



1 Mekarski was discussing. He is quite content with what Faith put together. Trustee Oliver stated  
2 that it is an apology, and at the same time thanking Faith for the additional comments made on  
3 the second version. The Recording Secretary, Faith, stated thank you.

4 **Motion by Trustee Nale, second by Trustee Oliver to approve the amended Minutes of**  
5 **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

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

7  
8 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

9  
10 Village President Meyers-Martin opened up Communications and Petitions at 7:07 P.M.  
11 There were members of the Public in the audience; however, no one wished to address the  
12 Board.

13  
14 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she had a comment regarding our last  
15 Communications & Petitions. During that part of the Agenda, it had been stated that the Village  
16 Board had neglected to purchase radios for our police officers. She stated that she never  
17 comments on anything unless she has facts, figures, proof, and documentation. Village President  
18 Meyers-Martin stated that she has in hand that the Village, in fact, did purchase 16 radios at  
19 \$1,000.00 apiece for our police department. She could not let that go without clarifying the fact  
20 that this Board would never not supply equipment to our Public Safety Officers, as well as any  
21 other staff members in this town when it comes to public safety, as well as supplying the needs  
22 of the residents. She wanted to clarify that the Village did, in fact, purchase radios for our Public  
23 Safety Officers.

24  
25 Trustee Waite stated that several meetings ago, there was a lady that was saying that we were a  
26 Board of Trustees like the downtown Aldermen. Trustee Waite had objected to that. He had  
27 stated that was not a fair appraisal of ourselves and none of us has ever gone to jail. Trustee  
28 Waite stated that he did some research and 42 Chicago Aldermen have gone to jail. He stated  
29 that we are a long way from that. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that is so interesting.  
30 Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications and Petitions at 7:11 P.M.

31  
32 **RESOLUTION #2014-09 – A Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement**  
33 **between the Village of Olympia Fields and Cook County for the Phase I Engineering Study**  
34 **Along Vollmer Road from Kedzie Avenue to Western Avenue –** Village President Meyers-  
35 Martin stated that Resolution #2014-09 is a Resolution approving the Intergovernmental  
36 Agreement between the Village of Olympia Fields and Cook County for the Phase I Engineering  
37 Study Along Vollmer Road. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that at the last Board  
38 Meeting she talked about the kickoff meeting that was held here at the Village pertaining to the  
39 engineering and the project in general. On the last page of the Memo you will see who was in  
40 attendance at that meeting. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we had engineers from  
41 Robinson Engineering. There were members from the Flossmoor Public Works Department.  
42 They had members from Lochner which are going to be working on that project. Cook County  
43 was represented by John Yonan who is the Superintendent of Transportation for Cook County, as  
44 well as other members of his staff. Jeff Cartwright from the Village's Public Works Department  
45 was there.

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it was a very progressive meeting. They got a lot  
2 done. You will see that 80% of the Phase I Engineering Fees to the Village will be reimbursed  
3 through IDOT. The County is picking up the entire 20% of matching funds for this project. She  
4 stated that we are very excited about getting this off the ground and finally coming to a  
5 resolution on Vollmer Road. It's probably many years down the road, because the engineering in  
6 and of itself is going to take about three-years. There are water mains. There is electricity. There  
7 are gas lines. All of those have to be determined, as well as Storm Water Management as it  
8 relates to flooding when they lower that road. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that at  
9 least we have the funds to get that started. We are very excited to have this project on the right  
10 track.

11  
12 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Village President and the Board of Trustees should be  
13 very, very proud of this accomplishment. This was not initiated by State action, by County  
14 action, by the railroads or Metra. It was this Village Board who assembled 32 stakeholders,  
15 photographs from 20 to 30-years, testimony from our Public Safety Officers, the Chief of Police  
16 in Flossmoor and the Chief of Police in Olympia Fields, and ESDA with stories of multiple  
17 crashes and near death situations. That meeting, within 30 to 60 days started a regional call for  
18 finding funds. The project that is being financed today is just under \$1,000,000.00. It is not just a  
19 Feasibility Study, it is Preliminary Engineering which sets the stage for this Village to receive  
20 \$45,000,000.00 in Federal and State aid to lower the road, widen the road, and build a brand new  
21 bridge.

22  
23 Administrator Mekarski stated that as you can see from Pat Barker's Memorandum, the County  
24 is still working towards an interim solution for some type of Early Warning System. That has not  
25 been authorized, because this Engineering Study, and ultimately the final Federal and State  
26 Funding are still five to seven-years away before construction would actually begin. The threat to  
27 public safety and public lives exists each and every day. He stated that even with the signs that  
28 we have now; the Chief will tell you that we have had a lot of near collisions. Administrator  
29 Mekarski believes that there was one collision despite the advanced signs that the Village placed  
30 on the bridge embankment.

31  
32 Administrator Mekarski stated that what you have today is the IGA. The Village President has  
33 the Intergovernmental Agreement for signature in her packet. The Board is being asked tonight  
34 to approve the Resolution, which authorizes the Village President to execute this Agreement and  
35 initiate this important project.

36  
37 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this Early Warning System has just kind of eluded  
38 everyone who has been studying this project, to the point that when we had those signs that  
39 clearly said what the clearance is on the bridge, we have them on both the west side and the east  
40 side of the bridge, there were still trucks that were just blowing through those lighted signs and  
41 either striking the bridge or getting to the point where they had to disrupt traffic there because of  
42 the difficulty to turn around. They will continue to make those evaluations to come up with some  
43 kind of Early Warning System that is going to be more effective.

44  
45  
46

1 **Motion by Trustee Waite, second by Trustee Oliver to approve Resolution #2014-09 - A**  
2 **Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Olympia**  
3 **Fields and Cook County for the Phase I Engineering Study Along Vollmer Road from**  
4 **Kedzie Avenue to Western Avenue.**

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

6  
7 **RESOLUTION #2014-10 – A Resolution approving and authorizing the Village President**  
8 **to execute a Parking Lot Service Agreement between Chicago South Suburban Mass**  
9 **Transit District and the Village of Olympia Fields for Management and Operation of the**  
10 **Lincoln Highway Transportation Center Commuter Parking Lot and Bus Turnaround -**  
11 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that our second Resolution is Resolution #2014-10. That  
12 is a Resolution approving and authorizing the Village President to execute a Parking Lot Service  
13 Agreement with the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District. She stated that this virtually  
14 is the same Agreement that we have had over the past years. There is a slight increase to \$645.00  
15 per month as opposed to the \$620.00, which covers all the costs incurred by our Department of  
16 Public Works.

17  
18 Administrator Mekarski stated that the enforcement of parking violations is covered through the  
19 proceeds that are received through the ticket violations. We still have our Code Officer issuing  
20 tickets. They are being issued per the ledger that is inventoried by the South Suburban Mass  
21 Transit District and not Mr. Ford himself tabulating the cars like he does on 203<sup>rd</sup> Street. It's a  
22 self-sufficient contract with the exception of this minor change, which is in the favor of the  
23 Village to reimburse us for minor costs associated with trash removal and trash pickup of the lot.  
24 It is the same as the previous years.

25  
26 Trustee Nale stated that on Page 5 it talks about public liability. Trustee Nale inquired of  
27 Administrator Mekarski whether or not the Village's liability covers the station, or do we have a  
28 separate liability for that if there were any accidents, or incidents, or anything like that as far as  
29 the train station is concerned? Administrator Mekarski inquired of Trustee Nale whether or not  
30 she was referring to an accident in the parking lot or an injury at the station itself. Trustee Nale  
31 stated both. Administrator Mekarski stated that you have multiple agencies providing coverage  
32 here. You have Metra who owns the platform and the ingress and egress to the platform. If any  
33 accident should occur on that it is covered by Metra's insurance. The Chicago South Suburban  
34 Mass Transit District carries their own property liability insurance. He stated that because this is  
35 a public element in the Village's jurisdiction, IRMA also has additional coverage on it. Trustee  
36 Byrd stated that is correct. Administrator Mekarski stated that Trustee Byrd was the former  
37 representative on the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District Board. He inquired of  
38 Trustee Byrd whether or not he wanted to elaborate on that.

39  
40 Trustee Byrd stated that the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District does cover their own  
41 insurance for all of their parking lots. The Villages have insurance to cover their part if there is  
42 anything against the Village as far as a suit. Usually a suit regarding their parking lot is going to  
43 go directly to the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit Board. If it is the platform, then it goes  
44 to Metra.

45  
46 Administrator Mekarski stated that we are taking the responsibility for trash and debris, if  
47 someone tripped over the trash and debris that might go on ours because that is our contract



1 Trustee Oliver stated that he wanted to give his first reaction to “Item E.” He stated that having  
2 been at other meetings of another governing body in the area, these three minutes in those  
3 settings may very well be very important. Otherwise, some people would just take over meetings  
4 and it will last all day and all night. He is wondering if that is something that the Board would  
5 adhere to in this sort of setting where we don’t typically get a lot of people to attend our  
6 meetings. Trustee Oliver inquired whether or not we would put a time limit in each of our  
7 meetings.

8  
9 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the thing about it being in place is that you can  
10 follow it if you like, but you are not required to.

11  
12 Administrator Mekarski stated that you could add an additional amendment in there saying that it  
13 is limited to three minutes or five minutes, whatever the Board’s pleasure is, and may be  
14 extended by Motion of its members. He stated similarly to how we extend the time period of the  
15 Educational Commission Meeting. It gives you a way of conducting the business that is at hand,  
16 but still allows generous opportunity for public comment. You can make multiple Motions. You  
17 have a lot of flexibility on these. The Attorney General simply wants Rules in place. Some  
18 governing authorities put their public comments at the back of the meeting, which is a real lack  
19 of courtesy to the audience because they make them wait until 11 o’clock at night before they  
20 make public comments. He stated that some, as he thinks Trustee Oliver recalls, have Rules  
21 where if you speak on an issue, you can’t come to the Board and speak on that similar issue for  
22 three-months. He stated that also seemed to be against the Democratic process. These are in  
23 place to encourage public comment, but give you an opportunity to manage it so it doesn’t get  
24 out of hand. You can strike that rule. You can amend it to say that it can be extended. He stated  
25 whatever the Board’s pleasure is.

26  
27 Trustee Oliver stated that he wanted to see if he had this correct, he stated that we must as a body  
28 come up with a Rule. Village President Meyers-Martin stated yes. Trustee Oliver stated  
29 something that we collectively agree to, and will announce to the public this is the way we will  
30 conduct our business henceforth.

31  
32 Administrator Mekarski stated that you can write into the Rules that the Board shall extend  
33 public comment by a Motion, Second, and majority vote. He stated that if you want to say that  
34 these comments are very important and you would like the resident or individual to be allowed to  
35 speak for 30 minutes, you can do that.

36  
37 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the three minutes was just a suggestion. It is meant  
38 to provide some sense of order to your public comment, because otherwise you can go on, and  
39 on, and on if, in fact, that is the way the audience is going.

40  
41 Administrator Mekarski stated that we had an Applicant come in for a Variance. Because our  
42 public comment period went on for about two hours, that Applicant with their representatives  
43 waited until like 10:30 and had to actually leave because they had to get up early for work. When  
44 the matter came up at like 11 o’clock at night we weren’t able to address it because the Applicant  
45 couldn’t stay until the wee hours. We want to give a courtesy to the public to give comment. But  
46 you also need to have a courtesy to all those that are on the Agenda to do business. That is the  
47 whole rationale.

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated the answer is yes, we do have to put some Rules in place.  
2 It is flexible in terms of the length of time that you want to allow people to speak, as well as  
3 some of the other things included in this draft in terms of protocol. We are not taking action on it  
4 tonight. Certainly your input is needed.

5  
6 Trustee Waite stated that it seems to him that what we are doing is creating an opportunity where  
7 we can do what is reasonable. If somebody has something and it goes over a minute, there is no  
8 point in cutting them off if what they are talking about is reasonable and pertinent to the meeting.

9  
10 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that as John Murphey says the Attorney General has  
11 made it clear that we need to have some Rules in place.

12  
13 Administrator Mekarski stated that if anybody would like to have more detailed conversations  
14 with the legal advisor, they should contact him and he can arrange a conference call. If the Board  
15 needs additional materials from other governing bodies both John Murphey and Administrator  
16 Mekarski can supply that. Administrator Mekarski asked the Board to review the Rules and be  
17 prepared to make comments. Any comments that the Board provides prior to the Wednesday  
18 before the Agenda is prepared, Administrator Mekarski can draft those changes in red for the  
19 entire Board to consider. The Board can send their comments via e-mail, or phone call to  
20 Administrator Mekarski. The comments from the individual members will be placed in red and  
21 the Board can consider them one by one, or comprehensively.

22  
23 Trustee Gibson stated that it is very important to have limits during the Board of Trustees  
24 Meeting. She agrees with Trustee Oliver that for the most part we don't have very many people  
25 here. She stated that you would think we wouldn't have to limit the few that are and the few that  
26 might speak. Trustee Gibson doesn't believe that the three minutes hinders a resident to get all  
27 the information to the Board or to the Village that they want stated. If a person has a private and  
28 a personal lengthy conversation, there are other ways and times that they could get all of their  
29 answers and all of their desires and concerns taken care of. They could make an appointment  
30 with Administrator Mekarski. They could make an appointment with the Village President. They  
31 could make an appointment with any of the Trustees if that would get their information or their  
32 desires completed. She stated that we can go on, and on, and on. That is not fair to other people  
33 when there is a group meeting and someone takes over that group meeting, and the group  
34 meeting is then no longer a group meeting. It is a meeting for just that person and everybody else  
35 doesn't get a chance to talk. She agrees with the idea that there should be a limit especially since  
36 we can fluctuate that if we need to.

37  
38 Trustee Oliver inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin whether or not she knows why this  
39 is becoming instituted statewide. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has no idea.  
40 Administrator Mekarski stated that from what Mr. Murphey told him, there were numerous  
41 abuses of other governing authorities that are collectively Park Districts, School Boards, and  
42 Municipalities. The Attorney General thought it very critical that all governing bodies develop  
43 Rules for the protection of public comment. He stated that we recall in the past other governing  
44 bodies that made it very difficult even for this governing body to give comments to another  
45 governing body because of arbitrary, capricious rules.

46

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that under “Item 3, Letter C,” it talks about people  
2 identifying themselves and providing their home address. She stated that we have always  
3 required that. There are issues of constitutionality with that. She stated that going forward we  
4 probably will not require that. If the speaker does want to identify their home address there is  
5 nothing wrong with it, but we won’t require it going forward. Village President Meyers-Martin  
6 stated that we will be looking for your input and comments.

7

8 **ADJOURNMENT:**

9

10 **Motion by Trustee Nale, second by Trustee Gibson to adjourn at 7:35 P.M.**

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

12

13 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**

14

15