

1                                   **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**  
2                                   **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3                                   **Held on July 8, 2013**

4  
5    The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, was  
6    cancelled. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at  
7    the Linzey D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Debra  
8    Meyers-Martin at 7:05 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator  
9    Mekarski/Village Clerk called the roll.

10  
11   Present: Trustees ó Gibson, Oliver, Byrd, and Waite  
12                                 Village President Debra Meyers-Martin  
13                                 Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David Mekarski  
14

15   Absent: Trustee Nale and Trustee Ormsby.

16  
17   **MINUTES:**

18  
19   **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Gibson to suspend with the reading of the**  
20   **Minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

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

22  
23   **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to approve the Minutes of June 10<sup>th</sup>,**  
24   **2013 as presented.**

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

26  
27   **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

28  
29   Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has Bills for Approval in the amount of  
30   \$141,155.33. She stated that there is a Cover Memo in the Board Packet designating the more  
31   significant payouts.

32   **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Byrd to approve the payment of Bills for July**  
33   **8<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in the total amount of \$141,155.33.**

34   **Roll Call:             Ayes (4-0)                                 Motion Carried.**

35  
36   **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

37  
38   **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Waite to amend the Agenda to allow for the**  
39   **appointment of Arthur Byrd as our Finance Liaison.**

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

41  
42   **Appointment of Arthur Byrd as the Finance Liaison** – Village President Meyers-Martin  
43   stated that Mr. Arthur Byrd has served on the Village's Finance Committee for many, many  
44   years. Mr. Byrd is a newly elected Trustee to the Village Board. Village President Meyers-  
45   Martin stated that after consideration, she is nominating him for our Finance Liaison.

1 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Waite to nominate Arthur Byrd as the Board**  
2 **of Trustees Finance Committee Liaison for a term continuing until a new appointment is**  
3 **made by the Village President.**

4 Trustee Waite inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin whether or not this is a temporary  
5 appointment. Village President Meyers-Martin stated until she makes another appointment.

6 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**

7  
8 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Trustee Byrd for agreeing to serve as the Trustee  
9 Liaison. Trustee Waite congratulated Trustee Byrd.

10  
11 **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

12  
13 Village President Meyers-Martin opened up Communications and Petitions at 7:08 P.M. There  
14 were members of the public in the audience; however no one wished to address the Board.  
15 Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications and Petitions at 7:09 P.M.

16  
17 **FINANCE:**

18  
19 Trustee Byrd thanked Village President Meyers-Martin and the Board for his appointment as the  
20 Finance Committee Liaison. Trustee Byrd stated that he has worked on the Finance Committee  
21 for about 10-years under two of our former Trustees which were also Finance Committee  
22 Liaisons, State Representative Al Riley and our immediate past Trustee, Willis Pennington. The  
23 Village is very proactive in planning. It plans things out five-years, 10-years, 20-years. That is  
24 one reason why the Village has the AAA Bond Rating because of the proactive planning that it  
25 continues to do. Trustee Byrd stated that he looks forward to working with the previous people  
26 that he worked with on the Finance Committee. He will be calling on them. One is Mrs. Hudson  
27 who is in the audience this evening. He will be seeking other people to sit on that Committee  
28 with him.

29  
30 Trustee Byrd stated that our Treasurer, Don Theobald from Theobald & Associates is here this  
31 evening. He had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Theobald last week about compiling the end  
32 of year, Fiscal Year 2013. Mr. Theobald will be presenting that at the next Board Meeting. Mr.  
33 Theobald is here to talk about the 2030 Long-term Plans that the Village is currently doing.  
34 Trustee Byrd turned the Finance Report over to Mr. Theobald.

35  
36 Mr. Theobald stated that he looks forward to working with Trustee Byrd as the Chairman of the  
37 Finance Committee. Mr. Theobald stated that he received an update from Cynthia Saenz on the  
38 tentative closed numbers for Fiscal Year 2013.

39  
40 Mr. Theobald stated that the 2030 Project is where we look into the future. It is not just the  
41 immediate two-years or three-years, but a long-term plan. That process is well underway for this  
42 cycle. He stated that Jenni Booth from his team has met with several of the Management Team  
43 Members already, including Administrator Mekarski and several members of his Management  
44 Team. Those meetings are intended to discuss assumptions that we are going to be using and to  
45 discuss major projects that we are going to be embarking upon. The major part of the process is  
46 to get together with Team Leaders, Department Heads, and Management Team Members and  
47 understand all perspectives. The next meeting will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Theobald stated that

1 by the end of August or early September the Village will be asked to give their input. After the  
2 input is given, they will ratify the assumptions made. He stated that those are key to ratify which  
3 projects, where they stand, and how they affect the future of the Village. Administrator Mekarski  
4 has brought in other consultants to bring in their perspective on some of the major projects.

5  
6 Mr. Theobald stated that with regard to Fiscal Year 2013 they will prepare a report by the end of  
7 this week. The tentative numbers submitted by Cindy Saenz will be reviewed by his team as well  
8 as the auditors. He stated that as the Village built its Fiscal Year 14 Audit/Budget numbers for  
9 next year, you were given some estimate of where you think the numbers will end up. The actual  
10 numbers produced in the General Fund is a surplus of approximately \$259,000.00. As the Budget  
11 was prepared and Fiscal Year 13 was estimated, Cynthia had an estimate of \$219,000.00. The  
12 actual numbers in the Water Fund are \$156,000.00. He stated that revenues exceeded  
13 expenditures again. The estimate that Cynthia had shared with the Board in the past was  
14 \$171,000.00. The Sewer Fund was projected at slight deficit of \$7,000.00. The actual deficit was  
15 about \$13,800.00. The numbers have come in very close to those numbers. Mr. Theobald stated  
16 that we will prepare that report in addition to the Treasurer's Report to show you where your  
17 funds are, plus how the expenditures worked. The books on Fiscal Year 2013 were closed today.

18  
19 Trustee Waite stated that in terms of budgeting those are within 5%. Mr. Theobald stated that  
20 none of those numbers were the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013. The Budget for the General Fund  
21 anticipated an \$80,000.00 surplus. The actual numbers came in significantly higher than that.  
22 The General Fund was \$259,000.00. He stated that he wasn't referring to the Budget.

23  
24 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in terms of the 2030 Plan she appreciates all of the  
25 hard work that Mr. Theobald and Jenni do in conjunction with the Finance Committee and  
26 Cynthia. It keeps the Village on a very clear track in terms of being fiscally responsible. She  
27 stated that because of the 2030 Plan that allowed us to have the confidence to move forward with  
28 the Road Project. She stated that is a big deal in the Village. Village President Meyers-Martin  
29 stated that she has received so many accolades because we are taking an aggressive action  
30 towards the Road Project as well as the Lateral Projects in Graymoor. That is all because of the  
31 hard work, the effort, and all of the concentration that was put in for the 2030 Plan. She thanked  
32 Mr. Theobald for that. She looks forward to moving forward with the 2030 Plan. Village  
33 President Meyers-Martin stated that the auditors are here. Village President Meyers-Martin  
34 inquired of Mr. Theobald whether or not he could give an update on that.

35  
36 Mr. Theobald stated that the audit process is well underway. The planning starts before the Fiscal  
37 Year ends. That took place and is complete. He stated that you have the auditors with their team  
38 members, Cynthia, and Jenni and Betty from his team. Administrator Mekarski was at those  
39 meetings. The next step is they come out and do preliminary audit work. That audit work is  
40 complete. The audit is starting fairly soon. They had a changeover in staffing at the CPA Firm.  
41 He believes that they are coming out the week of September 3<sup>rd</sup> to do the Final Audit. The next  
42 step is to meet with Administrator Mekarski and his Management Team to go over the results  
43 and make sure that they are okay. The next step after that is to present the Audit to the Board.

44  
45 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that when they talk about the 2030 Plan they will be  
46 analyzing the costs and benefits of going with Oak Lawn in terms of the Water Project, and  
47 whether or not the Village should participate in the \$162,000,000.00 rehab that Oak Lawn has

1 scheduled and the Village paying its portion, or looking at other options like Chicago Heights  
2 and some other things that have come before us. She stated that the 2030 Plan has been  
3 instrumental in giving us the tools and the skill set to make those most important decisions  
4 regarding the Village.

5  
6 Mr. Theobald stated that it lets you see the different options and how the impact of those affects  
7 the Village.

8  
9 **BUILDING:**

10  
11 There was no report in Trustee Ormsby's absence.

12  
13 **PLANNING:**

14  
15 **Educational Commission Annual Report – Ilene Waite, Commissioner** – Trustee Oliver  
16 stated that the Educational Commission has been quite busy for the last couple of years. This  
17 year the Educational Commission had quite an extensive agenda. Trustee Oliver asked Ilene  
18 Waite who is a Commissioner on the Educational Commission, and has been with the  
19 Commission since its inception to present her Annual Report to the Board.

20  
21 Commissioner Waite stated that you all received the report. The first two pages are an Executive  
22 Summary. There are supporting documents, pictures and explanations. Commissioner Waite  
23 stated that as part of supporting the Southland Charter School we did have a meeting with our  
24 State Representative to talk about HB2660.

25  
26 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Commissioner Waite whether or not she could  
27 provide a summary of what is contained in the report for the benefit of the audience.

28  
29 Commissioner Waite stated that the Annual Report will be going on the Educational  
30 Commission's website at [ofeducationalcommission.com](http://ofeducationalcommission.com). Commissioner Waite stated that we did  
31 have representatives at all of the District 227 School Board Meetings, the High School District.  
32 They are trying to get people to go to the District 162 School Board Meetings as well as some of  
33 the other School Board Meetings. They mailed out a Report Card on Student Achievement in the  
34 various schools. It was sent to all of the residents in Olympia Fields to help them stay ahead of  
35 what is going on. They had a Voters Forum in March. One Forum was for the candidates running  
36 for the District 227 School Board. Another one was for the candidates for Village President and  
37 Board of Trustees. They gave out 11 Mini Grants this year. The Commission is excited about  
38 that. The Commission is still collecting information on the results. That information will be on  
39 the website as soon as possible. The College and Career Symposium did take place. It was very  
40 well-received. The Commission continued to do what it could do to support the Southland  
41 Charter School. There is information on the Symposium in the report. Commissioner Waite  
42 thanked the Recording Secretary, Faith Stine, for the summary of the meeting minutes for the  
43 year.

44  
45 Administrator Mekarski stated that one of the most significant things that the Educational  
46 Commission has accomplished is changing state-wide educational policy. The biggest abuse of  
47 this loophole was right here in Rich Township. The high schools were redefining what it means

1 to be a junior, and by doing so, were preventing third year students in high schools from going  
2 through the standardized ACT/PSAE Tests. He stated that by denying them entry to take those  
3 comprehensive exams, high schools could skewer the report card, the performance of those high  
4 schools somewhat dramatically. It was the complaints, issues and deliberations from the  
5 Educational Commission that was made directly to a representative of the State Board of  
6 Education who was invited to an Educational Commission Meeting that began a state-wide  
7 investigation of that practice. It ultimately changed a formal rule now requiring all high schools  
8 throughout the state to insure that every third year student, even though they are missing a gym  
9 credit, or possibly had flunked out on a science credit, are required to take the PSAE Word Keys  
10 and the ACT Exam so that all high schools can be evaluated on an equivalent basis.

11  
12 Commissioner Waite stated that it wasn't just District 227 doing this. They were late coming to  
13 the party on that. Most of the Districts were doing that. She stated that what they tended to do by  
14 redefining, they tended to knock out some of the lower students so their totals came up higher.  
15 Commissioner Waite stated that this started out in Texas.

16  
17 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Educational Commission has had an impact not only in  
18 our School System and the seven Districts that they provide oversight, but it changed State  
19 Education Policy for the betterment of all of our citizens, for openness, transparency, and  
20 ultimately facilitating a higher level of democracy.

21  
22 Trustee Byrd stated that his concern is that most of the Mini Grants went to one School District.  
23 He stated that nine of the Mini Grants went to School District 162. Trustee Byrd inquired  
24 whether or not there are any plans for the Educational Commission to work towards making sure  
25 that the other School Districts are benefiting from these Mini Grants.

26  
27 Commissioner Waite stated that there was more diversity this year than there was last year.  
28 There is one High School District that got one, District 206. She stated that we keep hoping that  
29 as the word gets around that you do get money to do your really good ideas, that we will get  
30 more applications from other Districts.

31  
32 Trustee Waite stated that some of the projects that they selected to get the Grants were pretty  
33 extraordinary. He was pretty impressed.

34  
35 Commissioner Waite stated that they had very strict guidelines for awarding them. They had to  
36 comply with the particular core curriculum. They had to affect a sizeable number of students.

37  
38 Trustee Gibson stated that it isn't left up to the Educational Commission to decide who applies.  
39 It is left up to the schools to apply. She stated that if they do not wish to apply, we may not have  
40 a cross section.

41  
42 Commissioner Waite stated that is true. It is open to everybody. We send the information to the  
43 administrations and not all of the administrations manage to get it down to the individual  
44 teachers.

45  
46 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she was at the College and Career Symposium. She  
47 provided one of the introductions. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she thought it was

1 so successful for a first time out. There were public and parochial schools involved. She stated  
2 that it had gotten to the point where the parents now are buying in to the process and buying in to  
3 the projects. They were upset if their children's school did not participate, and they wanted to  
4 know why their kids were not there. She stated that to her that is a true sign that you have  
5 accomplished a great deal in terms of interest in getting people to participate. Village President  
6 Meyers-Martin stated that she commends the Educational Commission for their work on that and  
7 their partnering with SMHEC, (South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium). She stated  
8 that with the partnership of the Educational Commission and SMHEC it was truly successful.

9  
10 Commissioner Waite stated that with a lot of these things we keep hoping that the word will get  
11 around and that things will get even better.

12  
13 Trustee Oliver thanked Commissioner Waite and the other members of the Educational  
14 Commission who have been a part of the Commission since its inception in 2006 to keep  
15 education going. He stated that it is not always an easy task but we keep moving. Trustee Oliver  
16 stated that St. Lawrence O'Toole chose not to participate in the College and Career Symposium  
17 this year. He is very clear that they are going to participate next year. Trustee Oliver stated that  
18 on the meager Budget that we have, we make the most out of it. Trustee Oliver thanked Village  
19 President Meyers-Martin and the Trustees for the Budget that they provided to the Educational  
20 Commission.

21  
22 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not there were members of the Educational Commission that  
23 attended all of the School Board Meetings at District 227 in the past year. Commissioner Waite  
24 stated yes. Trustee Waite stated that there was not one School Board Meeting where we didn't  
25 have at least one Educational Commission person present for District 227. Trustee Oliver stated  
26 yes. He stated that we are trying to get to the District 162 School Board Meetings as well.

27  
28 Trustee Waite stated that is pretty impressive. He stated that for those of you who have never sat  
29 through a whole School Board Meeting, it is quite extraordinary to find that we have people that  
30 have attended every single one.

31  
32 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

33  
34 **Paving around the Village** – Trustee Waite stated that the resurfacing that has been going on in  
35 the Village is 75% complete. He stated that by the end of this week, depending upon the weather,  
36 it should all be done. He reported that all of the concrete work was completed at the last Board  
37 Meeting. He stated that we are pretty much ahead or on schedule.

38  
39 **Update on the Tree Stump Removal along 207<sup>th</sup> Street** – Trustee Waite stated that the tree  
40 stumps from the tree removal along 207<sup>th</sup> Street have all been removed. He stated that it is  
41 looking pretty good, but it kind of looks naked going down that street because you had so many  
42 trees before and now you have a lot less. Trustee Waite stated that so far there is no plan from  
43 the Beautification Committee to plant anymore trees that Joe Alexa knows about. Trustee Waite  
44 thought that the Beautification Committee had a Budget for that.

45  
46 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that they certainly had a Budget, but it didn't take into  
47 consideration all of those trees that had to be removed and how stark that would look. She stated

1 on many occasions we have talked about the need to focus more on replenishing the trees. She  
2 stated that as money allows, we will be looking at that.

3  
4 **Information Only: IDOT Intersection Improvement of U.S. 30 at Western Avenue in the**  
5 **Village of Olympia Fields and City of Chicago Heights** – Trustee Waite passed out copies of  
6 emails from today to the Board. Trustee Waite stated that his next item is for information only  
7 and it has to do with the intersection at Western Avenue and Lincoln Highway or U.S. 30. They  
8 got some information from IDOT about what they are proposing to do at that intersection. They  
9 want to have crosswalks at Western and U.S. 30. They want to remove the small islands. Trustee  
10 Waite doesn't know whether or not there have been any injuries of pedestrians there.

11  
12 Administrator Mekarski stated that it is his understanding from Mr. Alexa, the Director of Public  
13 Works that one of the reasons why IDOT is prioritizing the project is due to a major accident and  
14 injury that involved a pedestrian. Administrator Mekarski doesn't know the extent of the injuries  
15 or if it was a fatality. They want to go forward with this to prevent future tragedy and reduce  
16 liability.

17  
18 Trustee Waite stated that he agrees that should be done except there are some other issues with  
19 that intersection. He stated that we believe that there is a Class "A" Retailer coming there. There  
20 are current businesses operating at that intersection. He stated that tearing up that intersection  
21 even a little bit would be detrimental to the retailers that are there. Trustee Waite stated that in  
22 his opinion, the right-turn lanes, the left-turn lanes, and the center lanes, there is not enough  
23 space to inventory enough cars. They stick out into the wrong lanes. The plan that they have is  
24 not finalized. Trustee Waite recommended that the Village give this to the Village's Engineers.  
25 He stated that when you are going west on U.S. 30, when you come to the first entrance for Food  
26 4 Less, that right-turn lane starts way before that entrance. He stated that is fine. He stated that  
27 on the southbound side of Western Avenue, if you have two or three cars there, you block  
28 anybody from going anywhere and it tends to back up way down the street. Trustee Waite stated  
29 that somebody needs to look at this a little more carefully before we start breaking things up  
30 there especially for the Family Dollar Store. He received feedback that the Family Dollar Store is  
31 very happy with the way that things are going. They are way ahead of Budget and sales are  
32 significantly more than what they had expected at this point in time. He stated that we need to  
33 look at that more carefully before they come in and start making a mess out of that intersection.

34  
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the Memo it talks about cost participation on the  
36 part of the Village. Trustee Waite stated that he forgot about that and that is a good point. Village  
37 President Meyers-Martin stated that we have not received any breakdown on what that cost  
38 participation will be. She stated that will certainly be another element that we will have to take  
39 into consideration.

40  
41 Administrator Mekarski stated that Mr. Alexa believes that might be the cost associated with the  
42 detection system at the signal which allows fire and EMS Vehicles to pass through the  
43 intersection. Trustee Waite stated that is the red light control for the emergency vehicles. They  
44 can press a button and it makes the lights all green for the emergency vehicles. Administrator  
45 Mekarski stated that we placed a call right before the holiday to Dan Wilgreen, the Design Squad  
46 Engineer to get his confirmation of what the costs are.

1 Trustee Waite recommended that Jeff Koza from the Engineering Firm draft a final Memo with  
2 the Village President's approval to the person who sent the letter to the Village from IDOT. He  
3 believes that in general it is pretty positive. They want to do something and the Village wants to  
4 do something. He stated that you don't want to be doing construction and then coming back and  
5 tearing it up and doing it over again every time a major retailer comes into that area.  
6

7 Administrator Mekarski stated that if any Trustees have any additional comments, they should  
8 submit them to his office and he will be sure to forward those comments to the engineering firm.  
9

10 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

11  
12 There was no report in Trustee Nale's absence.  
13

14 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

15  
16 **Information Only: Recognition from Park Forest Police Department** – Trustee Gibson stated  
17 that she has several items for information only. Trustee Gibson stated that the Olympia Fields  
18 Police Department was notified by the Park Forest Police Department that Olympia Fields  
19 Officer Scott Metzger and his K-9 partner Lars were nominated for a Service Award by  
20 Commander Sheets of the Park Forest Police Department.  
21

22 Trustee Gibson stated that on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at about 11:30 P.M., Officer Metzger and Lars  
23 responded to a request for assistance from Park Forest in tracking a robbery offender. Officer  
24 Metzger and Lars tracked the offender in excess of four blocks, finally locating the offender  
25 attempting to hide in the shadows between two houses in the 500 block of Lakewood.  
26

27 Officer Metzger, Lars, and Park Forest Officer Wolski were able to apprehend the offender  
28 without further incident. A search of the offender revealed the robbery victim's keys were in the  
29 offender's pocket.  
30

31 Because of the actions of Officer Metzger and K-9 Lars, the offender was tracked, located,  
32 apprehended and subsequently charged with multiple felonies. The award recommendation letter  
33 was sent to the police department commending Officer Metzger and Lars for their very good  
34 work.  
35

36 **Information Only: Thank you Letter from Respond Now** – Trustee Gibson stated that the  
37 Olympia Fields Police Department received a very nice letter from Respond Now. She stated that  
38 Respond Now is the organization who had the 5K Run/Walk. The police department received a  
39 very nice card from Respond Now indicating what a successful Run/Walk it was. They stated  
40 how much they appreciated our help and assistance especially of some of the police officers.  
41 They stated without their help they would not have been able to successfully finish that project.  
42

43 **Information Only: Women's Self-Defense Class Report** - Trustee Gibson stated that the  
44 Olympia Fields Police Department is proud to announce the first ever "Women's Self-Defense  
45 Class." She stated that participants in the class ranged in age from their late teens to senior  
46 citizens.  
47



1 Trustee Gibson stated that we must thank Corporal Don Dean, Patrol Officer Gabe Alvarado and  
2 Training Officer Bernie Hogancamp. The participants gave an enthusiastic thumbs up to the  
3 content of the class. Based on the evaluations provided by the participants and the willingness of  
4 the instructors to safeguard and educate our residents, an expanded version of this class will be  
5 offered sometime in the fall of 2013.

6  
7 **Olympia Fields Police Department Awarded a STEP Grant** – Trustee Gibson stated that this  
8 item is not on the Agenda. It was received too late. Trustee Gibson stated that the Olympia Fields  
9 Police Department has been awarded a STEP Grant for Fiscal Year 2014 which runs from  
10 October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The amount is not to exceed \$17,710.00. The  
11 project has been assigned a number. Trustee Gibson congratulated Chief Krull and all of the  
12 police officers. She stated that we are very proud of them.

13  
14 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Trustee Gibson whether or not Officer Lars is back  
15 on duty. It came to her attention that he had surgery on his tail. Trustee Gibson stated that she  
16 believes that he is back on duty.

17  
18 Chief Krull stated that K-9 Lars is in full service. He is back. His tail is three inches shorter but  
19 he is wagging his tail. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is glad to hear that.

20  
21 Trustee Oliver inquired what the acronym for STEP stands for and what it is going to provide for  
22 the police.

23  
24 Chief Krull stated that it is a Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program Grant through IDOT. He  
25 stated that it is the same Grant that we have been fortunate enough to have the last couple of  
26 years. It gives us the opportunity to put our officers out on patrol doing traffic enforcement on all  
27 of the roadways throughout the Village. The officers like it because of the overtime and because  
28 they are able to get out there and try to enforce the Traffic Safety Laws and keep everybody  
29 driving safely.

30  
31 Trustee Gibson stated that if you saw the roadblocks prior to the Fourth of July that was part of  
32 the STEP Program.

33  
34 Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull what the outcome was of all of the roadblocks. Chief Krull  
35 stated that we worked from 8 P.M. until four in the morning. We had six DUI Arrests. There  
36 were about 12 tows, and a couple suspended, and one warrant arrest. There was a wide variety of  
37 driving without seatbelts and other smaller violations.

38  
39 Trustee Waite suggested having our own Training Classes for people in the Village that would  
40 like to obtain a Concealed Carry License. Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull whether or not  
41 the officers would be able to do that.

42  
43 Chief Krull stated that the State of Illinois has not told them how many hours that class would  
44 entail. Chief Krull believes that it would be 16-hours. Chief Krull has spoken with retired Chief  
45 Chudwin. He stated that retired Chief Chudwin would be a great instructor for that. Retired Chief  
46 Chudwin indicated that he would be very happy to come out and do something like that. Trustee

1 Waite stated that we could charge something for residents and non-residents if they want to  
2 attend this kind of class.

3  
4 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

5  
6 **Ordinance #2013-13 – An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 14, Sec. 14-81,**  
7 **“Immobilization/Towing and Impoundment,” of the Village of Olympia Fields Village**  
8 **Code (First and Second Reading) –** Administrator Mekarski stated that Ordinance #2013-13 is  
9 an Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Chapter 14, Sec. 14-81, of Immobilization/Towing  
10 and Impoundment, of the Village of Olympia Fields Village Code. He stated that at the last few  
11 Board Meetings we have been bringing a number of Ordinances to the Board in order to update  
12 our Municipal Code to allow the administration to work a Notice and a Towing and Impound  
13 Program for those violators of the vehicular traffic laws and parking laws which are unpaid. The  
14 liability on the books is in the neighborhood of \$1,600,000.00. That is an array of individuals  
15 from multiple Municipalities and multiple jurisdictions across the United States.

16  
17 Trustee Waite stated that it is not really a liability on the books. It is an asset. It is a receivable.

18  
19 Administrator Mekarski stated that it is an uncollected receivable. He thanked Trustee Waite for  
20 the clarification. Administrator Mekarski stated that the Board has supported the previous  
21 Ordinances which would allow our police department to provide Notice indicating that with two  
22 unpaid tickets you could be subject to towing, or impounding, or immobilizing your car. It is the  
23 hope of the police department that the majority of the individuals that would receive this Notice  
24 would actually come into compliance with just the letter. The real threat that would be out there  
25 could include the immobilization of the car with a boot, or the towing and impoundment of the  
26 car until those fines are paid.

27  
28 Administrator Mekarski stated that with the initiation of the program you won't receive the  
29 whole \$1,600,000.00. They believe that there is a good possibility that the Village should receive  
30 somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150,000.00 to \$250,000.00 of uncollected fines which can  
31 go a long way towards the General Fund or contributing to the next phase of our Road Program.  
32 The Ordinance is a comprehensive review of our due process procedures. It provides to our  
33 citizens the determination of liability; a time period from the date of issuance of the Village's  
34 Notice of Violation; a pre-immobilization/towing and impoundment Notice Procedure; and an  
35 Administrative Hearing Procedure. The Ordinance was prepared by Judy Kolman. It was  
36 reviewed by the Administrative Team and by the police department.

37 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Oliver to waive First Reading and adopt in**  
38 **Second Reading Ordinance No. 2013-13: An Ordinance amending various sections of**  
39 **Chapter 14, Sec. 14-81, “Immobilization/towing and impoundment, of the Village of**  
40 **Olympia Fields Village Code.**

41  
42 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski how fast we can implement this.  
43 Administrator Mekarski stated right away.

44  
45 Chief Krull stated that you have already got the structure in place. The Ordinance gives them  
46 legal Notification for the pre-towing notice and the post towing notice. Chief Krull stated that he  
47 has to give Les Delya his due respect. He has been doing quite a bit of work on this project. He

1 researched it thoroughly. Chief Krull stated that Commander Delya is very detail oriented. He  
2 believes that they can get this started no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>.

3 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**

4  
5 **REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

6  
7 **Village of Olympia Fields –HSIP Application – Vollmer Road Underpass of CN Railroad**  
8 **Update** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Report of the Village President refers  
9 to the HSIP Application for the Vollmer Road underpass of the CN Railroad update. Village  
10 President Meyers-Martin stated that about three-weeks ago we had a meeting with Cook County  
11 regarding the viaduct at Vollmer Road. She stated that there have been several catastrophic  
12 crashes at that site which impedes traffic on that road for hours, sometimes seven or eight-hours  
13 where we have to divert traffic from that location. They thought that it was important to have a  
14 meeting with Cook County because it is their road. They wanted to figure out what the Village  
15 could do to resolve that issue, both short-term as well as long-term.

16  
17 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is very pleased to say that Chief Krull led and  
18 spearheaded the collection of data regarding the number of incidents at that viaduct. There were  
19 a total of 44 crashes and 245 near crashes, for a total of 289 incidents over the past three-years at  
20 that viaduct. She stated that is totally unacceptable. She stated why something has not been done  
21 about that previously is anybody's guess. She stated that it is a Cook County Road and  
22 sometimes getting them to cooperate with Municipalities is not always the easiest thing to do.  
23 The engineers that were present at the meeting seem to understand the seriousness of this issue  
24 and that there needs to be something done both short-term as well as long-term to resolve that  
25 issue.

26  
27 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the short-term they have put up additional signage  
28 along that roadway. They have cut back trees and shrubbery that obstructed the site lines of those  
29 signs. They have been in discussion with the Village regarding an Early Warning Detection  
30 System. There is a Chain Sweep where the trucks would go under this device and chains would  
31 hit the top of their truck letting them know that they are not going to clear that bridge. That  
32 would have to be done well in advance of Kedzie Avenue. By that time it is very difficult for  
33 them to turn around to avoid a traffic back up. Truck traffic is not allowed on Kedzie Avenue.  
34 One of the suggestions from the County was to forbid trucks on Vollmer Road. She stated that  
35 on the face of it, it sounds like a viable solution. There will be trucks that won't pay attention and  
36 will come down Vollmer Road because there are trucks that go down Kedzie and it is not a truck  
37 route. The Village is looking at working with the County to come up with the best possible  
38 short-term solution.

39  
40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the long-term, that is going to require in Cook  
41 County's estimation a \$23,000,000.00 project to totally rebuild that bridge with a pedestrian  
42 access. That will not happen quickly but they are looking at it. Village President Meyers-Martin  
43 stated that we have put in an HSIP Application which would allow for the Village to take  
44 advantage of the Federal Funding to do some of those short-term projects, as well as looking  
45 realistically at the long-term project of restructuring that entire bridge.

46

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the question that has come up over and over again is  
2 with the number of hits that bridge has taken, is the integrity of that bridge still in place. She  
3 stated that CN, Metra, as well as Cook County have told the Village that the integrity of the  
4 bridge is still good. She stated that with 289 incidents at that location it is something that has to  
5 be addressed. She isn't sure that the signage will work because there is already signage there.  
6 They have learned that when the truckers get off at I-57 and Vollmer, they are following their  
7 GPS. The GPS is a regular car GPS. It is not telling them the clearance on that bridge. They are  
8 just driving and not looking at any signage or paying attention to anything.

9  
10 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are excited that Cook County is enthusiastic  
11 about working with the Village. The Flossmoor Village Manager and the Flossmoor Police Chief  
12 also attended that meeting because we share the viaduct with Flossmoor on the east side and the  
13 west side of that bridge. She stated that we will keep you posted as we move forward with this  
14 process. The Village has submitted the application to get additional dollars so that the Village  
15 can do some of the short-term suggestions and recommendations that will cut down on those  
16 incidents and look to the future for the long-term. She stated that it was a step in the right  
17 direction to have Cook County out and to have them admit that there is an issue and a serious  
18 problem that we do need to address.

19  
20 **Voicemail Received from a Resident in The Traditions** – Village President Meyers-Martin  
21 stated that the Village received a voicemail from a resident in The Traditions. It relates to Chief  
22 Krull who has been onboard with the Village since January of 2013. Administrator Mekarski  
23 provided a copy of a transcript of the voicemail to the Trustees. Village President Meyers-Martin  
24 stated that she wanted to read it because the Village feels that Chief Krull is doing an excellent  
25 job. Many of the residents have come to us and said that they feel that they are more secure, and  
26 that they are very happy with the work of our Public Safety Department.

27  
28 öYes, this is a message for either Debbie or David. I'm a resident of Olympia Fields and I know  
29 you probably get a volume of complaints about things, so I thought I would give a compliment.  
30 I've got 24 years of law enforcement experience. I know a little bit about what I'm talking about,  
31 and I would want to really compliment the marked improvement in the police department under  
32 the new Chief. I don't know the Chief. I never met him. But just observing him around the  
33 Village and little things that I could see of improvements on the department since him taking  
34 over, it is a very obvious and marked improvement in the police department. And I think that the  
35 Chief should be given an accolade for that. I see him on the street. I know he's very active in  
36 hands-on it looks like and he is to be commended for that. If there are any other questions, my  
37 name is Darryl Miller. My number is 312-316-3906. I think I met the Village President on a  
38 couple of occasions. David, I think, would be more familiar with me and my family. We live in  
39 The Traditions. But like I say, just in the short period of time that I've seen a really great  
40 improvement in the department and there seems to be an improvement in morale in the  
41 department under the new Chief, and I think he should be commended for that. Thank you very  
42 much. Have a good day.ö (There was a round of applause). Village President Meyers-Martin  
43 stated that she would agree with this. She thanked Mr. Miller for his comments.

44  
45  
46  
47

1 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

2  
3 **Emerald Ash Borer Trees** – Trustee Oliver stated that he mentioned this to Mr. McDonnell the  
4 Building Commissioner. He stated that he is hearing all kinds of news about what the  
5 landscapers are charging residents to take down the Ash Trees that are infected with the Emerald  
6 Ash Borer. He isn't sure what the Village is doing in terms of the Permits. The Tree Ordinance  
7 requires that we call the Village. The Village sends the Arborist or someone to come out and say  
8 that the tree can be taken down. Trustee Oliver's neighbor spent \$1,000.00 to have one of his  
9 trees taken down. He was curious whether or not we are tracking what the residents are spending  
10 on the cost of taking their trees down and what the price range is.

11  
12 Trustee Oliver stated that Tinley Park has been trying to get a handle on this. Tinley Park has  
13 been sending out a number of surveys to try to track what the Villages are doing. They have not  
14 collected a lot of data to-date. He stated that we might want to provide them with what our cost  
15 has been and how many trees we have taken down. Trustee Oliver stated that if you take a look  
16 at the survey you will see what some of the other surrounding towns are spending for the cost of  
17 the trees. He stated that at Budget time we have to take a serious look at a long-term plan for our  
18 tree removal. One of the questions raised tonight is what are we doing in terms of replacing these  
19 trees, and the cost of those trees that we might replace them with. Trustee Oliver will give the  
20 survey to Trustee Waite as the Liaison to Public Works.

21  
22 Trustee Waite stated that the Ash Trees along Western Avenue by Sergeant Means Park, there  
23 might be one or two that could be saved. He stated that they were planted too close together.  
24 There are hundreds of Ash Trees in the Village. Some of them can be treated.

25  
26 Trustee Oliver stated that he wanted to bring up the cost associated with the removal of the trees,  
27 the residents versus the Village, versus what the region is paying. He would like the Village to  
28 have a discussion with the Park District. He stated that if our Arborist is charging one price and  
29 their Arborist is charging a different price, is it comparable or is there a cost savings for the  
30 residents if we were to use the same service to reduce the cost because of the number of trees  
31 they might take down for us. The Park District has a number of trees. The Village has a number  
32 of trees. The schools and the synagogue have some trees that need to be cut down. Trustee Oliver  
33 inquired whether or not there is a way that we might partner to do that.

34  
35 Trustee Waite stated that his neighbor has a tree that should be taken down. He inquired of the  
36 one tree service how much they would cost to remove the tree. He was told \$800.00. Trustee  
37 Waite inquired of the Village's Arborist how much he would charge to remove the tree and he  
38 stated \$500.00. He would take it down all the way and grind up the stump. The tree has 90% of  
39 its canopy and it is not too late to treat it if they start now.

40  
41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we did have a preliminary meeting with the  
42 Beautification Committee and the Arborist. At the end of the meeting there still was not a  
43 clear-cut direction in terms of this resolution or that resolution. There is an ongoing argument  
44 about treatment versus cutting it down.

45  
46 Trustee Waite stated that there is not an argument. You can treat them and save them, or you can  
47 not treat them and cut them down. Those are your choices. If you wait too long and it is too late

1 to save them, then you have to cut them down. He had sent out an email from the University of  
2 Wisconsin Extension Service on how you can protect your own Ash Trees. He stated that if the  
3 canopies on the trees are 80%, 90% complete you can treat the trees.

4  
5 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that at the end of that meeting there wasn't a clear-cut  
6 direction established for this Village in terms of a policy. She stated that we can look at the  
7 surrounding communities to see what they are doing for this particular situation. She is not clear  
8 on the difference in the cost between what the landscaper is charging and what the Arborist is  
9 charging. In light of the information that was gathered, she believes that we can pull together  
10 some numbers so that we can possibly provide residents with a clear choice or at least some  
11 options.

12  
13 Trustee Waite stated that he brought in an article that was in the Chicago Tribune. It was quite  
14 detailed and he passed it out to all of the Trustees. It outlined what the City of Chicago was  
15 paying and how many trees they were going to remove, and how many they were going to treat  
16 and what that was going to cost. He stated that the information is there. He can resurrect the  
17 article and pass it out again.

18  
19 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that there was no clear-cut direction after that meeting in  
20 light of the information that was provided to the Committee.

21  
22 Trustee Waite stated that it was fairly clear what the Arborist was saying. Village President  
23 Meyers-Martin stated that it was not clear what the Committee wanted to do. Trustee Gibson  
24 stated that she was on that Committee. They have differences of opinion. Some people believed  
25 that treating the trees would make them last longer. Some Arborists believe that is not workable  
26 and it is not something that they can bank on. They had discussions from several Arborists.  
27 Trustee Gibson stated that we have not made a definite decision yet. She believes that the same  
28 thing happens with the residents. The residents may not want to spend the money to treat a tree.  
29 They would rather have it cut down. Trustee Gibson stated that she and former Trustee Ormsby  
30 had discussed that there are a lot of those trees that are affected that may not need to be replaced.  
31 There is an overgrowth of trees in the Village. She stated that in some places because of the  
32 overgrowth of trees around it, it is not necessary to replace all of the trees. It is necessary to  
33 either treat or cut them down. When they are completely dead there is no other choice but to cut  
34 them down. Trustee Gibson believes that Trustee Oliver is saying that it would be nice if we had  
35 a source where we could get the best price whether it is the Village or the residents. There are  
36 some people that believe that treating the tree will help it. On the other hand, there are some  
37 people that don't want to do that. The tree may last another year but they may have to eventually  
38 cut the tree down anyway so they just go ahead and cut it down. It is a matter of what you feel,  
39 your opinion, and your choice.

40  
41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will give you that information once we can  
42 gather it in terms of who has been doing that work here in the Village.

43  
44 **NEW BUSINESS:**

45  
46 **Suggestion to Send an Email if Village Offices Close Early** - Trustee Gibson stated that she  
47 had a concern and she is not complaining. Trustee Gibson stated that on Friday she had a need to

1 get in touch with somebody at Village Hall or the police station and everybody was gone. She  
2 believes that it would be very valuable that if the office is going to close early that a notice  
3 should be sent out to the Trustees and to the other people that may need to know that. Trustee  
4 Gibson stated that she has no problem with giving the employees a little extra time off. She  
5 stated that we are elected as people who serve the public. She stated that if there had been a real  
6 emergency on Friday, or any other day what would they have done. The first thing we would say  
7 is call 911. She suggested sending out an email to inform people that the office is closed now and  
8 there is no need to come here, and letting the Trustees know that no one will be in the office.

9  
10 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she sees Trustee Gibson's point. She knows that it  
11 was posted on the website. She inquired whether or not Gladys sends an email to let people  
12 know. Trustee Gibson stated that Gladys sent an email to the staff. It was not sent out to the  
13 Trustees.

14  
15 Administrator Mekarski stated that he spoke to Trustee Gibson about it. He will make sure the  
16 administration closes the gap on that. He stated that we will leave a phone message for our  
17 residents letting them know that the office is closed in observance of whatever the holiday is.  
18 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that sounds workable.

19  
20 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS: (CONTINUED)**

21  
22 **Appointment of Delores Woods to the Educational Commission** - Village President Meyers-  
23 Martin stated that we have already appointed Trustee Arthur Byrd as the Finance Liaison to the  
24 Finance Committee. The Agenda does mention the appointment of Delores Woods to the  
25 Educational Commission. That appointment has been tabled temporarily until we can double-  
26 check some of our information in terms of legally appointing her because she is a member of the  
27 District 227 School Board. She stated that we will come back with a decision on that once we  
28 have been able to clarify that.

29  
30 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

31  
32 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Board was scheduled for an Executive Session.  
33 That has been cancelled for this evening.

34  
35 **ADJOURNMENT:**

36  
37 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Oliver to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.**

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

39 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**