



1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we have on the Consent Agenda item 5 (A), which is  
2 a recommendation for Partial Waiver of Lien and Payment of Invoice #9303 to Davis Concrete  
3 Construction.

4  
5 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired whether or not any of the Trustees wanted to remove  
6 that item from the Consent Agenda. None of the Trustees indicated that they wanted to remove  
7 the item from the Consent Agenda.

8 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Waite to approve Consent Agenda Item 5(A).**  
9 **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

10  
11 **FINANCE:**

12  
13 **September 2013 Financial Statements** - Trustee Byrd stated that on the first page is the  
14 Revenue and Expenses. In the Revenue General Fund the Village was positive this month by  
15 \$88,029.00 over the budgeted amount of \$268,568.00. The Revenue Water Fund and the Sewer  
16 Fund had negatives. The Water Fund was \$7,569.00 less than the budgeted amount of  
17 \$160,833.00. The Sewer Fund was \$13,000.00 less than the budgeted amount of \$94,736.00.  
18 Most of the General Fund's Revenue increase of \$88,000.00 was due to the Real Estate Taxes  
19 and State Income Taxes. There was a big gain in RedFlex money and Wireless Revenue during  
20 the month of September.

21  
22 Trustee Byrd stated that the Expenses for the month of September in the General Fund, the  
23 Village budgeted for \$359,907.00. The Village actually spent \$364,399.00, which is only  
24 \$4,492.00 more than what the Village budgeted for. He stated that it was a pretty good month for  
25 the General Fund.

26  
27 Trustee Byrd stated that the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund were both in the positive. The  
28 Village spent \$16,122.00 less than what the Village budgeted for in the Water Fund, and  
29 \$32,104.00 less than what the Village budgeted for in the Sewer Fund.

30  
31 Trustee Byrd stated Page 2 shows the Revenues and Expenses for the month of September at the  
32 top. In the General Fund the Village had a positive \$83,537.00 gain for the month of September  
33 which is very positive for the General Fund. The Revenues were up and the Expenses were  
34 down. That made a total difference for the month of September. There was a two-fold gain there.  
35 The Water Fund and the Sewer Fund both had down Revenues but the Expenses were a lot less  
36 than what the Village expected. There was a positive gain of \$8,533.00 in the Water Fund and  
37 \$19,104.00 for the Sewer Fund. He stated that for the month of September, Revenue minus  
38 Expenses was in the black and positive there.

39  
40 Trustee Byrd stated that the Year to Date which is your Revenue and Expenses for the first five  
41 months is from May to September. In the General Fund we are \$45,199.00 ahead. The Village  
42 has exceeded its net projected Budget and the Village is in the positive there. In the Water Fund,  
43 \$40,173.00 is short of meeting the Budget for those five-months. On the last page it shows that  
44 the Village is on pace to meet its Budget for the year. The Sewer Fund was \$6,560.00 short of  
45 making the Year to Date for those five-months.

46

1 Trustee Byrd stated that the last page is the page that the Village should be paying attention to.  
2 There is positive gain. The Village continues to climb towards making that Budget. As long as  
3 there is a big dip there, there is nothing but good things going on there. Trustee Byrd stated that  
4 on the whole the Village is in good shape.

5  
6 **Treasurer's Report of Cash Balances** – Trustee Byrd stated that we have \$7,281,138.39 in the  
7 bank accounts. He stated that Mr. Theobald went over this at the last Board Meeting. Trustee  
8 Byrd stated that he wouldn't go through it unless there were some questions on it.

9  
10 Trustee Waite stated that he really likes the way that Trustee Byrd is presenting this information.  
11 It is much more understandable than what we have done in the past. Trustee Waite suggested that  
12 because it is much more understandable, that we runoff extra copies in the future for the  
13 audience.

14  
15 Administrator Mekarski stated that in the future we are going to place it on the video and we will  
16 have copies. Trustee Byrd will have a laser pointer. Trustee Waite stated that is terrific. That is  
17 even better.

18  
19 Trustee Oliver inquired of Trustee Byrd whether or not the Village has seen a distribution from  
20 the Asset Forfeiture.

21  
22 Trustee Byrd stated that he couldn't answer that right now. He doesn't believe that there has  
23 been one. He believes that there is one pending. Trustee Byrd stated that he will check into that  
24 with Cindy Saenz.

25  
26 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Chief Krull is here. She inquired of Chief Krull  
27 whether or not he had an answer to that question.

28  
29 Chief Krull stated that the last time he had an opportunity to speak with the Director of Finance;  
30 she had indicated that the funds have been rolling in slowly. Due to the shutdown there are quite  
31 a few funds in the pipeline, but the Village has not seen any of those as of yet. There are small  
32 amounts of funds coming in, but it is not close to what it has been in the past.

33  
34 Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull what our expectations are so we know what we are  
35 looking at.

36  
37 Administrator Mekarski stated that they call them DAGS. Village President Meyers-Martin  
38 stated that it is \$325,567.00 give or take. Administrator Mekarski stated that we are anticipating  
39 a bit more. Administrator Mekarski stated that he and Trustee Byrd were going over the  
40 Unrestricted/Unencumbered Fund for another item on the Agenda. The Customs Fund owes the  
41 Village's Unrestricted/Unencumbered Fund \$325,567.00. He doesn't know the accumulative  
42 amount of DAGS that are outstanding. He isn't sure if all of the percentages have been set for all  
43 of the DAGS. Administrator Mekarski asked Chief Krull to explain what a DAG is and how the  
44 percentage works.

45  
46 Chief Krull stated that our officer that is in Customs right now, if he were to make a seizure of  
47 \$1,000,000.00 for example through his group, through their efforts, he would have to file the

1 paperwork with the Feds. The agent in charge of the Chicago Office would determine what  
2 percentage of that \$1,000,000.00 Olympia Fields would be entitled to because of their  
3 participation in that event. Historically, that percentage started out a little bit higher than it is  
4 now. We have no control over that unfortunately. The other part of the problem is, the way that  
5 the slowdown has drastically affected the amount of funds that the Village receives. It has been  
6 trickling in. We have been keeping an eye on that. Chief Krull stated that it is incredibly  
7 important for us and for the Village.

8  
9 Trustee Waite stated that you know it is there and it is coming. Chief Krull stated that it is there.  
10 It is just a matter of when it arrives. Trustee Waite inquired of Chief Krull whether or not it is in  
11 the area of \$325,000.00. Chief Krull stated no. The total seizure paperwork, not the amount we  
12 are entitled to, is in excess of \$5,000,000.00.

13  
14 Administrator Mekarski stated historically the Village was getting up to 10%. Now the DAGS  
15 are coming in at 4% to 6%. Chief Krull stated even 2% and 3% sometimes. Administrator  
16 Mekarski stated that the more officers they have involved, the more they have to split up the pie.  
17 The DAGS that are outstanding are in excess of what is owed the Unrestricted/Unencumbered  
18 Fund. Until the DAGS come in, the Unrestricted/Unencumbered Fund is covering for Officer  
19 Amschl's salary and some of the costs associated with paving the parking lot. He stated that as  
20 soon as we get cash available, before we can do anything about looking towards placing it for an  
21 automobile or armory for the police department, we have to pay the Unrestricted/Unencumbered  
22 Fund Account back. Once that debt is covered, then the money is available for discretionary  
23 purposes for police activities as approved by the Board. Trustee Waite stated that it sounds pretty  
24 terrific to him.

25  
26 **BUILDING:**

27  
28 **Meetings with the Beautification Committee and the Building Department** - Trustee Hudson  
29 stated that she didn't have a written report. Trustee Hudson met with the Beautification  
30 Committee on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Hudson met with the Building Department on October 25<sup>th</sup>.  
31 Trustee Hudson stated that we are meeting altogether on November 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss some concerns  
32 that each party has.

33  
34 **PLANNING:**

35  
36 **Arcadia Elementary School Receives Award** - Trustee Oliver stated that he didn't have a  
37 Formal Report tonight. Trustee Oliver wanted to mention a couple of important things regarding  
38 a school in the Village. He passed out an announcement. Trustee Oliver previously sent the  
39 announcement to the Village President and Administrator Mekarski. Trustee Oliver stated as  
40 follows: "The Arcadia Elementary School in Olympia Fields is to receive a National "Dispelling  
41 the Myth" Award for High Achievement in Reading and Math by all of its Students." Trustee  
42 Oliver wanted to highlight the reason why they are being acclaimed.

43  
44 Trustee Oliver stated as follows: "Arcadia Elementary School, a U.S. Office of Education Blue  
45 Ribbon School, will receive one of four national "Dispelling the Myth" awards from The  
46 Education Trust," which is in Washington, D.C. "The Trust, is an independent non-profit  
47 organization whose goal is to promote high academic achievement for all students, pre-

1 kindergarten through college, annually cites four U.S. schools whose students have overcome the  
2 demographics of their community and achieved results that place them near the top of their  
3 states.

4  
5 Arcadia, with a current enrollment of 480 kindergarteners through fourth grade students, is the  
6 first Illinois school to be recognized since the “Dispelling the Myth” awards were initiated in  
7 2005.

8  
9 According to Kati Haycock, President of The Education Trust, Arcadia Elementary School was  
10 selected because of its “progress in moving all students towards high achievement in reading and  
11 math.” Trustee Oliver stated that the other four that were awarded this were a school from  
12 Miami, a school in Baltimore and a school in Mississippi.

13  
14 **Park District Board Meetings** – Trustee Oliver stated that he is going to ask the Village  
15 President and the Board for some assistance. Trustee Oliver has been attending the Park District  
16 Board Meetings for the last five-months as a guest and as a resident. Trustee Oliver is the Liaison  
17 to the Park District. Trustee Oliver believes that what the Park District gets out of his attendance  
18 at the meetings is that he often shares what we are doing as a Village and as it relates to the Park  
19 District. They have talked about the Bicycle Path Program. The Park District is excited about the  
20 news about widening the street along Vollmer Road, and the underpass.

21  
22 Trustee Oliver inquired how we reciprocate. He inquired whether or not there is some other way  
23 that we can share more dialog so that it will be a win-win for us both so that some of this  
24 miscommunication can be eliminated. He stated that this is just something to consider. We don’t  
25 have to answer it today. Trustee Oliver stated that he is trying to be a reflection of the Board to  
26 another Board. He stated that they are just like us. We are neighbors and friends and they have  
27 the same obligation of reporting to our residents. He wants to make sure that whatever the Board  
28 is trying to do, that he is doing the best that he can on behalf of the Board.

29  
30 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she believes back in April she had stated that she  
31 wants the conversations, the dialog, and the communication between this Board and the Park  
32 District Board to improve. There has been a lot of miscommunication over the past few years.  
33 She stated that we started off by having a meeting with Denise Will and Tim Bradford who is the  
34 President of the Park District Board. She stated that there were plans on having co-meetings and  
35 inviting their Board to our Village Board Meeting, and maybe the Village Board could go to  
36 their meeting. She stated that it wasn’t the best thing to do right off the bat. It is something that  
37 we need to ease into. She believes that it is a good idea because communication needs to  
38 continue and it needs to improve. She stated that our working relationship needs to improve with  
39 them as well.

40  
41 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has asked Trustee Hudson to plan on the  
42 Beautification Committee having consultations with the Park District. She believes that the Park  
43 District could use some advice, some suggestions about the entrances to their parks, and the  
44 maintenance of their parks. She stated that if the Beautification Committee can assist in that  
45 effort, certainly we want to do that. She told Denise Will then and she will say it again, “The  
46 spirit of cooperation is everything in this Village.” The Village is small. It is intimate. She stated  
47 that we should have that kind of dialog.

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is glad that Trustee Oliver has been attending  
2 those meetings. She stated that we need to have those Board-to-Board Meetings as well.  
3

4 **Sign Permit** – Trustee Oliver stated that one of the things that came out of their meeting was that  
5 they are still waiting for the Sign Permit. They did receive some acknowledgement that they  
6 could move forward, but they never received the Permits. He stated that if we can get the Permits  
7 to them they would very much appreciate it.  
8

9 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Trustee Oliver for what sign. Trustee Oliver stated  
10 that they had an issue with one of the Park District signs. Administrator Mekarski stated  
11 Suburban Woods. Trustee Oliver stated that they have yet to receive it.  
12

13 Trustee Gibson stated that she thought the Sign Commission had approved that sign before  
14 Trustee Ormsby left. She stated that we approved the corrected sign and many others that they  
15 had to correct.  
16

17 Village President Meyers-Martin stated because there was a mistake. Trustee Gibson stated the  
18 maker of their signs had made a very bad mistake and they had to redo them.  
19

20 Trustee Oliver stated that he believes that their point was that since this had become or was an  
21 issue, and the Permit was something that was warranted, they just wanted something for the  
22 record for closure. They don't have a Permit. Trustee Gibson stated that she would check into  
23 that.  
24

25 Trustee Waite inquired of Trustee Oliver whether or not they thought that they would  
26 automatically get a Permit as a result of the Board approving it.  
27

28 Administrator Mekarski stated that it wouldn't be approved by this Board. The Sign Permits are  
29 approved by the Sign Commission. It was Administrator Mekarski's understanding that it had  
30 cleared the Sign Commission and Mr. McDonnell was waiting for the documentation to file the  
31 Permit. This is the first that he has heard that the Permits have not been processed. He stated that  
32 this is a simple thing that he can look into the first thing in the morning.  
33

34 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not the procedure is that the Park  
35 District has to fill-out an Application for the Permit. Administrator Mekarski stated yes. They  
36 have to submit a plan showing specifications for the record. There was some difficulty that what  
37 the sign company was sending to Mr. McDonnell was not consistent with what was approved by  
38 the Sign Commission. Trustee Gibson stated that is correct. Administrator Mekarski stated that it  
39 could be something that Mr. McDonnell is waiting for from the vendor. Administrator Mekarski  
40 stated that he will look into it with Trustee Gibson and we can correct it ASAP.  
41

42 **Congratulations to Arcadia School** - Village President Meyers-Martin congratulated Arcadia  
43 School and Superintendent Davis for the award. She was thrilled. Dr. Davis called Village  
44 President Meyers-Martin to tell her that Arcadia received the award. Dr. Davis had asked for a  
45 quote from the Village President so that they could add that to their press. Village President  
46 Meyers-Martin stated as follows: "I was not surprised that Arcadia Elementary School had

1 earned this honor, for when you have professionals the caliber of Superintendent Davis and  
2 Principal Ransford leading District 162 and Arcadia all things are possible.”

3  
4 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

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

7  
8 **New Residents Reception** – Trustee Waite stated that the New Residents Reception that was  
9 held at the Village Hall on October 26<sup>th</sup> was pretty terrific. There was a real feeling of  
10 enthusiasm on the part of the new residents coming into the Village.

11  
12 **Metra Station** – Trustee Waite stated that the seal coating and the striping of the Metra Lot took  
13 place without a hitch. It was done on weekends so that there was a minimum of disruption. The  
14 weather was reasonably cooperative. He stated that it is finished and it looks really terrific.

15  
16 **The Traditions** – Trustee Waite stated that the sidewalk that was approved for The Traditions  
17 has been completed.

18  
19 Trustee Waite stated that we are waiting for the advertising for a Public Works Employee in  
20 order to hire the replacement for a recent retiree.

21  
22 **LED Street Lighting** - Trustee Waite stated that the Village has been working with a company  
23 for the LED Street lighting for some months now coming up with plans and ideas. There was a  
24 question on the part of the Engineers as to whether or not the lighting would be adequate, and  
25 whether it is going to come out the right way, and whether or not it is going to shine in people’s  
26 windows. Trustee Waite suggested putting up three LED lights at the entrance into the Metra  
27 Parking Lot so that they can see them at night to see how they look. The Engineers had  
28 suggested a \$15,000.00 Light Test. They picked out three lights. He stated that if the materials  
29 come in this week they should be installed early next week. They will be able to look at them and  
30 see the other lights adjacent to it and decide whether or not they are adequate. Trustee Waite  
31 doesn’t believe that it is worth the significant expenditure to have a professional outfit check out  
32 the lighting.

33  
34 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

35  
36 **IRMA Report** - Trustee Nale stated that she did not have a Formal Report this evening. She  
37 wanted to apprise the Board that the Village did get a Preliminary Report from IRMA. The  
38 Village made considerable progress this time in its safety regulations. The Village is one  
39 percentage point away from being very good. That is quite a change from the Village’s last  
40 evaluation.

41  
42 **Virgin Health Miles Program** – Trustee Nale stated at the last Board Meeting she reported that  
43 11 people had signed up for the Virgin Health Miles Program. She stated now a total of 19  
44 people have signed up for the program. She stated that is going along very nicely.

1 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

2  
3 **Thank You Letter – Corporal Dean** – Trustee Gibson stated that she has three Information  
4 Only Reports regarding Commendations for some of our police officers. Trustee Gibson stated  
5 that the department received a thank you letter from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for Don Dean.  
6

7 As part of a continuing community outreach program, Corporal Dean presented a “Personal  
8 Safety Workshop” to over 30 members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on Saturday, October  
9 5<sup>th</sup>. Corporal Dean’s presentation included general safety tips and information on ways to reduce  
10 the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

11  
12 The importance of notifying law enforcement and calling 911 in the event of an emergency was  
13 discussed, with the sorority members being reminded to trust their instincts and use good  
14 judgment if they ever had a concern or a question.

15  
16 Included in the “Personal Safety Workshop” were basic self-defense techniques, ways to escape  
17 an offender trying to use a choke hold, and other situational awareness types of information.

18  
19 Trustee Gibson stated that Corporal Dean should be recognized and commended for his efforts in  
20 educating members of our community. Corporal Dean did receive a Certificate of Appreciation  
21 from that organization. A copy of the thank you and the Certificate was provided to the Board so  
22 that we too can commend him for his services.  
23

24 **Thank You Letter – Officer Kickert and Corporal Lopez** – Trustee Gibson stated that the  
25 second item is the department received a thank you letter from Jean and Lloyd Forstall of 3604  
26 Meadow Court for Officer Dan Kickert and Corporal Steve Lopez. The two officers assisted the  
27 Forstall’s on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 o’clock A.M. when their Golden Retriever Dog “Brandy” was  
28 trapped by her metal choke chain collar and entangled in a metal yard art sculpture.  
29

30 The Forstall’s were unable to free Brandy who was beginning to panic and create more pressure  
31 on her choke collar. Officer Kickert and Corporal Lopez arrived on the scene, rapidly assessed  
32 the situation and used large bolt cutters to cut the choke chain and free Brandy from any serious  
33 injury.  
34

35 Trustee Gibson stated that we have recognized Officer Kickert and Corporal Lopez and  
36 commended them for their actions. A copy of the thank you letter in its entirety is attached to the  
37 information in the Board Packet.  
38

39 Trustee Gibson stated that whenever she and Village President Meyers-Martin receive this  
40 information, they immediately commend the officers and Chief Krull because they are all under  
41 his advisement for the work that they are doing within the community.  
42

43 **MedReturn – Drug Collection Unit** – Trustee Gibson stated that Chief Krull has an ongoing  
44 superior idea about bringing things to this Village that is done in other Municipalities, and how  
45 to incorporate worthwhile services into our Village to accommodate and make programs  
46 available here that are happening in many Municipalities throughout the country.  
47



1 The newest program is called “MedReturn Drug Collection Unit.” In many Municipalities there  
2 is a depository for old medications rather than flushing it down the toilet which does not do  
3 anything for the ecology. She stated that throwing it in the garbage doesn’t do any good because  
4 in some cases that can be picked up. This provides a safe and easy way to use a community drug  
5 collection device. Law Enforcement Agencies can collect unwanted or expired prescriptions,  
6 over-the-counter, and other unused household medications with this MedReturn Drug Collection  
7 Unit. Trustee Gibson is not sure if the Village has begun the program. She stated that you may  
8 have heard about the program on television.

9  
10 Trustee Waite stated that there is quite a program for the collection of drugs on a national basis.  
11 He has read studies about Lake Michigan Water. One of the key problems they have in cleaning  
12 up the water is the prescription drugs that get flushed down the toilets or in the trash. Trustee  
13 Waite stated that Carlando Owens is in that department. He can tell you in great detail about the  
14 problems prescription drugs make into the Eco System.

15  
16 Trustee Waite stated that he believes that choke collars are not normally what dog trainers and  
17 kennel people recommend for controlling the dogs. He inquired whether or not we use choke  
18 collars with large dogs. Chief Krull stated that we do.

19  
20 Trustee Nale stated that she wasn’t positive about this, but she thought that most drugstores will  
21 take the drugs. Trustee Gibson stated no, they will not. She stated that this is a national program.  
22 It is a box which is locked.

23  
24 Trustee Waite stated that it is a secure drop box. Trustee Waite inquired whether or not they have  
25 a service that picks up the drugs.

26  
27 Chief Krull stated that the program that Trustee Gibson is referring to is nationwide. He thought  
28 it would be a good idea to have it in the Village to take the drugs out of the home and have  
29 people drop them off here. Chief Krull stated that we would be responsible for removing those  
30 drugs. All we do is transfer those drugs over to the State Police Lab and ask them to have them  
31 destroyed. There is no cost to the Village other than for the receptacle/container. He thought that  
32 it might be something that the Board would want to consider.

33  
34 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

35  
36 **Vollmer Road – Road & Bridge Reconstruction Project – FY2013-2014 Budget**  
37 **Amendment – General Engineering** – Administrator Mekarski stated that he has one Staff  
38 Report. It is relative to probably one of our biggest success stories of the Administration, and that  
39 is the Vollmer Road Bridge Reconstruction Project. The Village President announced to the  
40 public at the last Board Meeting that we were awarded \$1,000,000.00; \$800,000.00 in Federal  
41 Funds and \$200,000.00 from County Funds to complete Preliminary Engineering to do road  
42 improvements for Vollmer Road from Kedzie Avenue to Western Avenue, including evaluating  
43 the reconstruction of the bridge and the installation of the safety path. That is being  
44 accomplished without any local revenues. It prompted the County to make a commitment that  
45 they would seek \$34,000,000.00 in construction funds from Federal and State sources.

46

1 Administrator Mekarski stated that Village President Meyers-Martin was successful in getting  
2 100% of the Federal and the State Legislative Delegation behind the project: Senator Kirk,  
3 Senator Durbin, Congresswoman Kelly, Senator Hastings, Senator Toi Hutchinson,  
4 Representative DeLuca and Representative Al Riley. We have 32 stakeholders unified behind the  
5 project. We did incur some Engineering costs associated with the preparation of the Application  
6 and the coordination with the County and Federal Officials. We did take out the first two  
7 invoices which were approximately \$8,000.00 total from the Discretionary Engineering Account  
8 from the Building Department. We still have adequate funds to take out the last billing on it from  
9 that same account. We do not want to deplete that account for two reasons: 1. Our Building  
10 Official needs to maintain a balance of Discretionary Engineering Fees on any kind of advances  
11 of engineering that may have to be paid prior to an escrow reimbursing it, escrow from a  
12 developer. 2. We are working with the Delaware Bank of The Coves Subdivision. The Coves  
13 Subdivision may have a purchaser to buy the remaining lots for single-family construction  
14 consistent with the single-family construction in Olympia Club. He stated that this is a real  
15 positive thing. The bank wants reassurance that all the improvements have been done to  
16 specification.

17  
18 Administrator Mekarski stated that unlike The Reserves of Maynegaite, we don't have a lot of  
19 detailed records of the infrastructure because it was placed in years ago. It was formerly the  
20 Lakes of Olympia. It was converted from the Lakes of Olympia Development to The Coves  
21 Development. We will probably have to clean the storm drains and televise them, and televise  
22 the water and sewer line. Then we can give verification to the bank. The bank would then sign a  
23 Development Agreement, do the improvements, and they could then sell it with a sense of  
24 competence. Mr. McDonnell believes that it will cost about \$8,000.00. That would be a cost that  
25 the Village would probably have to absorb because this is a defaulted subdivision. It could be  
26 substantially higher. Administrator Mekarski stated that we just did the cleaning and televising of  
27 the storm drains in The Traditions associated with the IKE Grant. It was \$63,000.00 just to clean  
28 and televise the storm drains. That is with no repairs.

29  
30 Administrator Mekarski stated that he prepared a Memorandum asking to transfer \$20,000.00 out  
31 of the Unrestricted/Unencumbered Fund and create a new Project Fund. The \$20,000.00 would  
32 allow Cynthia Saenz to reclassify the two former bills, \$2,730.00 and \$5,331.00 to the Project  
33 Fund rather than the Building Fund. The last invoice \$10,315.00 would be classified to the  
34 Project Fund. The Village would deposit the \$1,000,000.00 in Preliminary Engineering in the  
35 Project Fund. The Village would then have a single, unified account which has been  
36 recommended by the Village's Treasurer and the Village's Auditor. Administrator Mekarski  
37 stated that he did review this with Trustee Byrd this afternoon. Administrator Mekarski wanted  
38 to make a note that this is not the 40% that you reserve in your Reserve Account. This is about  
39 our Reserve Account. In that Reserve Account we actually have a net balance of \$610,556.00.  
40 He stated that \$120,000.00 is liquid and \$490,540.00 is due to, or credits to the account, and that  
41 includes what the Village President was talking about earlier the money from the Customs  
42 Account which is due to this Unrestricted Account. He stated that this is just sort of open,  
43 transparent, financial clean up to make sure that we have a restored Building Department  
44 Discretionary Line Item, and we also have now a single account to manage this major project.

45  
46 Trustee Waite inquired whether or not we get reimbursed for those when the final project is  
47 approved. Administrator Mekarski stated that the Village won't be reimbursed for the money we



1 Administrator Mekarski stated that he didn't know. We will have to check that out with Cynthia  
2 when she gets in.

3  
4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we did put it in the Budget. She stated that is always  
5 good news.

6  
7 **Village Receives 2013 Best Practice Award** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the  
8 other program that we have talked about many, many times is the South Suburban Retail  
9 Investment Study. The Village partnered with the University of Illinois, Teska Associates, BDI,  
10 Clark Hill the Attorney, and UIC. She stated that much to our pleasure and excitement; we were  
11 awarded the 2013 Best Practice Award from the American Planning Association, the Illinois  
12 Chapter. Village President Meyers-Martin held up the plaque that the Village received. The  
13 Retail Study is online. You can go to the Village's Website and pull it up.

14  
15 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the study looked into how retailers make their  
16 location decisions. She stated that we had many, many times questioned those decisions because  
17 we would say, "Why does Orland get this store and we don't get it?" She stated that it isn't just  
18 Orland, but many southwest suburban, north suburban or western suburban areas. This study  
19 delved into how those location choices are made. It came up with some very interesting data. It is  
20 something that the Village will be able to use going forward in the implementation of Phase III  
21 of the study which actually then does bring that into real time in terms of what we can do  
22 address some of those choices. It was never meant to be accusatory, but only something that  
23 provided positive information to those retailers. Administrator Mekarski has been invited to  
24 Virginia to speak on that. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Administrator Mekarski  
25 could speak as to how the APA came up with this award.

26  
27 Administrator Mekarski stated that the American Planning Association had a national conference  
28 in Chicago with over 8,000 delegates at that meeting. We were invited to give a symposium, the  
29 entire Study Team, Olympia Fields Business District Incorporated, Teska Associates, UIC, Clark  
30 Hill and the Small Business Administration. He stated that from that symposium there was so  
31 much excitement that the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association called  
32 Administrator Mekarski and flew him out to make the same presentation on the suburban areas  
33 of D.C. He stated that the same issues that we are facing in the south towns of stereotyping the  
34 community economically by race, the process of Retail Redlining, or unconscious racism, is  
35 really happening around the country. There is no study like this that has ever been done in the  
36 United States. It goes beyond the Village of Olympia Fields borders. It goes beyond regional  
37 borders and state borders. This is a study of national significance. We are trying to make it clear  
38 to the retailers that our money is not white, it is not black, it is green and there is profit to be  
39 made. The study had proved that Retail Redlining is existing at the margins and in a recessionary  
40 economy those margins are extenuated.

41  
42 Administrator Mekarski stated that one of the most revealing elements of the study, Clark Hill  
43 was in charge of the focus group. They put the following people on a panel: Regional economic  
44 developers, investors, shopping center builders, and mixed use developers. They were asking  
45 them all kinds of detailed questions about the economic viability of the communities south of  
46 Chicago. From that panel there was no ability of that group to distinguish any difference between  
47 economic opportunity in Olympia Fields, Matteson, Park Forest, and Richton Park, versus the

1 inner ring suburbs of Markham, Dolton, Harvey and the stretch. Those communities are rich in  
2 character, but there is a significant difference in terms of profitability for retail. It reaffirmed the  
3 point that a lot of times retailers will look at our community and say, “Oh, 70% African-  
4 American, it must be poor, it must be under educated, and it must be high crime. Let’s do an  
5 investment outside of this community. It’s too risky.” He stated that too often they put the  
6 investment in the northwest suburbs or in Tinley Park or Orland. He stated that this is sort of a  
7 wake-up call. Administrator Mekarski stated that as the Village President indicated, more  
8 importantly it has detailed data and demographics to prove that we can meet or exceed the  
9 location criteria of other “Class A” Retail. It becomes a simple argument. Administrator  
10 Mekarski can pull a cut sheet and say that if you are making a profit in Orland, Merrillville, or  
11 the Costco on Cicero by midway, you can make a profit at Lincoln and Western. That is the  
12 power of the study. He stated that it is something that we are very proud of. The plaque was  
13 passed around to the audience.

14  
15 **Economic Development Committee** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the  
16 Economic Development Committee has put together a “Business Connections Breakfast” for our  
17 local businesses here in the Village of Olympia Fields. It is part of their strategy of business  
18 retention and encouraging businesses to have more dialog, and more communication, with the  
19 Village other than just when they come to get their Business Licenses. That is scheduled for  
20 Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the Board Room at Village Hall. It will start at 7:30  
21 A.M. and will end at 9:00 A.M. trying to capture those businesses before they open up. She  
22 stated that we are making a very concerted effort to reach out to local businesses, making  
23 personal calls, going door-to-door, because we want this to be a successful venture. It is our first  
24 one. There is a speaker coming in from the County. We want the County to be aware that our  
25 business community is alive and well and interested in not only expanding their businesses but  
26 growing within the region. She is looking forward to that event on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Village  
27 President Meyers-Martin encouraged everyone in the audience to come and join them. They are  
28 not only inviting the businesses, but they are inviting residents to come and meet the business  
29 owners and have that chance to communicate with them as well.

30  
31 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

32  
33 The Board did not have any Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

34  
35 **NEW BUSINESS:**

36  
37 **Recommendation to Reschedule the November 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustee Meeting to Tuesday,**  
38 **November 12<sup>th</sup> Due to the Holiday** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has a  
39 recommendation to reschedule our November 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting which is Veterans Day, and  
40 Village Hall is closed that day, and scheduling that to Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

41 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Gibson to reschedule the first Board Meeting**  
42 **in November to Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, due to the Veterans Day Holiday of**  
43 **November 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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

45  
46  
47

1 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

2

3 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she did not have any Resignations or Appointments  
4 this evening.

5

6 **ADJOURNMENT:**

7

8 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Oliver to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.**

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

10 **Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.**

11

12