

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**
2 **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
3 **Held on October 13, 2015**
4

5 Due to the Columbus Day Holiday falling on Monday, October 12th, 2015, the Special Meeting
6 of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, October 13th, 2015, at the Linzey D. Jones
7 Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Debra Meyers-Martin at 7:00
8 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator Mekarski/Village Clerk
9 called the roll.

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

15 Absent: None.
16

17 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
18

19 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Byrd to suspend with the reading of the**
20 **Minutes of September 28th, 2015.**

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

23 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to approve the Minutes of September**
24 **28th, 2015, as presented.**

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

27 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**
28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that you have before you tonight Bills for Approval in
30 the amount of \$187,107.15. There is a Cover Memo in the Board Packet designating the more
31 significant payouts.

32 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Pennington to approve the payment of Bills for**
33 **October 13th, 2015, in the total amount of \$187,107.15.**

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

36 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**
37

38 Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 7:03 P.M.
39

40 **New Residents Reception** - Mr. Joe Martin stated that he is a resident of Olympia Fields. Mr.
41 Martin stated that this coming Saturday there will be two big events for new residents. In the
42 morning we will kick off with a New Residents Reception. It starts at 9 o'clock A.M. in the
43 Board Room. There will be refreshments. He understands that there will be about 11 to 15 new
44 residents that will attend. Mr. Martin stated that we take the time at that point to communicate
45 with the Homeowners and Neighborhood Associations on the current activities of the Village. It
46 is a very important event. He knows that the Board Members have been invited. He hopes that all
47 of the Board Members will attend. He stated to greet people that are new to the community is a
48 wonderful thing. That makes them feel so welcome.

1 Mr. Martin stated that our Trustee Liaison, Trustee Gibson, and the members of our Commission
2 have worked extremely hard on organizing this, and talking about how to increase participation.
3 He believes that they have come up with a tremendously good plan. He looks forward to
4 Saturday's event.

5
6 **Veterans Committee Events** – Mr. Martin stated that the Veterans Committee has been working
7 hard with the Brookdale Community. We are hosting in partnership with them, a Veterans
8 Breakfast for the Veterans at Brookdale and the greater community of Olympia Fields on
9 November 10th. He stated that is the Marine Corps Birthday and the day before Armistice Day,
10 now known as Veterans Day. Our Trustee Liaison there is Trustee Pennington. He has done a lot
11 of good work. Trustee Pennington is in touch with the Park District to talk about the event on
12 November 11th which is the actual Veterans Day. Mr. Martin looks forward to all of these events.
13 Mr. Martin invited the Board Members to participate in the events.

14
15 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. Martin whether or not it is November 10th or 11th for the first
16 event. He stated that Mr. Martin stated November 10th.

17
18 Mr. Martin stated that November 10th is the event open to Veterans at Brookdale for breakfast.
19 They will have speakers and booths from the Federal Veterans Administration, the State
20 Veterans Affairs, and Cook County Veterans Affairs Offices. Village President Meyers-Martin
21 will be speaking, along with State Senator Michael Hastings and a potpourri of others.

22
23 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. Martin whether or not November 10th is a Saturday. Mr. Martin
24 stated that he doesn't know. Administrator Mekarski stated that November 10th is Tuesday.
25 Trustee Pennington stated that Veterans Day is November 11th.

26
27 Trustee Waite inquired of Mr. Martin what time that starts. Mr. Martin stated 9 o'clock. It hasn't
28 changed since the last time he mentioned it. Trustee Waite stated that you didn't mention about
29 the time tonight. Mr. Martin stated that he must have thought that he did.

30
31 Mr. Martin stated that he hopes to see all of you at those two events. Mr. Martin thanked the
32 Liaisons for their hard work. Mr. Martin thanked the members of the Community Relations
33 Commission and the Veterans Committee for their hard work.

34
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the New Residents Reception is one of her favorite
36 events. We get a chance to meet the new residents. They have a chance to meet us and get to
37 know us, and hopefully get into the practice of interfacing with the Board, interfacing with the
38 Village, and knowing that we are there for them in all respects. She stated that it is like the 21st
39 Century version of the Welcome Wagon. She looks forward to seeing all of the Trustees that day.
40 All of the Department Heads will be there as well as all of our entities within the Village, the
41 Park District, and the Library Board.

42
43 **Tornado Siren** – Mrs. Rosa Sachs stated that the last time we had a Tornado Warning our siren
44 did not go off. It was about a month ago. She only heard it because she had on the radio. Mrs.
45 Sacks had the radio on an FM Station and it switched over to an AM Station saying that it was
46 hitting Matteson. A few minutes later it was suppose to hit Olympia Fields. The lady across the
47 street was at Carson's and they sent them all to the basement because they heard it. She stated
48 that ours didn't go off.

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the past Public Works worked with that siren.
2 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Chief Krull whether or not he had any information
3 as to why that siren wouldn't have gone off.
4

5 Chief Krull stated that the siren was working on that day in question. SouthCom was advised the
6 way that the tornado was tracking on that particular day they did activate it in Matteson. It was
7 not activated here. Chief Krull stated that he was here that day. He was watching the storm on
8 the weather screen on the television. He doesn't have any reason why that tornado siren was not
9 activated. There were quite a few weather warnings out. The way the tornado was tracking it was
10 not headed towards Olympia Fields. It veered off to another site.
11

12 Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull whether or not the location of the siren is the roof of the
13 Country Club. Chief Krull stated yes. He stated that there is one on the roof of the Country Club
14 and there is one on the opposite end of town as well. Trustee Waite stated that we have plenty of
15 coverage. Chief Krull stated that the entire town is properly covered.
16

17 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Chief Krull whether or not there is a reason that
18 Matteson would set it off and we would not when we are right next door to them. She stated that
19 she isn't clear on that.
20

21 Chief Krull stated that all of our officers are trained spotters. They were out there. They were
22 watching the weather as they were told to do. Chief Krull was in the office on that day as well
23 watching the screen. SouthCom did not activate the sirens for Olympia Fields. He doesn't know
24 why, other than the fact that the tornado was not heading directly at us.
25

26 Trustee Pennington stated that we may want to check into the rationale behind SouthCom not
27 activating, aside from the fact that it is probably based on tracking of the storm. If there is
28 another reason as to why they didn't activate the system, perhaps we should find out.
29

30 Chief Krull stated that he can check into that. He is Chair of their Operating Committee. They
31 have a meeting coming up in two or three-weeks. Chief Krull stated that he can certainly check
32 on that prior to their meeting. Chief Krull stated that he will have an answer for you prior to the
33 next Board Meeting.
34

35 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Chief Krull whether or not he remembers what date
36 that was. Chief Krull stated that he would have to look. Mrs. Sachs stated that it was on a Friday
37 afternoon about a month ago. She is not certain of the date. It was about four-weeks ago.
38

39 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Chief Krull. She stated that we will look forward to
40 that answer.
41

42 **Thank you to Olympia Fields Police Department** – Mr. David Schoeneman stated that he does
43 not reside in Olympia Fields. He is a resident of the South Suburbs. Mr. Schoeneman wanted to
44 let the Board know that the behavior of their police department is exemplary. He stated in this
45 day and age when law enforcement seems to be thrown under the bus for almost everything
46 imaginable. He owns Shane's Pawn Shop in Chicago Heights. He has dealt with them on more
47 than one occasion professionally in that capacity. Mr. Schoeneman stated that on December 17th

1 of last year his father died at Brookdale. He stated that four-days later on December 21st his
2 mother died at Brookdale.

3
4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is so sorry. Mr. Schoeneman stated thank you.
5 He appreciates that. The patrolmen with whom he dealt were sensitive and gentle. They didn't
6 hold his hand. He doesn't want to make it sound quite that dramatic. They were very polite, low-
7 key, civilized. Some of them recognized him professionally from their other interactions. He
8 suspects that there is some level of training that the troops on the ground so to speak, the beat
9 police as it were receive in how to handle certain situations, and this being one of them. He
10 stated that part of life is that people die. The police are generally going to be the first responders.
11 They handled it very gently, diplomatically, and low-key. He can't say that it was a pleasure
12 because it sucked. He stated pardon his directness. The way it was handled made it a lot easier to
13 deal with. Mr. Schoeneman stated that you should know that your department is very well-
14 trained. He stated whether the Chief gets all the credit, or the guys in the cars get all the credit, or
15 everybody shares equally, you should know that you do have a professional, competent police
16 department. He deals with multiple departments. Some of them are less competent and less
17 professional than others. This is one of the best police departments in the South Suburbs and you
18 guys should know it.

19
20 The Board Members stated thank you. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we appreciate
21 you taking the time to come here.

22
23 Mr. Schoeneman stated that he would complain if something was wrong, but he gives somebody
24 a pat on the back if they do it right.

25
26 Trustee Waite stated that he had never been into a Pawn Shop before. A couple of months ago he
27 stopped by his. Mr. Schoeneman stated that he hopes that he was treated well. Trustee Waite
28 stated very professional. Your guys also seem to be very well-trained. He stated that your shop
29 was immaculate. Your personnel were terrific. Mr. Schoeneman stated thank you. He will be
30 sure and tell them tomorrow morning.

31
32 Trustee Waite stated that he doesn't want to speak for the Chief or for Trustee Gibson, but our
33 police officers, we hire them that way. Trustee Gibson stated no, we don't. We train them that
34 way. Mr. Schoeneman stated that your Personnel Department is doing a good job of vetting
35 them.

36
37 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Mr. Schoeneman for coming here. She stated that you
38 just echo our sentiments because we are very proud of our police department and we feel that
39 they do serve the community extremely well, and professionally, and competently. Thank you
40 again for just confirming what we know.

41
42 Trustee Waite stated that you should also meet Lars. He is also an officer that performs
43 exemplary service. Trustee Gibson stated that he is a K9.

44
45 Mr. Schoeneman stated that he probably wouldn't have anything to do with that particular
46 incident. He stated that he loves dogs and he suspects that he is terrific.

47

1 Trustee Waite stated that he has done some really heroic stuff over the years that he has been
2 here. The one winter that we had a lot of snow, a lady got out in her nightgown. The officer saw
3 tracks in the snow coming away from her home. Lars tracked her about four or five-blocks away
4 in this blinding snowstorm and found her. They got her someplace warm.

5
6 Mr. Schoeneman stated that they can do pretty remarkable things. Trustee Waite stated that he is
7 a beautiful dog. President Meyers-Martin closed Communications & Petitions at 7:18 P.M.

8
9 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 10
11 **A. Recommendation for Payment of Invoice #1465.4 to Performance Pipeline,**
12 **Inc. for Work Completed in Connection with the Graymoor Subdivision, Lateral**
13 **Line Rehabilitation Non-Usace Funding Project No. 12-677.04 in the amount of**
14 **\$169,407.50.** Village President Meyers-Martin stated that brings us to Item 5 which is a
15 Consent Agenda. It is Number 5(A) a recommendation for payment of Invoice #1465.4.
16 She stated that with Consent Agendas these are items that are fairly routine and do not
17 require much discussion unless there is a particular question.

18 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Gibson to approve under the Consent**
19 **Agenda Item 5(A).**

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

21
22 **FINANCE:**

23
24 **July 2015 Financial Statements** – Trustee Byrd stated that tonight he will be giving you the
25 July 2015 Financial Statements. It is the third one for this Fiscal Year. In the General Fund the
26 Village budgeted \$593,695.00 for Revenue. The actual Revenue received was \$720,320.00. That
27 is a positive on the General Fund. Mainly that was due to Real Estate Taxes, State Income Taxes,
28 and Wireless Revenue for that month. In the Water Fund the Village budgeted \$195,307.00. The
29 actual Revenue was \$163,173.00. In the Sewer Fund the Village budgeted \$131,206.00. The
30 actual Revenue received was \$112,412.00. Both of those are down due to the fact that we are
31 gradually getting the increase in the Water and Sewer Bills that have changed since May.

32
33 Trustee Byrd stated that on the Expense side all of the actuals were less than the Budget which is
34 a positive. All of the Expenses were less than what was budgeted for the month of July. In the
35 General Fund the Village had budgeted \$497,994.00. The actual Expenses were \$496,413.00.
36 The Water Fund Budget was \$135,471.00. The actual Expenses were \$129,474.00. In the Sewer
37 Fund the Village had budgeted to spend \$70,018.00. The actual Expenses were \$69,880.00. All
38 of that was a positive on the Expense side in those three Funds.

39
40 Trustee Byrd stated that in the “Current Month Surplus/Deficit” for the month of July in the
41 General Fund the Village had budgeted \$95,700.00. The actual was \$205,907.00. It is a positive
42 \$110,000.00 almost in that Fund. The Water Fund and the Sewer Fund were both a little under in
43 what the Village had budgeted for the month between the Revenue and Expenses. The Water
44 Fund was budgeted at \$59,836.00. The actual was \$33,699.00. The Budget for the Sewer Fund
45 was \$61,188.00. The actual was \$42,532.00.

46
47 Trustee Byrd stated that in the “Year to Date Surplus/Deficit” it represents three-months. The
48 Village had budgeted to have a \$514,190.00 deficit there. We are at \$423,883.00. We do have a

1 positive gain there. The Budget for the Water Fund was \$106,045.00. The actual is \$13,654.00.
2 In the Sewer Fund the Village budgeted for a \$25,056.00 deficit. The actual deficit was
3 \$14,702.00. The General Fund and the Sewer Fund are on the positive side for the first three-
4 months. We are a little under in the Water Fund for those first three-months.

5
6 Trustee Byrd stated that the last page is just a graph showing you exactly how those funds have
7 been doing for May, June, and July. He stated that you should look through them.

8
9 The detailed Report tells you how we are doing month-to-month and as of today's date. It tells
10 you where you have the positives and the negatives, and where you are falling behind on
11 receivables for Revenue, or if you are spending more than what you had budgeted for. He
12 advised everyone to look through those.

13
14 **Treasurer's Report** – Trustee Byrd stated that you should have the Treasurer's Report of cash
15 balances. There are 10 institutions that we put money into. Trustee Byrd thought that we should
16 talk to Mr. Theobald and Cindy Saenz about possibly combining some of the following items:
17 Bank Financial, First Midwest, US Bank, Harris, MB Financial and Chase Bank. He stated that
18 we have had a discussion about this before. We made a decision not to do that. Seaway is for our
19 Bonds that are passed through Seaway.

20
21 Trustee Byrd stated that he is not sure when Mr. Theobald will be giving the Quarterly Report.
22 He believes that it is next month. Trustee Byrd will check on that. Village President Meyers-
23 Martin stated to check on his date when he will be scheduled to come here.

24
25 **BUILDING:**

26
27 **Enhancement Organization – “Getting to Know You”** - Trustee Hudson stated that the
28 Enhancement Organization is having a “Getting to Know You” Gala at the Barn at Sergeant
29 Means Park on October 17th. They are hoping that the new residents that are coming to the New
30 Residents Reception will also come to that as well. It is from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. She stated
31 that everything is free. It is going to be a lot of fun. They will get a chance to know what the
32 Enhancement Organization is all about.

33
34 **Breakfast Meeting at St. James** – Trustee Hudson stated that on Friday she is attending a
35 breakfast at St. James to talk about how they are going to try to better serve the South Suburbs. If
36 anyone has any questions, or something that they would like Trustee Hudson to bring up she
37 would be more than happy to do that.

38
39 **Ordinance #2015-18 – An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of the Olympia Fields**
40 **Village Code of Ordinances Regulating the Construction of Fences within the Village of**
41 **Olympia Fields (First and Second Reading)** – Trustee Hudson stated that John McDonnell is
42 going to present the Ordinance to us.

43
44 Mr. McDonnell stated that at the last Board Meeting the Board approved a variance for a six-foot
45 fence at a residential property. The past couple of times that variances for a six-foot fence at a
46 private residence have been before the Board, the Board has passed those variances. He thought
47 it was time that we take a look at the actual Ordinance that calls out for the height of fences.
48 There is a proposed Motion to change our Fence Ordinance from a maximum height of five-feet

1 tall to a maximum height of six-feet tall. The Ordinance doesn't change anything else about the
2 requirements for fences. It only pulls out the actual height of the fence.

3
4 Trustee Waite stated that he was present when we approved the fence that backs up to Joe Orr
5 Road. We now have a white, plastic fence up there. Trustee Waite suggested that something be
6 added having to do with the color of the fence. The fence looks fine. It conforms to everything
7 except it stands out like a toothache being white and doesn't blend in with the surrounding flora
8 and fauna. He stated that is just an idea.

9
10 Mr. McDonnell stated okay. Trustee Byrd thought it was interesting that six-foot fences are a
11 standard now. He stated that five-foot is a special order. Mr. McDonnell stated that if you go to
12 Home Depot, Lowe's, Menard's, any Home Center for the public, their standard fences are either
13 four-foot tall, little white picket fences, or wood fences, or the plastic, vinyl fencing or six-foot
14 tall. If you want a five-foot fence, some of them may carry one particular brand in stock that is
15 five-foot tall. The majority or 90% of them are six-foot tall.

16
17 Trustee Byrd inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not most people do not get a fence because
18 the five-foot is a special order. Mr. McDonnell stated that what most people do is if they don't
19 want to go through the variance process then they either go with a four-foot or a five-foot fence
20 and then they order that from the company that they are getting their fence from. Trustee Byrd
21 stated that the only reason he is asking is he is not a fence lover. Mr. McDonnell stated that there
22 are a couple of fence companies out there that custom-make all of their fencing. All of their
23 fencing is built to order. That is wood fencing. That is not some of the newer products that you
24 see out there, vinyl products, and vinyl chain-link products.

25
26 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is her understanding that you get a lot more
27 requests for six-foot fences. Once they find out that they have to go through that process with the
28 variance they choose not to.

29
30 Mr. McDonnell stated yes. They don't want to be bothered with the process of coming here for
31 possibly one or two-meetings if it is tabled for the Board to go take a look at the location. They
32 don't want to pay the \$100.00 variance fee that we have for variances. When you apply for a
33 variance you have to pay a \$100.00 fee.

34
35 Trustee Nale stated that she would oppose a chain-link fence, things like that. Personally, she
36 feels that they are ugly. She doesn't know how the rest of the Trustees feel about it. She stated
37 that a wooden fence and vinyl fencing can be very attractive. If this would include chain-link
38 fencing also she would be opposed to something like that.

39
40 Mr. McDonnell stated that at this time we do not have in the Village Ordinance anything that
41 pertains to color of a fence, nor the type of fence. There is nothing prohibited to be installed.

42
43 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Ordinance never spoke to that. Trustee Nale
44 stated that she thought that it would be proper to do that.

45
46 Administrator Mekarski suggested that the Board, in keeping with this Ordinance consider
47 passing a Motion to adopt this Ordinance change, and if you wish color and type of material to
48 be discussed remand that question back to the Planning Commission. Our Liaison can take it to

1 the Planning Commission with John McDonnell. They can have a meeting. We can call the
2 public to weigh-in. Then you can get some recommendations back. You might even get an
3 Ordinance recommendation drafted with material and color.
4

5 Trustee Waite stated that you might also have it submitted to the Beautification Committee and
6 have them look at it and put their John Henry that says this looks terrific. We like white. We like
7 green. We like brown, we like whatever they might be proposing, but not have it take two-
8 months to get there.
9

10 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she thought that is a good idea to get the
11 Beautification Committee to weigh-in if, in fact, that's going to part of the future discussion of
12 the particular Ordinance.
13

14 Trustee Waite doesn't suggest it as an impediment. He suggests it as something where we could
15 be helpful in giving whoever is doing it some feedback as to whether their neighbors think that it
16 is ugly, or whatever. He is not totally in favor of fences. They do provide a certain amount of
17 utility.
18

19 Trustee Gibson inquired whether or not eliminating various types of fences eliminates the need
20 that some people have. She stated that you have two-dogs. You have a backyard. You want the
21 dogs to be able to run in the backyard because we don't want any dogs running in the Village.
22 She stated that a chain-link fence would be perfect for that. Wouldn't it be eliminating some
23 desires of some people who need it for certain reasons?
24

25 Trustee Pennington stated that is an excellent point. He has a dog run in the back of his yard. He
26 would not want to take his chain-link fence down so that his dog could not run in the backyard.
27 Trustee Pennington believes that it would be appropriate to do as has been suggested. We act on
28 this particular Motion and then we go back and have the Planning Commission along with the
29 Beautification Committee in concert to see which way we want to go with this as a Board. Then
30 we can bring it back for either another revision of this particular Ordinance, or perhaps create a
31 new Ordinance. He believes that it would be best to just amend this Ordinance.
32

33 Administrator Mekarski stated that he is just speaking as a Professional Planner. We are a Non-
34 Home Rule Community. We have very limited authority in regulating aesthetics, whether it is
35 under the Building Code or whether it is under the Zoning Code. That is where the deliberation
36 of the Planning Commission could help. He stated that Mike Hoffman could review that with the
37 Commission. We could bring some examples of other communities. He is sure that there is some
38 case law precedent that Judy Kolman could provide as well. He stated that limiting for purely
39 aesthetic reasons may be difficult, especially for a Non-Home Rule Community.
40

41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that certainly that would be part of the discussion, thus
42 the need for that additional meeting and collaboration. Right now you have a Motion before you.
43 **Motion by Trustee Hudson, second by Trustee Byrd to waive First Reading and adopt in**
44 **Second Reading Ordinance No. 2015-18 – An Ordinance Amending Various Sections of the**
45 **Olympia Fields Village Code of Ordinances Regulating the Construction of Fences within**
46 **the Village of Olympia Fields.**
47 **Roll Call: Ayes (6-0) Motion Carried.**
48

1 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Mr. McDonnell.

2

3 **PLANNING:**

4

5 Trustee Pennington stated that he did not have a Formal Report this evening.

6

7 **Veterans Breakfast at Brookdale** - Trustee Pennington wanted to add with respect to the
8 November 10th Breakfast at Brookdale, one of the reasons why they are having this breakfast is
9 not only to inculcate the Veterans at Brookdale with the larger Veterans Community here in
10 Olympia Fields, but also to bring them knowledge and bring them information regarding the
11 benefits that are available to Veterans. He stated not only World War II Veterans but Veterans of
12 our last wars. There are a lot of benefits out there that a lot of the Veterans are not aware of. One
13 of the things that their Committee is striving to do is to bring this type of information to the
14 Veterans of Olympia Fields, as well as a more regional aspect and bring the information to the
15 Veterans in surrounding communities. That is why they are highlighting the Brookdale
16 Breakfast. It is going to change the lives of many Veterans here in the Village as well as the
17 surrounding communities. Trustee Pennington was just awarded his benefits after 43-years. He
18 fought for those benefits. He fought hard to get those benefits. He wants to make sure that all
19 Veterans in and around the Village are aware of what is due and owing to them. He invited
20 everyone to come out. He stated that if you know a Veteran in your community, in your
21 subdivision, tell him or her about the upcoming Brookdale Breakfast, and come out and meet the
22 Veterans, the Veteran Committees, and the officers of the VA and other community and
23 statewide groups that will share these ideas with the Veterans.

24

25 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Trustee Pennington for his comments. She stated that
26 is why she was so enthusiastic about creating the Veterans Committee. She believes that it is
27 time for us to recognize and celebrate the Veterans in our community and the region. Brookdale
28 in particular, has over 60-Veterans living there. That is the perfect location to host the breakfast
29 and enhance the celebration on Veterans Day, November 11th at the Park District. It has grown
30 into a wonderful event. She is so proud that Trustee Pennington and Chairman Martin and the
31 other Veterans have taken such care to make that Committee very, very successful.

32

33 Trustee Waite stated that Brookdale is a very class act if you have not been there before. They
34 really treat people pretty swell. We have had some functions there that they have hosted and they
35 have been absolutely terrific. One of the things that we should be mindful of, the Veterans is a
36 pretty quiet kind of a group until you get them into an uproar. He stated that he doesn't think that
37 you want to do that. We need to make sure that our Veterans are well-taken care of.

38

39 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Brookdale is a very good neighbor in the Village.

40

41 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

42

43 Trustee Waite stated that he did not have a Formal Report this evening. He stated that things
44 seem to be going pretty well in Public Works. Trustee Waite spoke with Mr. Landini, the
45 Director of Public Works and asked him whether or not there was anything that he wanted on the
46 Agenda. Mr. Landini is on vacation in Orlando with his wife and three-children. It is hotter than
47 Hades. He stated that with his three kids and his wife in one room at Disney World so far they

1 haven't strangled the kids and his wife has not killed him. If you report that, he would say that
2 things are pretty successful.

3
4 **Painting of the Fire Hydrants** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that a question came up
5 regarding Public Works on Saturday at the "Coffee with the Village President." She stated that
6 yes; Public Works is responsible for the painting of the fire hydrants.

7
8 **Light Post on 207th Street** – Trustee Hudson stated that Public Works has ordered the light post
9 on 207th Street. There is a light post that is completely down. It has been down for quite a while.
10 The Village orders a different type of light post than what others do. It takes time to make those
11 light posts. We are waiting on the new one. When they put the new one in, they will remove that
12 one. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is why the light post on Kedzie took so long
13 because it had to be ordered.

14
15 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

16
17 **Update on Employee Manual** - Trustee Nale stated that she did not have a Formal Report this
18 evening. Trustee Nale inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not he has heard from our
19 attorney in regards to the Employee Manual.

20
21 Administrator Mekarski stated that he has not but he will follow-up with Judy Kolman following
22 this meeting. Trustee Nale inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not he would let her
23 know what is going on, and how far Judy Kolman has gotten so that she can report to her
24 Committee. Administrator Mekarski stated absolutely. It is regarding the update of the Employee
25 Manual. He stated that he would be happy to do that.

26
27 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

28
29 **Community Relations Commission Update** – Trustee Gibson stated that her usual report is all
30 about Public Safety. She is the Liaison for that. She has no reports to bring to you for that.

31
32 Trustee Gibson stated that this evening she is bringing a report and an update to the Trustees and
33 the audience on the Community Relations Commission. Trustee Gibson stated that since the
34 inception of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) in 1997 she has been a participating
35 member. The Ordinance which established the Commission included appointments, terms of
36 office for Commissioners, and the appointed Board Liaison. It was developed in such a way that
37 the Liaison is not a voting member of the Commission, which is a little different from most of
38 the other Ordinances. The Liaison serves as an ex-officio non-voting member of the group and
39 shall be responsible for maintaining communication between the Board of Trustees and the
40 Commission. The Commission shall have the power to establish rules of procedure governing the
41 conduct of its meeting. The duties of the Commission are: To make recommendations to the
42 Board of Trustees on matters of public policy which may create or perpetuate negative
43 perceptions of the Village; Develop and implement public relations strategy which
44 enthusiastically promotes the quality of life in the community with emphasis on its diversity as a
45 major strength, and to initiate activities which facilitate cooperation, understanding, and respect
46 among neighbors and residents; To serve as a bridge between Village Government, which
47 includes elected and appointed officials and the residents, and to offer opportunities for residents
48 to voice their views and work together to creatively solve community relation problems.

1 Trustee Gibson stated that these are the stated responsibilities that are in the Ordinance. They are
2 being fulfilled for the most part. However, the Commission, through the years has created the
3 Resident Handbook, and from time to time makes revisions. We have brought forth the idea of a
4 Village Newsletter in its present form, and are responsible for continuing the Olympia Fields
5 Hall of Fame Awardees.

6
7 Trustee Gibson stated that the one thing that is so wonderful about our Commission is that it has
8 a great group of dedicated, hardworking individuals who take pride in what our mission is. It is
9 our desire to plan and execute our activities and relieve the Office Staff of much that can be done
10 by the Commissioners because they are anxious to do it.

11
12 Trustee Gibson stated that the two main annual events which are planned, executed, and hosted
13 with a small amount of assistance from the Office Staff are: The Volunteer Brunch Reception
14 that is held in April during National Volunteer Month at the Olympia Fields Country Club, and
15 the Homeowners Associations Presidents New Resident Reception for all residents that moved in
16 over the past year, along with the Village Departments and Trustees who officially welcome the
17 new neighbors by introducing them to their Homeowners Association Presidents, if they haven't
18 already met them, and presenting information from all areas of the Village.

19
20 Trustee Gibson stated that we have attempted to initiate other Village-wide Programs, some of
21 which were decided with some advice from some of the Administrative Office that it would not
22 work. Realizing that there is more that the Commission can be involved in, we have undertaken
23 some reorganization guidelines to enhance and incorporate other items of community
24 improvements. The Plan will include several Ad Hoc or Subcommittees within our group that
25 will partner with other Village Committees or Commissions, as well as to begin a Plan to reach
26 out to the business community. It is our hope that the Special Committee which she spoke of at
27 the last Board Meeting regarding the Conference Center Regulations, it is her hope that she will
28 be able to draft some of the CRC Members as a part of that small Committee. She would like any
29 of you to share with the Commission any ideas or projects that you may offer to further
30 strengthen our community efforts. Trustee Gibson stated that she will be giving updated reports
31 from time to time on how the Commission is working through its reorganization.

32
33 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

34
35 **Resolution #2015-17 – A Resolution Approving and Authorizing the Village President to**
36 **Execute a Parking Lot Service Agreement between Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit**
37 **District and the Village of Olympia Fields for Management and Operation of the Lincoln**
38 **Highway Transportation Center Commuter Parking Lot and Bus Turnaround – Renewal –**
39 **211th Street Commuter Parking Lot Service Agreement** – Administrator Mekarski stated that
40 the first item is a renewal of our 211th Street Commuter Parking Lot Service Agreement. This is
41 the Lincoln Highway or 211th Street Lot. It serves approximately 225-cars. It is managed by the
42 Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District. This is a renewal of our current terms with the
43 exception of a moderate increase in the rate that is provided to the Village to compensate for
44 Public Works refuse collection. Our Code Officer is still involved with Code Enforcement
45 Activities as it relates to ticketing non-paying customers. They have moved away from monthly
46 collections to regular daily collections. The lot is managed and assisted in that process by Jim
47 McCabe from the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District. He stated that Reginald Ford
48 still issues the tickets for violators. His time spent in that lot is compensated through the fines

1 collected from that lot. He asked the Board to approve the extension of the Agreement as it is in
2 keeping with the negotiations of the Administration with the Chicago South Suburban Mass
3 Transit District. We can forward it to Jim McCabe and have another successful year.

4 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Hudson to approve Resolution #2015-17 – A**
5 **Resolution approving and authorizing the Village President to Execute a Parking Lot**
6 **Service Agreement between Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District and the Village**
7 **of Olympia Fields for Management and Operation of the Lincoln Highway Transportation**
8 **Center Commuter Parking Lot and Bus Turnaround – Term: October 1, 2015 through**
9 **September 30, 2016 in the amount of \$655.00 per month.**

10
11 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not that is a no bid kind of a situation. Administrator
12 Mekarski stated yes. They have a separate Agreement with Metra for the management of the lot.
13 The lot is owned by IDOT or partially owned by IDOT. Trustee Byrd stated that it is owned by
14 IDOT. Administrator Mekarski stated that it is sort of a tri-party Agreement. Our role in the lot is
15 very limited. It is to assist Jim in things that they don't have the ability to do which is the Court
16 Jurisdiction, fines for non-payment, and for assisting them with notification. If he needs
17 immediate parking lot repair, or a light repair we will be dispatched. We will Invoice and he
18 reimburses the Village immediately. We assist with refuse pickup in the lot and empty the bins.

19
20 Trustee Waite stated that it seems like a very complicated way to deal with maintenance. It
21 seems like it ought to be pretty simple. The way we do it on the other stop seems pretty simple
22 and easy to do. He wondered why they would want that lot handled in such a securitas fashion
23 and have it be a no bid situation. Is there something that ought to be looked into?

24
25 Administrator Mekarski stated that Trustee Byrd served as a representative to that body. You
26 might have a little bit more of a history. You are talking about institutional history here.

27
28 Trustee Byrd stated that the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District is to maintain that lot
29 and collect money off of that lot. He stated maintenance is sure they don't want to do it. Who
30 would you Bid to? There is no one to Bid to. The Village is responsible for taking care of
31 collecting trash and patrolling the lot.

32
33 Trustee Waite stated that it seems like there are a lot of people out there bidding on various
34 aspects of maintaining the Metra right-of-way or something.

35
36 Trustee Byrd stated that some of the lots they do receive Bids on. That is just not one of the lots
37 that they are responsible for. That was done during the term of President Jones. He put that
38 together. It works out good for the Village he would assume.

39
40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated yes because the maintenance of the Metra Lot is not
41 simple. We know that from 203rd Street.

42
43 Trustee Byrd stated right. It is not simple, plus we control how that lot looks.

44
45 Trustee Waite stated is it not simple by design. We see stuff in the Chicago Tribune and so forth
46 that the Chicago Superintendent of Schools is being indicated. He would have thought somebody
47 with a PhD would have been smarter than that. It all has to do with things that are done on behalf
48 of the Government or the management group. Here you have somebody with a PhD that comes

1 in and you think would know better than to get in trouble. Wasn't there a big issue about garbage
2 haulers and No Bid Contracts with the City of Chicago?

3
4 Trustee Pennington stated that he doesn't recall that. Trustee Waite stated nobody remembers
5 that. Trustee Pennington stated no, he lives out here. The important thing though is that IDOT
6 controls a lot of these stations. If there is going to be any type of negotiations and oversight with
7 respect to how these contracts are letted out or bidded out, it would have to come from IDOT.

8
9 Trustee Waite stated that he would hate to have something like that in our Village and it would
10 come to pass that somehow we condoned however they want to manage it and it ends up being
11 corrupt. He is not saying that it is corrupt.

12
13 Trustee Byrd stated that the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District is a non-profit
14 organization that controls the lots on the South Suburban Metra Line. Administrator Mekarski
15 stated that they control a number of lots.

16
17 Trustee Waite stated don't you remember they gave a severance to the Metra head and gave him
18 half or Three-Quarters of a Million Dollars. Trustee Pennington stated that has no bearing here.
19 Trustee Byrd stated that they are not part of Metra. He believes that there was an Ordinance done
20 back in the '60s to put them together. They are under Springfield's Rules and Regulations.
21 Trustee Pennington stated this came about prior to Metra becoming Metra. That is how long this
22 concept has been in place.

23
24 Administrator Mekarski stated that if you look at the first "WHEREAS, the State of Illinois
25 Department of Transportation, a governmental agency of the State of Illinois (hereinafter called
26 "IDOT"), has leased to the District the transportation center located at the intersection of the
27 Canadian National, formerly Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company right-of-way and U.S.
28 Route 30, Lincoln Highway (211th Street) in the Villages of Olympia Fields ..." The Chicago
29 South Suburban Mass Transit District is like a quasi form of government. They don't have taxing
30 authority. They are setup like an extra jurisdictional governing entity to help IDOT administer
31 Metra Commuter Lots. He stated that Trustee Pennington is absolutely right. It predated the
32 arrangement of Metra. This is a lot less costly than what we are involved with in 203rd Street.

33
34 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is very cost effective to let that maintenance be
35 taken care of by the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District than us. The Maintenance
36 Agreement at 203rd Street is not uncomplicated.

37
38 Administrator Mekarski stated that we are responsible for not only seal coating, cracked ceiling
39 and striping which has to be done every three to five-years, we are responsible for complete
40 repaving and re-curbng. We just spent \$18,000.00 redoing the landscaping at the Metra Facility.
41 That is the first major landscape expenditure since its opening. All of those proceeds can only
42 come from the fees taken in by that station. What we are looking at now with the team is looking
43 for a Capital Improvement Strategy. Will we have adequate funds in 15-years when we are
44 required to repave that lot from the fund balance that we are collecting on fees? Metra has
45 allowed the Village to increase the parking lot fee by 25% increments, from \$1.25 to \$1.50 to
46 \$1.75, if we can show from a Financial Study that we don't have adequate funds to fulfill
47 lighting, landscaping, striping, curb and pavement. He believes that in 15-years at the current
48 collection rate we are not going to have those funds. He stated that Mr. Owens from Olympia

1 Fields East has been asking the Mayor about meters. We would love to get those modernized
2 from pay boxes to meters. We have to pay for the meters. Metra said that you can't just have one
3 Pay System. You need seven Pay Systems. They don't want commuters waiting. The expense on
4 that is significant.
5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is based on per parking space. Administrator
7 Mekarski stated that in order to pull that off we would have to at least raise the fee by 25-cents or
8 50-cents. This is a lot simpler. It is not costing us anything. Mr. Ford's services for Code
9 Enforcement are reimbursed with the Ticket System. Any work that Public Works is doing
10 outside of extraordinary work, you take an Invoice and he does billable hours for direct and in-
11 direct costs. He stated that for the minor things we pick up litter and empty trash cans and we are
12 getting \$655.00 a month.
13
14 Trustee Waite stated that he thought that the extra work in landscaping and so forth and painting
15 and whatever of the stop was to beautify and enhance the appearance for the U.S. Amateur Golf
16 Outing.
17
18 Administrator Mekarski stated that we coordinated that with the U.S. Open. Ultimately, we had
19 the responsibility to get the lot back into shape. It started to look tired. We lost forty-trees.
20
21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the weeds were taking over. Administrator Mekarski
22 stated that the cold winters devastated a lot of the vegetation. A lot of vegetation needed to be
23 replanted. We have been working with the Beautification Committee to get that accomplished.
24 We tried to time it with the U.S. Amateur.
25
26 Trustee Waite stated that we didn't get any reimbursement from the Country Club or the PGA
27 for the extra work we put in. Administrator Mekarski stated no. That all came out of the fee
28 boxes.
29
30 Trustee Hudson stated that we budgeted for that the year before. We just didn't get it done.
31 Administrator Mekarski stated that we carried it over. In the springtime we have to look at
32 replacing the trees.
33
34 Trustee Waite stated that the only reason he brought it up is he was hoping that we as Trustees
35 would think about things like the appearance of whatever you might call it in terms of putting
36 efficiencies in that aren't costing extra, and don't have to go through a whole lot of bureaucratic
37 nonsense.
38
39 Village President Meyers-Martin stated and we have. She stated that for some of the contracts
40 that Public Works has we have required that they go Bid on some of them even though they
41 don't fit the cost structure that had originally been the cutoff.
42
43 Trustee Waite stated that sometimes to put them out for Bid serves no purpose. We had Bids on
44 the one Metra area for snow removal and the company that we picked really couldn't satisfy the
45 contract.
46
47 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is why she said that lot is not uncomplicated.
48 Trustee Waite stated that he doesn't disagree with that.

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

2
3 **Vollmer Road Bridge Advisory and Early Warning System – Cook County**

4 **Recommendation** - Administrator Mekarski stated that the last item is for information only. It's
5 a comprehensive document regarding the \$310,000.00 Grant the Village received for an Early
6 Warning System. Everybody in this room knows of the numerous times we have truck backups
7 at the Vollmer Road underpass. He stated that between the two agencies, probably anywhere
8 from three to five a week, both on the Flossmoor section and the Olympia Fields section. It takes
9 a tremendous amount of hours. If there is a tandem truck it can take one or two-hours just to back
10 up a tandem truck. It creates traffic congestion and becomes very unsafe. He stated that even
11 before the police arrive, truckers try to prevent getting a ticket and do some crazy maneuvers.
12 We applied for a Grant not only for traffic congestion, but for protecting life and property. There
13 have been too many close calls. There have been catastrophic strikes in the neighborhood of 13 a
14 year. The semi literally explodes and structural steel is flying at whatever speed the truck is
15 going at, 55, 60 miles-per-hour. One penetrated a car and almost killed a teenager. It came six-
16 inches from decapitating her. Another one collapsed as it was going through. The whole back
17 frame fell on a passenger car. Fortunately, it crushed the non-driver's portion. There wasn't a
18 passenger.

19
20 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Study was initiated by Robinson Engineering as part of
21 the Grant in concert with IDOT and Cook County. They have exhaustively looked at various
22 mitigative strategies from warning lights, to warning sirens, to bars, to chain sweeps, to Radar
23 Detection Systems, to additional signage. One of the biggest difficulties is getting trucks trapped
24 in the corridor. They recognize that if they put an Early Warning System in between Kedzie and
25 Western, it is too late. You might prevent a catastrophic strike, but you won't prevent the three to
26 five backups every week.

27
28 Trustee Waite stated that he had a personal experience today. He was coming down Kedzie. He
29 crossed Governors Highway going south. There was an 18-wheeler stopped with his warning
30 lights on. The driver had a clipboard and was talking on the phone. There is the big, lighted sign
31 saying that you can't go that way. Trustee Waite pulled over and asked the driver what he was
32 doing there. The driver stated that he was calling his dispatcher and asking him why in the hell
33 he routed him down Vollmer Road where he can't go. The driver stated that if he hadn't of seen
34 the sign he would have been there stuck under the viaduct.

35
36 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Village President's Administration through his office and
37 the Police Chief requested signs for the U.S. Amateur. They asked the County or the State to
38 install them free of charge to the Village, because of all the traffic that is being diverted from
39 Lincoln Highway to Vollmer Road. We were so afraid of having numerous truck strikes or
40 backups because of all of the congestion on the repaving of Lincoln Highway. They provided the
41 installation of three-signs.

42
43 Trustee Waite stated that the driver said he was calling the dispatcher to ask him how the hell he
44 is going to get out of here. He can't go straight ahead. He can't go left. He can't back up. He
45 inquired where is he going to go and how does he want him to get to his destination. You have a
46 driver that learned something. You have a trucking company whose dispatcher learned
47 something. All of the truck maps that they give the 18-wheelers, all have solid destinations. They

1 don't want to spend the money that it cost to get those kinds of Atlases so they don't do it.
2 Trustee Waite stated that he is sorry he interrupted.
3
4 Administrator Mekarski stated that Cook County, after going from January to the present date
5 has recommended the placement of four cantilever highway signs. They are like the ones as you
6 get off on the exit on I-57 to 119th Street. They are the same construction. They are the same
7 height, about 14-feet in height. It would have a fluorescent yellow warning sign, "Low Bridge
8 Ahead No Trucks over 11'-9". One would be placed on Vollmer Road in front of the Dunkin'
9 Donuts. One would be placed on Vollmer Road in Flossmoor in front of the Flossmoor Country
10 Club across the street from Graymoor. One would be on Kedzie Avenue in Flossmoor by the
11 cleaners behind the Sunrise Health Food Center. The last one would be on Western Avenue
12 before you get to Vollmer Road in front of Irons Oaks, the entrance drive there. The idea is to
13 warn truck traffic before they get entrapped in the corridor to go in an alternate route. The one at
14 Dunkin' Donuts is encouraging trucks to turn north on Kedzie Avenue. The one on Western
15 Avenue is encouraging trucks to make a right-hand turn towards Dixie Highway. The one in
16 front of the Flossmoor Country Club across the street from Olympia Fields is encouraging trucks
17 to make a left-hand turn and go towards Lincoln Highway on Western.
18
19 Village President Meyers-Martin asked everyone to look at the first scenario which is Vollmer
20 Road looking east. It is 400-feet west of Kedzie on Vollmer.
21
22 Trustee Waite stated that none of those instructions would have been helpful today.
23
24 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this is the point she would like to make about this
25 particular sign.
26
27 Trustee Waite stated that it wouldn't have been helpful today because Lincoln Highway was all
28 screwed up.
29
30 Administrator Mekarski asked the Board to look at the index on the left-hand corner. It shows a
31 star where it is located. And then you can see the photograph. The left-hand corner of the
32 photograph has the index.
33
34 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the point of this is, why do you think that this
35 particular sign is going to direct trucks to turn north on Kedzie. She believes that it is going to
36 direct them to turn south on Kedzie. She stated that Kedzie is not made for truck traffic.
37 Administrator Mekarski stated correct and it is posted accordingly. Trustee Gibson stated that is
38 what she was going to say.
39
40 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that if, in fact, this is their solution, and she is not 100%
41 enthusiastic about their solution but if, in fact, this is their solution, then that sign needs to be
42 before Governors and not 400-feet west of Kedzie. Otherwise, you are encouraging trucks to go
43 onto Kedzie.
44
45 Trustee Hudson stated not only that it says, "Ahead." How far is "ahead"? Is it her head or 20-
46 feet? They don't know when they get to Kedzie that they are at the ahead location.
47

1 Administrator Mekarski stated that all of the other miniature signs have the number of feet to the
2 bridge.
3
4 Trustee Hudson stated how many signs do you think they are looking at.
5
6 Administrator Mekarski stated that they looked at putting it before Governors. The problem is
7 you don't capture any truck traffic that is on Governors. The truck traffic is on Governors
8 Highway. If it is before Governors they will be making a left or a right.
9
10 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not he is
11 saying that the lesser of the two evils is for them to turn onto Kedzie and now you all have this
12 truck traffic on Kedzie.
13
14 Administrator Mekarski stated that he believes that the recommendation we can give to IDOT is
15 see if they can add, just like the Electronic Signs are saying now for this one in front of Dunkin'
16 Donuts it should say, "Use Kedzie Avenue North ahead."
17
18 Trustee Byrd stated that if you go north, how far north do you go.
19
20 Trustee Waite stated that the driver that he talked to today it was too late. He had nowhere to go.
21 He called his dispatcher and said, "Hey, knucklehead, why did you direct my route this wrong
22 way where I don't have any place to go?"
23
24 Administrator Mekarski stated that all of the Electronic Signs are saying "Low Bridge." But the
25 second message that you are sending is giving the alternate route.
26
27 Trustee Gibson inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not the signs in the first one that
28 says, "Vollmer Road looking east," will those signs be erected that is in the picture.
29
30 Administrator Mekarski stated that this is one the County has asked us to share with the
31 President and the Board. He stated that is correct. They have already forwarded this to the
32 Village of Flossmoor. Bridget Wachtel presented it to the Flossmoor President and their Board.
33
34 Trustee Byrd stated that sign will not work at that corner. Everybody is going to go south to
35 Lincoln Highway. There is no other place to get across. You can't go down to Flossmoor Road.
36 That bridge is lower than the one on Vollmer Road.
37
38 Village President Meyers-Martin believes that there is a flaw with the placement of that sign.
39 The other ones are fine. She believes that they capture traffic and gives them the opportunity to
40 turn onto Western and not to go down to the bridge. She stated that this one if, in fact, they pay
41 attention to the sign, their only option in their mind she believes is to turn south on Kedzie.
42
43 Administrator Mekarski stated that you could add information to that cantilever sign saying,
44 "Left Turn Only Northbound Kedzie Avenue" or however it should be worded. Administrator
45 Mekarski stated that the Chief has participated with all of the deliberations over the last few
46 months with his Traffic Safety Officer. We went through multiple alternatives.
47

1 Chief Krull stated that this has been an ongoing problem since he got here. He stated just a
2 couple of things to keep in mind. We did get a \$1,000,000.00 Grant to start the planning to
3 remove that overpass and make it truck passable. That is not going to happen anytime soon. You
4 have a cover Memo from the Village Administrator dated October 13th in your Board Packet.
5 Chief Krull wrote some notes on there.

6
7 Chief Krull stated that we don't have a whole lot of control over what Cook County, IDOT, and
8 all of the rest of them are doing. They are working in concert with us. He appreciates that very
9 much. The \$310,000.00 Grant is ours. They are helping us spend our money, so to speak. There
10 has to be five to six-signs in every direction warning these truck drivers that they cannot go that
11 way. On September 29th we had a catastrophic strike. We asked the driver exactly what
12 happened. He just said he did not see the signs.

13
14 Chief Krull stated that he is not convinced, and he tends to agree with the Village President that
15 these signs are going to reroute traffic properly. There will be some relief once Route 30 is done.
16 They have the two outside lanes paved already. They are telling him it will be another week to
17 10-days and then that project will be complete. Hopefully, all of the truck traffic will stay on
18 Route 30.

19
20 Chief Krull stated that the redoing of the overpass is seven to 10-years out. He stated that to offer
21 his own personal opinion, any warning signs that we could add would only help. We can't
22 change driver behavior. If they are not going to be paying attention, or they are lost, or they don't
23 have the proper GPS, or the proper Atlas, at the very least he wants to prevent them from striking
24 that viaduct. He stated that we had three turnarounds last week. Chief Krull spoke with Chief
25 Pulec in Flossmoor and he had four of them. Trustee Byrd stated that we had one today.

26
27 Village President Meyers-Martin stated with the sign. Chief Krull stated that this is certainly an
28 option. He strongly suggests that you chew it over a little bit. If this is the absolute best that they
29 can come up with we may have to live with it.

30
31 Trustee Waite stated that all of these 18-wheelers have these inside the cab announcements
32 things that they get. They are for the Weigh Stations. They have those there giving the drivers
33 check your signs in some places. He supposes that might be helpful. He stated to try to explain to
34 a driver zipping along a complicated thing like this is it seems like you might cause some
35 accidents with him trying to fool around trying to figure out what is going on. The driver today
36 had it right. He pulled over southbound on Kedzie. He called his dispatcher and was giving his
37 dispatcher a lot of hell for having given him the routing for his cargo to go the wrong way.
38 Trustee Waite stated that it doesn't seem that easy to him to put up a few signs.

39
40 Administrator Mekarski stated that one of the things that we have had problems in the past is that
41 a lot of the trucks that have struck the bridge catastrophically have been foreign nationals that
42 have limited proficiency in English. We have been encouraging the County and the State to
43 consider putting in some symbols to assist in the warning. There is one symbol in the Report
44 showing lightning bolts coming out and a truck sort of hitting a low embankment. They are not
45 recognizing the standard Manual for Traffic Safety Devices. He stated that IDOT or Cook
46 County Department of Transportation won't recognize it.

47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Chief Krull could be in the forefront along with
2 David to have an additional conversation with Cook County, in particular this sign that is on
3 Vollmer facing east. She really doesn't want trucks to be diverted onto Kedzie because that is
4 residential. It is one-lane in each direction. You have a stop sign at 203rd Street. She can just
5 foresee if, in fact, you have these trucks that don't see these signs which we know that they
6 don't, that becomes our new issue.
7

8 Chief Krull stated that he certainly agrees with the Village President on that. That is not a Truck
9 Route. When the truckers are driving they don't know or care at that point necessarily. They just
10 know that they need to get out of the area.
11

12 Trustee Waite stated but in an emergency you might make it a Truck Route. If you get down
13 there and you are trapped like that driver was today, he looks at his map. He doesn't know if
14 there is another low bridge straight ahead on Kedzie into that residential area. All he wants to do
15 is get out of there and get his load delivered. He is trapped there while his dispatcher goes around
16 and tries to figure it out. It is not easy.
17

18 Trustee Byrd stated that he doesn't believe that road was built for that type of load. Village
19 President Meyers-Martin stated that we are responsible for the maintenance of that road as well.
20

21 Trustee Byrd stated that the one on Kedzie Avenue looking south, it says "No Left Turn Trucks
22 Over 11'-9." It is telling you not to go left down Vollmer towards the bridge. That means you go
23 straight.
24

25 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired where is this one. Administrator Mekarski stated that
26 is the one in front of Irons Oaks on Western Avenue. Administrator Mekarski stated that it has
27 the "No Left Turn."
28

29 Trustee Byrd stated that one is okay. He stated that the Kedzie Avenue looking south is telling
30 you no left turn on Vollmer Road basically. So that means you will go straight down Kedzie
31 Avenue to Olympian Way.
32

33 Administrator Mekarski stated that it is posted right in the beginning "Not a Designated Truck
34 Route." There are two large signs.
35

36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated so they are going to see that sign and they haven't seen
37 these other signs.
38

39 Trustee Waite stated that the drivers are going to ignore some of those signs that say stuff like
40 that because they don't view that they have any other place to go.
41

42 Trustee Hudson stated that she was told that the drivers are using the regular car GPS. Trustee
43 Waite stated that some do. Some are using regular driver maps that have the information on the
44 maps where they can't get through. They get all of those mixed up. And then you got some that
45 English is not their first language. There is a lot of Canadian truck traffic that goes through here.
46 It comes in from Canada. You have to add French to it and Spanish.
47

1 Trustee Gibson stated that wouldn't you believe that the simple thing to do is before you get in a
2 truck you ought to know how tall the truck is. Trustee Byrd stated that he would assume that but
3 he doesn't think they do.

4
5 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she doesn't want to look this gift horse in the mouth
6 in terms of \$310,000.00. We don't want to lose it fooling around and nobody comes up with a
7 viable solution. She believes that there needs to be additional conversation about the placement
8 of these Early Warning Signs. They do encourage at least on the west side of the bridge traffic
9 onto Kedzie. She stated coming from the north traveling south on Kedzie and traveling east on
10 Vollmer, both of those signs just seem to encourage truck traffic onto Kedzie which we don't
11 want to encourage. She doesn't know what the alternative would be. She doesn't want to lose
12 this money to do some early warning.

13
14 Trustee Waite stated that we should have a way to contact the drivers by radio or whatever and
15 give them the way to get around to get to their destination.

16
17 Trustee Gibson stated why do we have to do it. Administrator Mekarski stated how would you
18 do that. There are thousands of trucking companies out there. You have independent truckers.
19 Trustee Waite stated that they are not all coming through here though.

20
21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated in the short-term let's have that conversation with the
22 County. Administrator Mekarski stated we can do that. Chief Krull stated that we can work with
23 CCDOT. We also need to work closely with Flossmoor. Village President Meyers-Martin stated
24 yes, absolutely. Chief Krull stated because their problems are our problems as well. We don't
25 want to create traffic driving through their town, just like we don't want their traffic driving
26 through our town.

27
28 Village President Meyers-Martin stated yes if you are telling them to turn north onto Kedzie.

29
30 Chief Krull stated that he will circle back with David and we will make an appointment to see if
31 we can contact somebody from CCDOT (Cook County Department of Transportation).

32
33 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will go back to the drawing board so to speak.

34
35 Administrator Mekarski asked Faith, the Recording Secretary, to give him an excerpt of the
36 Minutes so we can forward them to Pat Barker, and he and the Chief can start that dialog with
37 the County, the Flossmoor Chief, and the State.

38
39 Trustee Pennington stated that it needs to be worked on. Village President Meyers-Martin stated
40 yes, it does. She believes that is a given.

41
42 **REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

43
44 **“Coffee with the Village President”** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this past
45 Saturday we had “Coffee with the Village President.” Chief Krull was the Department Head that
46 was with her that morning. It was a very good meeting. We had a very good, lively discussion as
47 always. We covered a lot of territory. She will continue to make herself available on the second
48 Saturday of every month outside of December to have open discussion and answer questions,

1 and concerns regarding anything going on in the Village. We decided that we won't do it in
2 December. Village President Meyers-Martin has found it very rewarding because we have had
3 residents who have come in and have been having an issue about one thing or another, and we
4 were able to resolve that in a very timely way just by having that conversation. It is something
5 that she wants to encourage. She hopes that will continue to grow in terms of residents having
6 the opportunity to come out and speak. It has been stated to her that maybe we should have that
7 meeting a little later in the day. Unfortunately, she cannot do that because most of the time when
8 she leaves that meeting she is going to work. She can't move it up. It seems like 8:30 A.M. is the
9 time. Everybody is fresh at that time of the morning. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
10 it has been very, very rewarding for her. She hopes that it has been rewarding for the residents
11 who come, who join us, who bring all of their good ideas. We get a lot of good ideas. There is
12 lively discussion about policy within the Village. That is always a good thing. We will continue
13 to do that every second Saturday at 8:30 A.M.

14

15 **Event at Navy Pier** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this past week she and
16 Administrator Mekarski went to the deal making session which was held at Navy Pier. That is
17 where all of the retailers come. You are able to pitch your town. A lot of towns have booths. The
18 Village had a booth along with eight other Villages. It is a joint venture that they do with the
19 CSEDC, (Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation). They had a lot of brokers
20 and developers that stopped by their booth. They are able to provide them with information on
21 every parcel that is available in the Village, the square footage, median income information,
22 traffic counts, and anything that they would need in order to make a location choice. They were
23 very successful last week. They got a lot of good feedback from brokers. They will continue
24 those conversations. The broker for the new owner of the Jewel Plaza was there. They were
25 reaching out to tenants because we want to make that Plaza just as viable as the Wal-Mart Plaza.
26 They will continue to do that outreach and continue to do that marketing. The Village is looking
27 at updating its Website so that it has more information for developers and brokers so that they
28 are well-informed about this little jewel of the South Suburbs that we have such great people,
29 great business opportunities, and we are a business-friendly Municipality. She stated that is what
30 a lot of brokers and developers are looking for.

31

32 **Wal-Mart Groundbreaking Ceremony** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Wal-
33 Mart Groundbreaking takes place tomorrow. She is very excited about that. She stated that Wal-
34 Mart's plan is to have all of the exterior walls up in the next two to three-weeks. Over the winter
35 they will be doing all of their inside work. The information that has been coming to the Village is
36 that Wal-Mart will be ready to open by the fall, maybe late October of 2016. That is six to seven-
37 months ahead of schedule. We are very excited about that.

38

39 Trustee Waite stated that he doesn't know how many of the Board Members or our constituents
40 have driven by the Wal-Mart construction site and seen that pile of debris. It looks like Mount
41 Hood. It is way up in the air. He would guess at least five-stories.

42

43 Administrator Mekarski stated that they are going to be pulverizing the concrete to utilize on the
44 site.

45

46 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

47

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

1 **NEW BUSINESS:**

2
3 **Metra Pond** - Trustee Gibson inquired whether or not Metra is wholly responsible for the pond
4 at the 203rd Street Station.

5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated no, that we call it the “Metra Pond.” The Village is
7 responsible for that maintenance.

8
9 Administrator Mekarski stated that the three smaller ponds are managed by Olympia Club.

10
11 Trustee Gibson stated that she knew about the smaller ponds. She stated that she heard a person
12 say that they were told that Metra was responsible for the Metra Pond. They went online and
13 found out that that was not the truth that the Village is responsible.

14
15 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Metra holds us responsible for the Metra Pond.

16
17 Administrator Mekarski stated that is exactly what we were talking about earlier about the
18 complexity of the Agreement. There are a lot of costs associated with it. There is a need to work
19 with the Finance Committee to do that Capital Improvement Strategy and look at what the total
20 costs will be 10, 15, 20-years, to make sure the rates are set. The taxpayers are not paying for it,
21 but the parking customers are paying for it.

22
23 **Cracker Barrel in Matteson Closed** – Trustee Hudson stated that someone told her that the
24 Cracker Barrel was going to close. Administrator Mekarski stated that they are closed right now.
25 They closed as of today. They gave their employees a few hours notice.

26
27 **Starbucks** - Trustee Waite stated that Starbucks opened. There is a sign out on Route 30 if you
28 are going to get on I-57 north, there is a Starbucks there. Trustee Gibson stated that they just
29 moved Starbucks from one place to the other. Trustee Waite stated that now they have a sign out
30 on Route 30.

31
32 **Task Force Meeting on Water** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did conduct a
33 Water Task Force through South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. The room was
34 packed. Every seat was taken. It was a conglomeration of towns, Managers, Mayors, Engineers,
35 and privatized water companies. It was very well-received. Everybody got into that room and all
36 of a sudden nobody was talking. Nobody wanted to talk about any of the issues that have come
37 up, whether it’s rates, whether it’s water supply, whether it’s redundancy, whether it’s capacity,
38 whether it is who has got wells, who is privatizing, nobody wanted to talk. We are having
39 another Water Task Force and we are bringing in MPC (Metropolitan Planning Council) to work
40 with the Municipalities. She found it very strange that everybody has an issue with water but
41 nobody wants to talk about water. Nobody wants to talk about any of the possible solutions. It
42 was very odd. There is definitely interest because it was standing room only.

43
44 Trustee Waite stated that five-years ago he read a Study by Goldman Sachs. They were talking
45 about water on a worldwide basis. Water is a huge, huge issue. He stated that if you read recently
46 that President Bush and his son, President Bush, made a trip down to South America. There is a
47 high plains desert in South America that makes up he forgets how many square miles. They went
48 in with a consortium and bought that entire piece of desert. The reason they bought it was there

1 is underground aquifer there. According to them it is the size of the Great Lakes. It is below the
2 surface on one of these mountain passes. There was another one where one of the big
3 construction companies was commissioned to go into Brazil. This was about six or seven-years
4 ago. It was commissioned to go into Brazil because they had piled all kinds of extra charges on
5 the water bills for their population, sort of like what we do here, you know. We pile stuff on that
6 have nothing to do with water.

7
8 Trustee Gibson stated that she doesn't agree with that. Trustee Waite stated that when he first
9 brought up the LED lights, all of you were saying, "Oh, no. You can't do that. Who are you
10 trying to kid?" He stated listen, he reads a lot more than you folks do about things going on on a
11 worldwide basis.

12
13 Trustee Gibson stated how do you know that. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she
14 doesn't think that he can say that. Trustee Waite stated all right, find it out for yourself. Trustee
15 Pennington stated let's get this moving.

16
17 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

18
19 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did not have any Resignations or Appointments
20 this evening.

21
22 **ADJOURNMENT:**

23
24 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, second by Trustee Nale to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.**

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

26
27 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**

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