in Chicago just imagine that. He believes that there is a trade deal  
45 tomorrow at Prairie State. That is another story. The trades that we use to have when we were in  
46 high school where people didn't have to go to college, they could come out of high school and  
47 make a decent wage at some of these manufacturing jobs that were plentiful back then. They

1 aren't around now. Those jobs are gone. The only jobs that are around now are minimum wage  
2 jobs. He stated particularly in the south suburbs. He has to do a lot of thinking about whether or  
3 not he wants to opt out. It is easy to say, "Yes, let's opt out." His friend, Randy Conn, will be  
4 hurting if we opt in and increase his costs. He doesn't want to do that either. It is not as easy as  
5 one might think. That's the way that he is looking at it.

6  
7 Village President Burke stated that there is not a vote tonight. The purpose of this is for us to  
8 have a general conversation about it. We would very much like to get some input from the  
9 public. If we do nothing, then the law becomes a Statute. It happens automatically. What is on  
10 the table here is whether or not we are going to put an Ordinance in place at the next Meeting to  
11 say we want to opt out. There is a ruling by our Lawyer that says that he does not think that as  
12 written, the County's current Ordinance will pass the Courts. It is another one of those things  
13 where we can opt out and all we have done is just let people know that we are looking at it one  
14 way. If we don't do anything and the Courts change it, then it goes the other way anyway. It's  
15 almost a moot point. There are some valid reasons going either way. We are not voting on this  
16 right now. This is for information purposes only so that we will be better prepared, so that we  
17 can go forward on whether or not we should do this for the next Meeting.

18  
19 Trustee Pennington stated that he totally agrees with that assessment. He also thinks that we  
20 should look at one important thing here. The Village of Olympia Fields is a Non-Home Rule  
21 Municipality. One of the things that he is concerned about, is how will this particular Ordinance  
22 impact the Village of Olympia Fields in its capacity as a Non-Home Rule Municipality? Cook  
23 County, Chicago, are all Home Rule Communities. Evergreen Park is a Home Rule Community.  
24 He believes that they have opted out. He stated that a stronger analysis should be entertained in  
25 seeing what type of impact this could have on the Village because of our Non-Home Rule status.

26  
27 Administrator Mekarski stated that he has a brief answer to Trustee Pennington's question. In  
28 your Packet, there is a letter from the Office of the State's Attorney, Anita Alvarez. They have  
29 indicated in a Written Opinion that they don't believe the County has a legal authority. That  
30 setting the minimum wage is a power that is only entitled to the Federal Government and to the  
31 State Government. If it was passed by the County, and we did not opt out, as the President  
32 indicated this would be the law of the land until challenged and agreed to by the Court. The  
33 advantage of opting out, and he is not speaking ideologically, but just procedurally, the  
34 advantage of opting out is that if the Village opts out there is a provision in the State Constitution  
35 that says whether you are Home Rule or Non-Home Rule, if a Village Ordinance essentially is in  
36 conflict with a County Ordinance, the local Municipality prevails. So, we essentially trump, if  
37 you will, the County even as a Non-Home Rule. If it is in the ideological perspective for the  
38 Board to agree to opt out, by passing the Ordinance you are protected. As the Village President  
39 indicated, there is a much bigger question, and that is the question of living wage and the social  
40 impact to our community. Both our youth and our seniors, as well as our men and women that  
41 are trying to support a family.

42  
43 Trustee Hudson stated that she is not totally onboard either way. She stated to her it is a very  
44 complicated situation because we have people on both sides of that that we need to consider, and  
45 that is the merchants and the residents that live here.

46



1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson that we open this up to the**  
2 **public.**

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

4  
5 Mr. Bell stated that it is not true that some communities have decided not to do it and are  
6 supporting it. Oak Park, Evanston, LaGrange, Countryside, and Cal City as you probably saw in  
7 the Southtown yesterday, those communities decided that it is a good law. If it is going to be  
8 litigated that will tie everything up and it will have to be decided. If we have to make a decision  
9 by July 1<sup>st</sup> we should make it. He would say from reading the Studies on minimum wage, they  
10 showed the following: That up to about \$12.50 it doesn't really affect anything negatively. If you  
11 want to read that he will be glad to give you copies of it. He knows that Administrator Mekarski  
12 wants to read it. It shows that it does not cost jobs. It does not affect businesses in a negative  
13 way. They have actual Case Studies on all of that. The problem with after about \$12.50 is there  
14 is no Studies. That hasn't been studied so that's really not something that can be proven. There is  
15 extensive Studies of everything on the \$12.50 and its impact. Some are 25-years old, and have  
16 been studied consecutively in States, Counties, and Cities, that are adjoining doing different  
17 things. He has a lot of New York Times in response to a summary of those Studies by a guy at  
18 Princeton who has summarized all of those Studies. What he basically said was, "When you get  
19 above \$12.50 I think you have to decide on the side of management and not take a chance." He  
20 said, "Below that, it's not a threat and we have the evidence to prove it."

21  
22 Mr. Bell wrote in his letter to him at the paper, he said that may be true, but it strikes him as a  
23 little strange that if we don't know what the statistics are going to prove exactly, and if we are  
24 going to error we decide to error on the side of management. How about erroring on the side of  
25 the people that are suffering the most? That would be a new thing for us to do. He thinks that is  
26 the important thing. He stated that you are not just affecting a few people. You are affecting  
27 workers that work here that don't live here, as well as workers that do live here and work other  
28 places. It is also five-days of sick leave. Is that really a big deal to give people five-days of sick  
29 leave? It's not anything to write home about is it really?

30  
31 Administrator Mekarski stated paid sick leave. It is a separate Ordinance. Mr. Bell stated that  
32 most of us had jobs that did substantially better than that. He doesn't believe that if you  
33 submitted a Referendum to any group of people anywhere you would get a different result from  
34 what happened in Cal City. The people in town will vote for it because it affects their families  
35 directly. We have a lot of people in this town that are working 12 to 14-hour days. He is talking  
36 about his cul-de-sac. They come in here. They are proud to have these homes in these beautiful  
37 places. One guy decided to put in his own hardwood floors. They are working long hours. He  
38 thinks that we have to think about them first. The Studies prove it does not do injury.

39  
40 Mrs. Langon stated that her concern is that we look at the future of our Village. And that we look  
41 toward jobs and careers that far exceed that minimum wage, and a challenge that we work as the  
42 Economic Development Commission and the Educational Commission to have the career paths,  
43 and the career opportunities that keep our kids, and attract new families, and far exceed that \$13  
44 something which would not help raise a family. That's her concern.

45  
46 Mrs. Collier stated that she has a question about opting out. Do the Municipalities have the  
47 ability to set anything that they think is appropriate for minimum wage?

1 Village President Burke stated that we always have the ability to set our own minimum wage.  
2 This came about because the County of Cook went around and said, “We want to do like Seattle  
3 and other places around the country where you have large populations of all types of people, all  
4 kinds of economic background.”

5  
6 Mrs. Collier inquired so that ability remains even if you opt out. Village President Burke stated  
7 that if we opt out, we basically are saying that we do not agree with the numbers that Cook  
8 County has come up with. One strategy could be if we opt out, we may say ours is going to be  
9 \$16.00 if that is what you want to do. Mrs. Collier stated that she was thinking a little lower. She  
10 stated that opting out may give you more latitude to do what you think is best for your  
11 community, and then you can come back and set it at the level that you think is appropriate.  
12 Keep in mind businesses, but we do have to think about those people that are not on the track for  
13 \$16.00 an hour. Otherwise, they wouldn’t be working there. Opting out gives us the ability to  
14 then look at it and say, “Where does this make sense?”

15  
16 Village President Burke stated that he thinks we have the option of setting our own anyway  
17 regardless of what they did. They just set a bar. Theirs was to go from \$8.25 to \$10.00 the first  
18 year, and then go to \$11.00, then go to \$12.00. He stated over a four-year period it would go to  
19 \$13.00. It puts a cap at that. He stated at the Staff Meeting, and they don’t vote, he just asked  
20 them as citizens that would look at this, it was a mixed opinion there just like it is a mixed  
21 opinion on this Board. He is willing to bet you it is a mixed opinion among the people in the  
22 audience here. The purpose of this was the Board really has to make a decision at the next  
23 Meeting which is the 22<sup>nd</sup> on whether or not we should do an Ordinance to opt out. That’s one  
24 data point. If we do nothing, then we are in. It takes affect July 1<sup>st</sup>. We won’t have a Meeting  
25 before that. The purpose of this is for the Board to think about this and at the same time the  
26 public that is here. Village President Burke stated that he believes everyone knows that at the last  
27 Meeting we gave the Village Trustees an e-mail address. If you have friends and other neighbors  
28 and they have some opinions, send us an e-mail and let us know what you think. We do want  
29 your input. You have elected us to make a decision. We want to listen to what the public has to  
30 say on this. Send us an e-mail and let us know. It can go either way. As Administrator Mekarski  
31 indicated, if we do nothing, the Courts still may strike it down.

32  
33 Mrs. Collier stated that she appreciates having input in this so that when the Board comes back to  
34 us she will have confidence that they have given this their best effort, and their best thought. She  
35 appreciates the opportunity to have this discussion.

36  
37 Village President Burke stated that is what we are attempting to do from now on. We are going  
38 to take input from the public to see what we should do, and have as much open discussion as we  
39 possibly can about topics like this and other topics.

40  
41 Mr. Langon stated that he is a proponent of the Cook County Ordinance simply from a quality of  
42 life standpoint. If we are going to run a quality town, if we are going to say that we are quality  
43 oriented with our homes and we are forward thinking, you are going to have a much better pool  
44 of people applying for jobs. The highest and the most rapidly growing industry is the service  
45 industry. At \$8.25 an hour you are attracting the bottom of the barrel so to speak. When you have  
46 the opportunity to make up to \$13.00 an hour, well some other people may be interested. He is  
47 sure that you have all visited fast-food restaurants. Some are run superior to others. The ones that

1 are superior to their peers are the ones that take care of and pay their people. You see the same  
2 people there all the time. It isn't a revolving door with \$8.25 an hour. And any well-run business  
3 is going to make money at \$13.00 an hour. So, please consider the folks that are trying to raise a  
4 family, that are working making \$8.25 an hour. He thinks that you are really going to get a pride  
5 in these people if they are making a decent wage. He thinks that Olympia Fields needs to be one  
6 of the towns that helps lead the way to a fair, and a quality wage for our businesses and our  
7 people.

8  
9 Mr. Owens stated that he is just thinking back, he has been married 29-years and one day. His  
10 anniversary was yesterday. Village President Burke stated congratulations. (There was a round of  
11 applause). Mr. Owens stated that he is thinking about how long ago it was that he made \$5.00 an  
12 hour, \$8.00 an hour, \$13.00 an hour. Mrs. Shirley Johnson stated that it has been 40-years ago  
13 we were making \$8.00 an hour. She can't believe that we are still making \$8.00 an hour. Mr.  
14 Owens stated that is his point. He stated 30-years later we are still asking people to try to make a  
15 living at \$8.00 an hour. He thinks that we are well overdue for a change.

16  
17 Mr. Francisco stated that he is kind of mixed on this topic right now because he understands the  
18 merchants that are conflicted in here and we have so few of them here. He thinks that one of the  
19 things that the Board needs to consider is that we want this town to have an identity. And one of  
20 the things that he believes that this Board needs to be focused on is making Olympia Fields a  
21 Medical Center. We have this big Hospital out there. If you start limiting yourself in terms of the  
22 folks that are going to be coming in here looking for some of these Medical Center jobs, at some  
23 point in time, you don't want to have them all coming in at \$8.00 an hour. You are not going to  
24 get the quality people that you are going to be looking for. So, don't put your blinders on at this  
25 point in time and not look at the bigger prize that is coming out there. He understands that there  
26 is a \$150,000,000.00 expansion that is going to be coming. If we do our homework right, that is  
27 going to be something that is going to prompt some additional development in terms of  
28 businesses in this community. We should stop just looking at the retail industry when we start  
29 thinking about jobs in Olympia Fields. That is his two-cents.

30  
31 Village President Burke thanked Mr. Francisco. He stated that is a very valid point. This is not an  
32 easy deal here. There's, he would imagine, a lot of progressive thought, and there is the business  
33 person's perspective on this. He stated that Ethel having owned a business herself, they know the  
34 value of having the right kind of employment. Mr. Francisco makes a very valid point. That  
35 point is there is going to be 1500 new jobs coming in that Hospital. His objective is to make the  
36 Village of Olympia Fields a destination. That's how the town got created. The people coming out  
37 here to play golf. There are things that we want to try to figure out a way to get more people to  
38 want to come in here. Looking down the pike, that is a very important perspective to look at. He  
39 thinks we got our last big-box. What is the minimum wage they pay at Wal-Mart?

40  
41 Administrator Mekarski stated that they are subject to the \$8.25. He is not sure what they are  
42 paying their employees. Mrs. Shirley Johnson stated last year when they opened up it was \$9.00.  
43 A young lady told her it was \$9.00. It was \$10.00 in Chicago, and \$9.00 in Olympia Fields when  
44 they first opened up. Trustee Hudson stated that it is \$10.00 now. That is what she was told.

45

1 Village President Burke stated that he knows two people that work there and they are adults.  
2 Mrs. Collier stated that we know four and they are adults. Village President Burke stated that two  
3 of them live in Olympia Fields. Mrs. Johnson stated that one of them has a Doctorate.  
4

5 Mr. Collier stated that he was in business 30-years hiring low level people to do work. He stated  
6 that what he found out, and what he had to start acknowledging was if you get a guy who will  
7 work for \$2.00 an hour, you are going to get a \$2.00 job out of them. He found out the hard way  
8 if you give that person a decent wage, he stays longer and he can afford to feed himself and do  
9 what he has to do. But if you got a \$2.00 an hour worker, you are going to get \$2.00 worth of  
10 work out of it. Case closed.

11  
12 Mrs. Johnson stated that she has one thing to say. Just think about yourself. Would you want to  
13 work for \$8.25 an hour right now in 2017?  
14

15 Village President Burke stated that as he indicated our e-mails are posted on the Website. If you  
16 have comments and you know other people have comments, send them to us in the next week.  
17 He stated that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> we are going to have to vote on this. Your input is important. We are  
18 going to listen to what you have to say. You have heard a lot of different opinions on it from the  
19 people up here. We are kind of conflicted. We don't quite know what to do. It has some  
20 advantages both ways.  
21

22 Trustee Pennington stated that perhaps we might want to make some of the material that we have  
23 available to the residents, or to the folks that are here tonight so they too can see what we saw in  
24 terms of it.  
25

26 Village President Burke stated that he will talk to Naomi and Cindy tomorrow about putting the  
27 Opt Out information that they gave us out as a PDF File on the Village's Website. We have  
28 maybe 20-pages. You can see some of the towns that opted out. You can see the Legal Opinions  
29 on the whole thing. You can call us and send us your e-mails and let us know what you think.  
30

31 Administrator Mekarski stated that we will have a stack out on the counter as well for anybody  
32 that doesn't have access to e-mail or PDF.  
33

34 **ADJOURNMENT:**  
35

36 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Oliver to adjourn this Special Meeting of the**  
37 **Board of Trustees at 8:39 P.M.**

38 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**  
39

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