

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**
2 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **Held on September 28, 2015**
4

5 The Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 28th, 2015, at the Linzey
6 D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Debra Meyers-Martin
7 at 7:00 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Director of Finance/Deputy Village
8 Clerk Cynthia Saenz called the roll.
9

10 Present: Trustees – Gibson, Nale, Pennington, Byrd, Hudson, and Waite (Arrived at 7:01 P.M.)
11 Village President Debra Meyers-Martin
12 Director of Finance/Deputy Village Clerk, Cynthia Saenz
13

14 Absent: David Mekarski – Village Administrator/Village Clerk
15

16 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
17

18 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Nale to suspend with the reading of the**
19 **Minutes of September 14th, 2015.**

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

22 **(Trustee Waite arrived at 7:01 P.M.)**
23

24 **Motion by Trustee Hudson, second by Trustee Gibson to approve the Minutes of the**
25 **Special Board Meeting of September 14th, 2015, as presented.**

26 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
27

28 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**
29

30 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that you have before you tonight Bills for Approval in
31 the amount of \$42,347.80. There is a Cover Memo in the Board Packet designating the more
32 significant payouts.

33 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to approve the payment of Bills for**
34 **September 28th, 2015, in the total amount of \$42,347.80.**

35 **Roll Call: Ayes (6-0) Motion Carried.**
36

37 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**
38

39 Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 7:03 P.M. Although
40 members of the public were in the audience, no one wished to address the Board. Village
41 President Meyers-Martin closed Communications & Petitions at 7:04 P.M.
42

43 **FINANCE:**
44

45 **June 2015 Financial Statements** – Trustee Byrd stated that before you is the Report from June
46 which is the second month for this Fiscal Year. The Revenue for June in the General Fund, the
47 Village budgeted \$243,695.00. The actual Revenue was \$270,793.00. The Water Fund and the
48 Sewer Fund did fall short of their Budget for the month. It is due to the fact that we are still

1 getting changes and so forth with the increase on the Water Fund and Sewer Fund Revenue Bills.
2 The Water Fund Budget was \$195,307.00. The actual Revenue was \$142,313.00. The Sewer
3 Fund had a Budget of \$131,206.00. The actual Revenue was \$119,768.00.
4

5 Trustee Byrd stated that on the Expense side the Budget for the General Fund was \$395,089.00.
6 The actual Expenses were \$387,658.00. The Water Fund Budget was \$178,972.00. The actual
7 Expenses were \$187,552.00. The Sewer Fund had budgeted \$234,217.00. The actual Expenses
8 were \$228,738.00. The Expenses are pretty much in line with what we budgeted for. He stated
9 that there might be a little variance in the difference in the actual and the Budget there.
10

11 Trustee Byrd stated that in the “Current Month Surplus/Deficit” for the month of June in the
12 General Fund the Village had budgeted at this time to have a \$151,395.00 deficit. Our deficit is
13 actually \$116,866.00. We are in the positive in that column. In the Water Fund the Village
14 budgeted a surplus of \$16,336.00. We actually had a deficit of \$45,240.00. In the Sewer Fund we
15 had budgeted to have a deficit in the amount of \$103,011.00. The actual deficit was \$108,970.00.
16

17 Trustee Byrd stated that in the “Year to Date Surplus/Deficit” in the General Fund the Village
18 budgeted for a deficit of \$609,890.00. The actual deficit was \$629,791.00. The Budget for the
19 Water Fund was \$46,209.00. We had a negative \$47,353.00. In the Sewer Fund the Village
20 budgeted for a \$36,132.00 deficit. The actual deficit was \$57,235.00. He stated that most of this
21 is due to the fact of the difference in the water bill collections coming in and our Real Estate
22 Taxes being received. You can’t tell exactly what is going to be going on here until the first
23 quarter is over. Trustee Byrd stated that he feels pretty good about what is going on so far.
24

25 **Audit Update** – Trustee Byrd stated that the Audit is completed. The Finance Committee will
26 meet with the Auditor on October 21st at 7:00 P.M. at the Village Hall to discuss the Audit
27 information.
28

29 **Seaway National Bank** – Trustee Byrd stated that there was a previous question about the
30 Seaway National Bank Account. That account is open due to the fact that all of our Bonds are
31 run through that account. It is open for that one purpose only. That is why there is such a low
32 amount. It does change due to the fact the Bonds are due for payment through that account.
33

34 **Meeting with all of the Presidents of the Homeowners Associations** – Village President
35 Meyers-Martin stated that a week ago today we had a meeting with all of the Presidents of the
36 Homeowners Associations where part of that presentation was financial. Village President
37 Meyers-Martin thanked Trustee Byrd and the Finance Committee for their contributions, and our
38 Director of Finance, Cindy Saenz, and all of the Department Heads that were here. She stated
39 that when Trustee Byrd gives information from the Finance Committee about our finances, it is
40 snippets month by month. She thought that the presentation last week gave a much better in-
41 depth review of how the Budget works here, and how we approach the Budget, and how we
42 come up with a Budget, and what affects the Budget. She thought that it was very informative.
43

44 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that if you were not able to attend the meeting last week,
45 she hopes that everyone will attend the Financial Town Hall Meeting when we have it, because
46 we will be including that information. We made it clear that those slides and those graphs were
47 available through the Village if somebody wanted it. She thanked Trustee Byrd, Cindy Saenz,
48 and the Department Heads for that information.

1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Nale to approve the June 2015 Financial**
2 **Statement Report.**

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

4
5 **BUILDING:**

6
7 **Enhancement Organization – “Getting to Know You”** - Trustee Hudson stated that she did
8 not have a Formal Report this evening. Trustee Hudson wanted to remind everyone that on
9 October 17th the Enhancement Organization is having a “Getting to Know You” gathering at the
10 Barn at Sergeant Means Park. It is from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. There will be food and fun.
11 There will be dancing. You will be able to find out what the Enhancement Organization is doing
12 and what they are planning to do. If you plan to join the Enhancement Organization you can
13 sign-up for it that evening. She looks forward to seeing everyone there.

14
15 **PLANNING:**

16
17 **Variance Request for 666 Birch Lane – Chapter 22, Article VI, Section 22-365 (5) a,**
18 **(Fences Having a Height of Five (5) Feet or Less May Be Used to Locate Property Lines**
19 **Within the Required Side or Rear Yards in Residential Districts)** – Trustee Pennington
20 stated that in your Board Packet is a Variance Request for the residence at 666 Birch Lane. This
21 comes under Chapter 22, Article VI, Section 22-365 (5) a, (Fences having a Height of Five (5)
22 Feet or less may be used to locate property lines within the required side or rear yards in
23 Residential Districts). This request comes before the Village Board because it exceeds the
24 authority of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

25
26 Mr. McDonnell stated that this is a Variance Request. This is one that you are familiar with
27 because we have had a few before the Board in the past. The resident, Elise Virginia Ward, had a
28 personal appointment this evening and she put together a nice letter for everybody. Her request is
29 to have a six-foot fence instead of a five-foot fence. Most of her variance requirements are
30 safety, security, and privacy for her home. She lives on a corner lot. It is the former home of Mel
31 Schneider.

32
33 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not he was not
34 recommending it because of the precedent.

35
36 Mr. McDonnell stated that he is not recommending it only because our Ordinance says that we
37 cannot have a six-foot fence. His recommendation is to uphold the Ordinances that we already
38 have in place, and put it in the hands of the Board and the Village President to make that
39 determination whether it warrants a variance or not. The Board in the past has approved some
40 others. He believes that it is time that we change the Ordinance a little bit so that these do not
41 come before the Board any longer, or have them diverted to the Planning and Zoning
42 Commission.

43
44 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we have had that conversation about changing it to
45 six-feet.

46
47 Trustee Gibson stated that we worked long and hard for years. She knows that it was two-years
48 to get the new Ordinance in place. We looked at all of the different things that might come up. If

1 we change our Ordinance every time something comes up like this, what was the need for us to
2 spend all that time, get the lawyers to go through it, and be sure that we are within the bounds of
3 State Law and State Rules to change it every time someone comes in. We have it already that if
4 you live on a busy street then you could have a six-foot fence. How many times are we going to
5 have to change the complete Ordinance that we spent a lot of time on, a lot of money on, to have
6 just anybody who wants what they want to change the Ordinance?
7

8 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she believes that the discussion came up because of
9 the number of variances that we are approached with. She believes that spurred the conversation.
10

11 Trustee Pennington stated that is correct. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Board
12 is well within its rights to not accept that as a good reason and to certainly deny the variance
13 request. We started talking about it because we received so many requests for taller fences.
14

15 Trustee Pennington stated that we have already established a precedent because we have granted
16 six-foot fences in the Village. By that measure alone, we have an issue glaring a little coming
17 here to suggest that if you did it in the past what is wrong with this particular variance. Trustee
18 Pennington inquired what the current variance says, "Is it six-foot or five-foot." We never came
19 to a definitive answer as to what that height requirement is. Trustee Hudson stated that it is five-
20 feet. Trustee Pennington stated that we have given six-foot variance requests. There was one in
21 Graymoor that we discussed about four-years ago that we gave a variance to. We already have
22 the precedent here. He stated let's grant the variance because we have a precedent already in
23 place.
24

25 Trustee Byrd inquired of Mr. McDonnell how many requests we get for a variance from five-feet
26 to six-feet. Mr. McDonnell stated that he gets many calls about putting in six-foot fences. A lot
27 of things that deter them from getting the variance are we have a \$100.00 fee on every variance
28 that comes through the Village. That is because the Village wants to deter people from trying to
29 get a variance. After you give a few variances of the same type, now you have set precedence
30 that you can't really go backwards.
31

32 Trustee Byrd inquired of Mr. McDonnell how many variances have we rejected. Mr. McDonnell
33 stated none.
34

35 Trustee Nale inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not it is a cedar fence or a wrought iron
36 fence. Mr. McDonnell stated that it will be a cedar wood, solid privacy fence.
37

38 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not if you request a variance if the Village
39 notifies the neighbors of the variance request. Mr. McDonnell stated that some variances require
40 Public Notice. This variance does not.
41

42 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not if they wanted a variance to put in a
43 six-foot fence would that require anything special. Do we let them try to make a case before the
44 Board for the need for their six-foot fence? Mr. McDonnell stated that is what we are doing here
45 now. Trustee Waite stated that nobody is represented. Mr. McDonnell stated that the owner gave
46 him this letter for the record. He did not want to read it into the record because it has some
47 personal information on there that doesn't need to be public. The letter states the configuration of
48 her house to her neighbor's house. When family or trades people are delivering items they can

1 see all sides of her house because the neighbor's entrances are on the side of her house because
2 she is on a corner lot so she fronts two ways. The actual front of the neighbor's house is on the
3 side of the home where her bedroom is. She always has to keep the blinds closed for fear that
4 somebody maybe looking into the house.

5
6 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not the neighbors have been notified that a
7 request for a variance has been made for that property. Mr. McDonnell stated that there is
8 nothing in place that requires us to notify the neighbors. Mr. Waite stated that he remembers the
9 one in Graymoor because they came in and made an aggressive case for giving them the
10 variance. It looks kind of out of place. As you go along you see greenery and then you see a
11 white, plastic fence. They had brought in the fact that there were no neighbors that opposed it.
12 They all supported what they were doing. He believes it would be at the top of the list to send out
13 a notification to the adjacent property owners to say that there is a variance request for the Board,
14 and if you have any objections come to the Board Meeting and tell us what you don't like.

15
16 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the last person that asked for a variance had written
17 approval from her neighbors that they didn't mind. Trustee Waite stated that she did. Village
18 President Meyers-Martin stated that not everybody does that because it is not required. She did
19 do that. She doesn't believe that this person did.

20
21 Trustee Gibson stated that at one time if you were doing something special to your home that
22 would affect in some way your neighbor, that person would come to the Board and a resident
23 around them and maybe the Homeowners Association would then be present to say either yes it
24 is okay or no we don't agree. She doesn't know where that has gone. That did happen. They had
25 to do that several times in Wysteria when someone wanted something special. It is something
26 that did go on for a while.

27
28 Trustee Hudson stated that some years ago the police department said that they didn't want
29 fences in certain areas of your home, because if they pass by your house someone could be going
30 into your house and they would not be able to see what was going on. They said that we couldn't
31 have fences at all. She is concerned that if you have a six-foot fence instead of a five-foot fence
32 how is it safer. Someone could be dragging her out and Trustee Hudson wouldn't see it because
33 she is not tall enough. She doesn't know if that is a concern for the police department now, but
34 back then that is what they told her. Are we going to have fences at everybody's house?

35
36 Chief Krull stated that you have to weigh the resident's privacy rights versus the act of the police
37 trying to keep them safe. He is not entirely convinced it is going to make any difference whether
38 it is a five-foot or six-foot fence at that point. This particular resident is very cognizant of what
39 she is asking for. He is not opposed to it.

40
41 Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull whether or not he was familiar with the location. Chief
42 Krull stated that he is. He was over at Mr. Schneider's house quite a few times when he got
43 hired.

44
45
46
47

1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Nale to approve the Variance Request**
2 **for 666 Birch Lane – Chapter 22, Article VI, Section 22-365 (5) a, (Fences having a height**
3 **of five (5) feet or less may be used to locate property lines within the required side or rear**
4 **yards in Residential Districts).**

5 **Roll Call: Ayes (3) (Trustee Gibson & Trustee Byrd voted No) (Trustee Hudson abstained)**
6 **Motion Carried.**

7
8 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

9
10 **LED Lights** - Trustee Waite stated that he did not have a Formal Report this evening. Trustee
11 Waite stated that he went back to look at the LED Lights that were installed to see if there was
12 anything that could be gleamed from what little bit of history we have. In 2012 to 2013 he was
13 able to get ComEd Invoices for the Train Station at 203rd Street. There are about 65 light bulbs in
14 that parking area plus or minus. It was \$4,154.00 a year for that one-year period. In 2014 and
15 2015 for the same period the amount of the cost of electricity was \$1,780.00 or 57% less. They
16 had to change 100% of all the incandescent bulbs once a year. That would take a boom truck and
17 two men. It cost about \$90.00 per bulb to do that. If you take \$90.00 times 65 light bulbs, you are
18 looking at another \$6,500.00 that was saved by not having to do that. Trustee Waite believes that
19 with that kind of information the Village should make an effort to change all of the bulbs in the
20 Village to LED Bulbs. Trustee Waite stated that it should be put in various publications what the
21 LED Lights can do for you as far as saving money and reducing the carbon dioxide footprint.

22
23 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

24
25 Trustee Nale stated that she did not have a Formal Report this evening.

26
27 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

28
29 **Special Recognition – Officer Mayer – 805 Exmoor** – Trustee Gibson stated that she has two
30 items this evening. One is for information only and the other item is for discussion only. On July
31 9th, 2015, Officer Riley Mayer responded to a 9-1-1 dispatch from SouthCom of a person having
32 difficulty breathing at 805 Exmoor Road. Officer Mayer arrived at 805 Exmoor and spoke with
33 the responding Chicago Heights Fire Department paramedic crew who advised that they could
34 not get an answer at the door.

35
36 Officer Mayer requested that SouthCom try to make telephone contact with somebody inside the
37 residence. SouthCom relayed the telephone call went straight to voice mail. Because of the
38 severity of the report, and fearing for the safety of the resident, Officer Mayer immediately made
39 the decision to forcibly enter the residence.

40
41 After making entry into the residence, Officer Mayer searched the residence and located the
42 victim, unresponsive and without a pulse on the floor of the master bedroom. He then assisted
43 the Chicago Heights paramedics in providing life saving measures including securing the
44 resident's prescription medications.

45
46 While Chicago Heights was transporting the resident to St. James Hospital, he located the
47 victim's cellular phone and notified the victim's husband. He found out that his wife was being
48 transported to the hospital.

1 The officer then made arrangements to contact a board up service to secure the residence. After
2 the residence was secure, he assisted the husband at the hospital where it was learned that had it
3 not been for Officer Mayer's quick and decisive actions, the resident would not have survived.
4

5 The Chief of Police received a Memorandum from Sergeant Derrick Blasingame on July 15th,
6 2015 detailing the actions of Officer Mayer. It is obvious that his actions undoubtedly saved the
7 life of the resident. Trustee Gibson stated that we would like to be sure that he gets recognition
8 and commendations for the actions during that incident. It is another way to show that our Public
9 Safety Department does care for its residents and we are in good hands.
10

11 **Discussion Only – Policy and Procedures for the Rental of The Olympia Fields Conference**
12 **Center** – Trustee Gibson stated that the next item is concerning The Village of Olympia Fields
13 Community Resource Center, commonly known as the “Old Village Hall.” It has become
14 apparent that the original Resolution for the use of The Olympia Fields Conference Center needs
15 to be changed. Trustee Gibson stated that when this building was built and we moved from the
16 Old Village Hall to this one, we did not see the need of just letting the Old Village Hall just sit
17 there. Former Village President Linzey Jones suggested that the Committees, Commissions, and
18 Homeowners Associations hold their meetings at the Old Village Hall rather than renting a place
19 somewhere else or going to each other's homes to have meetings. The office was fixed so that
20 there would be computers there and copying machines.
21

22 Trustee Gibson stated that now we have run into some problems which are not from the residents
23 usually but from outside. The Village of Olympia Fields Community Resource Center Meeting
24 Room was intended for the regular meetings of Village Official Boards, Commissions and
25 Committees, and the regular, annual, and Special Business Meetings of the 15 Homeowners
26 Associations and their Commissions and Ad Hoc Committees. The incidental use of the facility
27 by Village residents was for community meetings, neighborhood gatherings, wellness activities,
28 charitable activities, and non-profit activities. Former President Jones gave Trustee Gibson,
29 Trustee Ormsby, and Cindy Saenz the opportunity to prepare the Resolution for the Rules and
30 Regulations of that building. The money used for cleaning the building and for other things was
31 taken from the Golf Outing Fund. Since that time the Golf Outing Fund has not been as large as
32 it was at that time. As of now the money is taken from the General Fund. The building is rented
33 out to other organizations for other activities other than what are strictly the Village's
34 Committees, Commissions, and Homeowners Associations.
35

36 Trustee Gibson stated that on a limited and restricted basis the facility can be rented by Village
37 residents for small functions. All rentals up to now have not had a requirement of a Certificate of
38 Insurance. That leaves the Village vulnerable for things that could happen. The Resolution has
39 not been looked at by our Village Attorney so it is not complete. There are certain rules that we
40 prefer rather than the small fee that we were charging, because we need something to take care of
41 the \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 that has to come out of the General Fund in order to take care of
42 the building.
43

44 Trustee Gibson stated that we have decided that all rentals shall require a Certificate of Insurance
45 providing for event insurance protecting and indemnifying the Village in form satisfactory to the
46 Village. The rental fee for residents shall be \$20.00 per hour, and \$100.00 for the whole day
47 which would be five-hours or more. A cleaning fee of \$35.00 shall be deposited on Application.
48 A damage deposit of \$50.00 shall be made at Application. She stated that following inspection,

1 the deposit shall be refunded less the charge for damage if there is anything damaged or missing.
2 That is becoming necessary because we have many people who use the building and leave it
3 dirty, leave trash all over, and don't respect what they have. The preference for rental of the
4 facility will be given first to Village residents.

5
6 Trustee Gibson stated that non-resident activity shall be limited to not more than three rentals per
7 year to the same person, group, organization, or a similar activity. All rentals shall require a
8 Certificate of Insurance. Sometimes they have kids there. If something happens to the kid who is
9 it going to fall on? It is going to fall on the Village. They need to have the insurance. The fee for
10 non-resident activity shall be \$175.00 per hour with a \$100.00 cleaning fee. A damage deposit of
11 \$150.00 shall be made at Application. Following the inspection the deposit will be refunded if
12 everything is okay. She stated that for people that are not residents, we are thinking of having
13 someone on duty there to be sure to open the door and close the door. Right now we have to call
14 the police officer to open the door and then he has to come back later to close the door. We are
15 trying to put together an Ad Hoc Committee to have someone on-site to supervise. When they
16 rent the place they are renting only the meeting room, but we are finding out that they are going
17 all over the building trying to use the copier and the computer, and sometimes breaking the
18 copier. These are the things that we want to put into the new restrictions so we can keep the
19 problems down that are occurring there. We can't expect Public Works to hop over there every
20 time because they have too much to do, and there are not enough of them to do what they do.
21 When we get the entire Resolution together we will bring it back before the Board. Trustee
22 Gibson inquired of the Board what their thoughts are on this.

23
24 Trustee Pennington commended Trustee Gibson and the Committee for putting this together. It
25 needs to be done the right way and this is the right way to do it. He believes that the cost factors
26 are in line. He agrees that anyone renting the facility must have insurance in place naming the
27 Village. Trustee Pennington stated that he doesn't think that we want every type of event being
28 held here. He thought that they should exclude certain types of events. That would be up to the
29 Committee to determine what those excluded events are. As it stands right now, this is pretty
30 much open-ended and anyone can come in for an event, pay the fee, show the Certificate of
31 Insurance and do whatever they want to do. He believes that setting out what the excluded events
32 would be would give this more teeth.

33
34 Trustee Gibson thanked Trustee Pennington. She stated that we do have a little bit of exclusion
35 that for all activities there will be no alcohol consumption on the property. There will be no
36 smoking on the property. She believes that Trustee Pennington is stating that we want to exclude
37 something that might get out of hand. Trustee Pennington stated yes.

38
39 Trustee Hudson stated that we could coordinate with the Olympia Fields Park District. Trustee
40 Gibson stated that she has. That is where she came up with the prices. Trustee Hudson stated the
41 Park District does allow alcohol so we could refer people to the Park District if they want to have
42 alcohol at the event.

43
44 Trustee Byrd stated that the Park District requires them to have that Dram Shot Insurance.

45
46 Trustee Waite stated that if we make it so complicated who is going to follow-up to make sure
47 that all of the forms are filled out, and they come and go when they say they are going to come
48 and go, and they aren't going to have alcohol. Who is going to police that? It gets so complicated

1 that it's not worth getting whatever revenue we might get. We would be better off just saying
2 that it is not available than to try to deal with policing whatever is going on there.
3

4 Trustee Gibson stated that the Ad Hoc Committee that she wants to try to put together would be
5 the people, plus Cindy Saenz and Administrator Mekarski who will be deciding what is there,
6 what goes on there, and how we can do that. Her suggestion was to pay a nominal fee to
7 someone who can sit there and supervise what is going on there. If you say you want two-hours
8 and you paid for two-hours and stayed for three that is not acceptable.
9

10 Trustee Waite stated that he wouldn't want Administrator Mekarski or Cindy to have to take that
11 as a responsibility, and take their time away from the other more important things that they have
12 to do.
13

14 Trustee Gibson stated that is why we want to get the Committee together. Trustee Waite stated
15 then you have a Committee, and somebody has to be the Committee Chair. It seems like there
16 are more important things that we ought to pay attention to than trying to figure out how to get a
17 few dollars.
18

19 Trustee Gibson stated that it isn't for the purpose of trying to get a few dollars. It is putting a
20 Resolution together that will make sense. We know they are requesting the Old Village Hall
21 because our prices are too low and they can't get that anywhere else. If we bring our prices up to
22 par like other facilities around here, then to us it seems more reasonable.
23

24 Trustee Pennington stated that you are getting use out of the building. The building is not
25 standing alone by itself. There is use available. It's not a matter of dollars. We have this facility.
26 It is available. Let's generate whatever amount of income we can get out of it. Trustee
27 Pennington stated that he believes that it is a phenomenal plan.
28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she thought the idea of allowing the residents to use
30 the building for their various meetings was always an excellent idea. She stated outside residents,
31 because the building is there and is available we thought putting those flexible guidelines was a
32 good idea. As with anything there is always abuse that occurs and you have to go back and
33 revisit and relook at your guidelines. This is an excellent start to having that discussion, and
34 tweaking what is in place to make it more effective and make it a more useful yet not
35 cumbersome entity to have in the Village. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she
36 commends Trustee Gibson and the Committee. She stated that once you have put all of those
37 things in place and finalized the details, then you will be bringing it back to the Board for
38 approval. Trustee Gibson stated sure.
39

40 Trustee Gibson stated that up to this point she, along with Cindy and Administrator Mekarski are
41 the three people that worked on this in order to make it less cumbersome.
42

43 Trustee Pennington stated that he would be happy to offer his time to work with Trustee Gibson
44 on this Committee. Trustee Gibson stated great.
45
46
47
48

1 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

2
3 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Administrator Mekarski is not here. He had a
4 responsibility to attend his required Professional Conference. He will return at our next meeting.
5 In Administrator Mekarski's absence there was no Report of the Village Administrator.

6
7 **REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

8
9 **Resolution #2015-17 – A Resolution Approving the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Model**
10 **Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act -**

11 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that before you is Resolution #2015-17. We were asked
12 by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to create and approve a Resolution celebrating the 25th
13 Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act because we had not done that
14 yet. The Resolution states as follows:

15
16 **“WHEREAS**, nearly 1 in 5 residents of the United States have a disability; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, the population of people with disabilities is increasing among all age groups; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, people with disabilities are more likely to be disadvantaged socially, vocationally,
21 economically, and educationally; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26, 1990 by
24 President George H.W. Bush; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to pause and celebrate/recognize the Americans with Disabilities
27 Act as a wide ranging and landmark piece of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination
28 based on disability; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Congress recognized that
31 persons with disabilities have a history of being subjected to unequal treatment, and that the
32 nation's goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full
33 participation, independent living, and economic self sufficiency; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing
36 barriers and changing perceptions, and increasing full inclusion in community life; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, despite the great strides that people with disabilities have made as a result of the
39 Americans with Disabilities Act, barriers remain; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, the goals of ADA 25 are to foster public recognition that disability is a natural part
42 of the human experience and expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate fully
43 in civic, social and economic life of the nation, our state and our community.

44
45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Village President and Board of Trustees of
46 the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois that the most effective way in which to
47 celebrate this milestone 25-year anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act is to reaffirm

1 our opposition to discrimination based on disability and to strive to promote full implementation
2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

3
4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we encourage the reduction of stigma and
5 discrimination against people with disabilities through education and training; and

6
7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we support the pursuit of programs to ensure that the
8 spirit and founding provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act are maintained,
9 implemented, and enforced; and

10
11 There is no higher calling than to recognize the dignity and worth of all people.

12
13 It will also be proclaimed that we have adopted this Resolution on the 28th day of September,
14 2015.”

15 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Nale to approve Resolution #2015-17 – A**
16 **Resolution approving the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Model Celebrating the 25th**
17 **Anniversary of the Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.**

18
19 Trustee Hudson stated that we should make sure that “Cook” has a capitalized “C.” Village
20 President Meyers-Martin stated that she will make sure that we do that.

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

22
23 **Rain Barrel Program** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that at the last Board Meeting
24 we did pass the legislation that we needed in order to promote the Rain Barrel Program. If you
25 are interested in having a rain barrel, we have the ability to reach out to the Metropolitan Water
26 Reclamation District in order to get those rain barrels. If you would like to have one, please call
27 the Village.

28
29 **Diversity, Inc. Dinner** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Diversity, Inc. will be
30 holding their dinner on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 P.M. at the Olympia Fields Country
31 Club. Our Trustees are attending. If you are interested in attending, please call Diversity, Inc.
32 They may have tickets available. It is their annual event. This is their 30th year of having the
33 dinner. It is always well-attended. Our Legislators come out. It is a huge opportunity to network,
34 and meet other people involved in not only fair housing, but also in the South Suburban
35 Community.

36
37 **Task Force Meeting on Water** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that on Thursday,
38 October 1st, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association will hold a meeting at the
39 East Hazel Crest Village Hall at 4:00 P.M. She stated that we are having our very first Task
40 Force Meeting on water delivery. She asked that the South Suburban Mayors and Managers
41 Association put that together because it is such a huge issue. She has mentioned it several times.
42 She is very excited about the meeting. A lot of the stakeholders that provide water delivery such
43 as Aqua which is a privatized company, and Villages with well water, Villages that get their
44 water from Oak Lawn, Villages that get their water through Hammond, all of those players will
45 be together in the same place to talk about what should be done, and what can be done to address
46 some of these high rates, and the difficulty that we are experiencing with redundancy and water
47 supply. She hopes it is the beginning of a very meaningful dialog about water and some
48 resolution to the issue.

1 Trustee Pennington inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin whether or not it is an open
2 meeting. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that all of the meetings are open. It is based for
3 Mayors and Managers, but it is open.

4
5 **Meeting with MWRD** - Trustee Gibson stated that she doesn't know if only the Presidents of
6 the Homeowners Associations received this, but the President of the Metropolitan Water
7 Reclamation District is coming to the Park District to speak with the Presidents of the
8 Homeowners Associations and their members concerning a variety of things. It is sometime in
9 October. It is a day meeting.

10
11 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the President of the Metropolitan Water
12 Reclamation District is Mariyana Spyropoulos. She is making a great effort to reach out to all of
13 the entities in Cook County so we know what resources we have through the MWRD. For years
14 they would ask you to vote for people running for the MWRD but you never knew what they did.
15 She is trying to change that. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she commends her for
16 that.

17
18 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

19
20 The Board did not have any Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

21
22 **NEW BUSINESS:**

23
24 **Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 2015 Due to Holiday** – Village President
25 Meyers-Martin stated that our next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th due to the
26 fact that Monday, October 12th is Columbus Day and Village Hall will be closed.

27
28 **Wal-Mart Groundbreaking Ceremony – October 14, 2015** – Village President Meyers-Martin
29 stated that the Wal-Mart Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on October 14th at 5:00 P.M.
30 She is very excited about that. They are bringing the hard hats and the shovels. They completed
31 the demolition of Currie Motors.

32
33 Mr. McDonnell stated that he meant to speak about the new Wal-Mart under Building. Wal-Mart
34 has been moving along very well. The demolition of the buildings is down. The demolition of the
35 foundations of the buildings is not down due to some Commonwealth Edison problems out there.
36 He stated that Bonita Parker from Commonwealth Edison has been very instrumental in taking
37 care of all of our Commonwealth Edison needs out there. She is getting the transformers moved.
38 The power for the McDonald's Restaurant comes from Western Avenue. It came right through
39 Currie Motors parking lot into the middle of the lot where there use to be a car dealer, and then
40 goes all the way from there and goes underneath Lincoln Highway just for the McDonald's
41 location. They have to reroute all of that power for them. He stated that within two to three-
42 weeks you will most likely see the walls of Wal-Mart going up. They are pouring concrete out
43 there every day for footings and foundation. They have inspectors from third party inspection
44 companies out there inspecting the site every time they pour some concrete out there. We haven't
45 heard many complaints anymore about noise since some of the highway noise and construction
46 has moved on down the road a little bit. All Permits are issued for the Wal-Mart site now. The
47 site is all approved and the building itself is approved. They paid for all of their Permits and they
48 are current to-date.

1 **Annual Homeowner Association Presidents Meeting & New Resident Reception – October**
2 **17, 2015** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Annual Homeowner Association
3 Presidents Meeting and the New Resident Reception is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at
4 9:00 A.M. at Village Hall. We do this every year to welcome all of the new residents in the
5 Village of Olympia Fields. It is organized by the Community Relations Commission. Trustee
6 Gibson is the Liaison to that Commission. Mr. Joe Martin is the Chairman. Those members work
7 very, very hard to make that a successful, informative event. Some years we were disappointed
8 in the turnout. It is always very well-done, and very informative. She likes to call it the “21st
9 Century Welcome Wagon.” They invite the library and the Park District. All of the Department
10 Heads attend. Hopefully, all of the Presidents of the Homeowners Associations will be here so
11 that when new residents come in they can find out what Homeowners Association they belong
12 to. They can find out all of the resources that the Village has, all of the assets, and all of the
13 phone numbers. They can meet all of the Trustees. The new residents do get a lot of good
14 information. It is sometimes good for older residents to come because they find out things that
15 maybe they never knew. We don’t limit it to new residents. We would like everyone to R.S.V.P.
16 if they plan on coming.

17
18 Trustee Gibson stated that this year we have 92 new residents in the entire Village. We have sent
19 out to the Presidents of the Homeowners Associations an Alphabetical Listing so that they can
20 pinpoint the people in their Homeowners Association that are new residents.

21
22 Village President Meyers-Martin stated very good. We also like to let our new residents know
23 what life is like in the Village of Olympia Fields. That is our best opportunity when they are all
24 gathered together. She is very excited. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she loves that
25 event every year.

26
27 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

28
29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did not have any Resignations or Appointments
30 this evening.

31
32 **ADJOURNMENT:**

33
34 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.**

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

36
37 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**
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