

1 planning for this day. We are putting in more money now so we can make sure we have
2 investment returns because we are planning for five, 10, 15-years down the road.

3
4 Miss Fain stated why was there this shift from last year to this year to about \$268,000.00? The
5 first thing to keep in mind is it is expected to increase. It is designed to increase every single year
6 a little bit. It is suppose to increase about 3% to 5%. The reason for that is as your active
7 population gets closer to retiring, and they are getting higher pay raises and they are putting in
8 more money, we are going to put in more money as well. This chart displays anything that
9 occurred beyond what was expected. Of that \$268,000.00 increase we saw a chunk of it was
10 expected, about \$180,000.00 was something unique that must have occurred in the fund that
11 impacted our contribution. Benefits for all of the members are based on pay. When they retire,
12 whatever pay they have that determines what sort of benefit we pay out to them. We take a look
13 at what we thought pay would come in and how it actually did. For this current year overall pay
14 came in a little less than anticipated. Everyone got their raise they were supposed to get. We
15 include a chance that someone might get promoted. Maybe this year we didn't have a promotion
16 come through that we thought might have come through. Anytime the overall pay for our
17 population isn't quite as high, you are going to see a decrease in the contribution. Now we are
18 saying that pay they have at retirement might be a little less than we thought. So how pay comes
19 in for your officers whether it is higher or lower than we project it to be that can impact the tax
20 levy. It had a small impact.

21
22 Miss Fain stated that next is the demographic changes. One of the things that can impact a
23 population is how it changes. Did we hire some people? Did some people leave? Did we have
24 some disabilities come through? Anytime we have someone who joins our fund, we are going to
25 see an increase come through. We had one key change for this fund and someone became
26 disabled. Anytime someone becomes disabled they are collecting a benefit from our fund. We do
27 have a little bit of an increase from the fact that one of our officers became disabled and is
28 collecting a benefit a little bit earlier than he normally would in retirement. The third key change
29 is assumption changes. We want to make sure that whatever tables or numbers that we are using
30 to calculate these results are up-to-date. We want to make sure that we are using realistic tables
31 on termination rates, disability, retirement rates, and mortality rates. We update all the tables
32 being used. The new tables on mortality say that people are living a little bit longer. It is a little
33 bit more costly to our Pension Fund. That means for all the officers and their surviving spouses
34 maybe that is a couple additional years of paying out benefits. If we address that now, you will
35 see that the increase in our contribution is about \$137,000.00. When we have a contribution close
36 to \$1,000,000.00 it is really not too large. That's because we are addressing these changes now
37 versus deferring them down the road. After we take a look at your population and their pay,
38 make sure that all the numbers that we are using are up-to-date; we take a look at your assets. We
39 have an assumption that over the lifetime of the fund, the fund will get about a 6.5% return in the
40 markets. There will be years when we have more than 6.5% and then there is going to be really
41 tough years like this past year when we don't quite hit that 6.5% return. The goal is over the
42 lifetime we are going to average that. We work with investment professionals to help them
43 project where they think the market is going so we can make sure this is realistic. This past year
44 with the election was a very volatile time in the market. We didn't quite hit that 6.5% return.
45 Whenever we don't quite hit that return we will put in some money to make up for that. The
46 years that we have really nice returns on the market, you will see the tax levy will go down. We
47 don't need to put in that money from the tax levy because our investments earned it for us. We
48 have a little increase of about \$14,000.00 just from it being a tough year in the market. The last

1 piece of the puzzle that determines a tax levy is contributions. We take a look at what was
2 recommended to be funded to the Pension and what they actually received. If a fund doesn't
3 quite receive what they request, the next year we ask for the shortfall to make up from not
4 receiving it the prior year. What was recommended into the fund last year was around
5 \$950,000.00. What was received in the fund wasn't quite that full amount. This fund has a nice
6 history of almost consistently receiving 100%. They average about 94%, 95% which is above the
7 standard in Illinois. There is always a little bit of a shortfall, but it is close to that 100% level.
8 That is something to be proud of. For the current year there is a request that will be sent out
9 where we are trying to get closer to that 100% level as well. It is definitely something to be
10 proud of that you are better than the standard in Illinois and close to that 100% level as well.

11
12 Miss Fain stated that funded percentage is just a ratio of your assets to the benefits that are paid
13 out. When you have a tough year in the markets and maybe you have less assets, all of a sudden
14 your funded percentage is going to look a little less. When you have a nice year in the market the
15 assets go up and you have a nice bump in your funded percentage. Markets are going to bounce
16 up and down. It doesn't mean that one year you are in a great position and one year you are not
17 in a great position. We will look at how the little pieces behind the scenes impacted our funded
18 percentage. We expected our funded percentage to go up because that is the idea that between
19 now and 2040 we will be fully funded. The fact that our pay didn't come in quite as high means
20 we went up a little as well. The fact that we had someone become disabled lowered it. She stated
21 that the fact that now people live longer and now we need to pay out more benefits lowered it. A
22 little tough year in the market lowered it a little. You see all these moving pieces that impacted
23 our funded percentage and brought it from 44 down to 39. It doesn't mean we are in any worse
24 of a situation. It doesn't mean that anything was done wrong.

25
26 Miss Fain stated that there is something called "GASB 67/68." It is a Report that goes into the
27 Audit. It shows you how easily that funded percentage number can fluctuate. This Report is
28 completely different than a normal Tax Levy Report. It is a what if hypothetical scenario. You
29 look at the fund. You look at how they have been contributing to the fund. You take a look at
30 some of the risks they might be exposed to in the fund and evaluate it in this hypothetical world.
31 It is a tool that can help them see some of the risks that they might see long-term to the fund. It
32 emphasizes the importance of putting in the full amount to the Pension Fund. Under this
33 hypothetical scenario our funded percentage looks different as well. We have the same exact
34 fund. You have the same exact benefits and population. Depending on what rules you are
35 reporting under you can manipulate that funded percentage. She thinks what is far more
36 important in looking at a Pension Fund's health is do you have a group that is consistently
37 putting in that 100% or trying to put in that 100%. For this group it averages in the upper 90's.
38 Every year it is getting closer to that 100%. You have a Board that cares. You have a Pension
39 Board that cares. They question their Actuary. They question their investment professionals and
40 they care very much on what is going on in their fund. When you have a group of people that
41 you trust analyzing your fund, you have people committed to funding it that is what determines
42 fund health long-term. The State of Illinois says that you only need to be 90% fully funded by
43 2040. These numbers are all based on that 100% target which isn't required. You have a Board
44 that has that 100% target in mind.

45
46 Trustee Pennington inquired of Miss Fain whether or not GASB 67/68 is the newest
47 pronouncement, or do you anticipate additional changes in GASB 67/68. Miss Fain stated that
48 they typically aren't updated that often. She stated with 25/27, it has probably been seven plus

1 years since that was last updated. Typically they update it when they no longer find a Report
2 useful. The big change with GASB 67/68 is that they wanted a new Report that was going to
3 cross the U.S. Standard and it also involved a stress analysis on the fund projecting hypothetical
4 scenarios. We can make sure that we are being mindful of what is to occur down the road. They
5 wanted a more useful Report. It wouldn't change unless they came up with a Report that is more
6 useful. She stated for now there aren't any expected changes.

7
8 Mr. Larry Mullins stated that he resides at 20808 Alexander Street. He inquired of Miss Fain
9 whether or not there is a cap on how much an officer can receive once he retires. Does his
10 pension have a cap?

11
12 Miss Fain stated that once you retire it is going to be based on your ending salary. It will increase
13 without a cap. The increase is going to be based on cost of living adjustments. There is a built-in
14 formula based on cost of living adjustments. There is not a specific cap on it, no.

15
16 Mr. Mullins inquired of Miss Fain why not. Miss Fain stated that's the formula based into it. She
17 thinks it has a lot to do with the fact that they calculate a fair benefit when someone retires. We
18 want to make sure that benefit what it buys them today, is going to buy them the same down the
19 road because of the cost of living adjustments. Mr. Mullins stated that most standard pensions
20 have a cap. If you have 30-years of service you would only receive like \$3,000.00 a month of
21 your pension. You say there is no cap. If he stays on the force for 40-years his pension could be
22 astronomical. He inquired whether or not he is correct or wrong.

23
24 Trustee Hudson stated that she wanted to make sure that you understand what Miss Fain is
25 saying. There could be a year that maybe the cost of living doesn't change. She stated that if the
26 cost of living changes, then their pension changes because their cost of living goes up. It's
27 difficult to live in any place where you get \$1,000.00 this year and you live 20 more years and it
28 is still \$1,000.00. Then we have to increase your tax to help pay for that person instead of us
29 giving him the cost of living from our fund. We just give the cost of living so that we are in a
30 position to take care of that individual that has given their time and their life to taking care of our
31 Village.

32
33 Judge Jones inquired of Miss Fain whether or not the rules are set by State Law. Miss Fain stated
34 yes. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that this is all regulated by State Law. You don't
35 have a choice to say one way or the other the State dictates. She stated for years we were making
36 our contributions based on the Department of Insurance. The State came along and said the
37 Department of Insurance no longer regulates that. It became a State regulated fund in terms of
38 your contributions. Would you talk about if you are not making your appropriate contributions
39 the State in 2018 can automatically take it whether or not you want to do it or not?

40
41 Miss Fain stated that there is a law that is suppose to go into effect next year. She thinks it has a
42 lot to do with the fact that there are places that are not contributing. It creates a situation where
43 you have an officer, who puts himself at a certain amount of risk, and they went into this and are
44 contributing what they should, but there is a chance their pension could be in trouble. The State
45 passed a law where they aren't receiving what they are suppose to that now can be taken and
46 made sure that it is put into the fund. She stated that a lot of places there is quite a bit of a
47 shortfall. The first year they will force them to put in one-third of it. The next year if there is still
48 a shortfall they will put in two-thirds. It will be fully in effect in 2018/2019. Depending on your

1 Fiscal Year-end you will be required to put in the full amount. This is something that Olympia
2 Fields has never had to worry about. It is something that you have done on your own. You have
3 consistently been putting in almost that full 100% as it is. She stated for some other places it may
4 have them step up to the plate a little bit more to make sure that their officers are taken care of.

5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she knows at South Suburban Mayors and Managers
7 which is their council of government, many of the Mayors and the Municipalities are quite
8 concerned about their contributions because it is becoming so prohibitive in terms of the amount
9 that you are putting in. She stated in 2008 we were looking at around \$400,000.00. It is now
10 going to be over \$1,000,000.00 in terms of the contribution. That is what Mayors talk about all
11 the time in terms of mandates that the State is demanding with no way to pay for it. They leave it
12 up to your devices. She stated that when we go to Springfield that is our constant conversation.

13
14 Miss Fain stated that law is for the 90% number. It is not the 100%. You have that goal of
15 putting in more than what is required. The 90% number is calculated a little differently and it is a
16 little bit less than the number you see here. She stated for this fund it is about \$100,000.00 less
17 than what we would put in for the full 100% funding. She stated that some places have gotten a
18 little bit more creative. They will try to do a tax or issue Bonds. You are just trading one debt for
19 another so it isn't worth it to do something like that. These are the struggles that a lot of Pension
20 Funds are having to deal with is figuring out how to manage that cash flow.

21
22 Mrs. Sanovia Reynolds-Parks inquired what is the \$16,000,000.00 liability. What is net positions
23 of \$8.2 Million?

24
25 Miss Fain stated that all relates to the GASB. This is that hypothetical scenario. We talked about
26 how this fund has averaged about 94%, 95%. You almost put in that full 100% every single year.
27 GASB says to project in this hypothetical world what happens if over the rest of the lifetime we
28 never quite make it to 100%. What if we always have a little bit of a shortfall? We only put in
29 95%. What that would tell us is instead of our current liability in our fund which for your fund
30 that current unfunded liability which is what we are trying to put money aside for to make sure
31 that we pay benefits for, it's around \$13,000,000.00. So this number is a little higher because it is
32 basically saying that if you are never going to put in that full 100%, at a certain point down the
33 road you have to make up for all those years of a little bit of a shortfall.

34
35 Mrs. Reynolds-Parks inquired liability for what. What is it set aside for in the hypothetical world
36 that we are holding onto \$16,000,000.00? What comet is going to fall out of the sky that we have
37 to be prepared for since it is hypothetical for \$16,000,000.00?

38
39 Miss Fain stated that is a great question. "Liability" is the fancy actuarial term for benefits. Right
40 now the number of officers or their surviving spouses that are collecting a benefit in the fund is
41 15 individuals. So we have 15 individuals collecting a benefit, whether they are collecting
42 retirement, disability, or whether they are a surviving spouse. We have 20 active officers and 15
43 that have already worked a full career and retired and are collecting a benefit. She stated for the
44 15 officers that have worked a full career and are collecting a benefit, they are collecting a
45 pension benefit. We pay out about \$853,000.00 in benefits to them annually. That's the total
46 amount for those 15 individuals. We have 20 officers that are active that are not collecting a
47 benefit. We have to keep preparing for them to start collecting a benefit. That's what that
48 \$13,000,000.00 represents. It is what they will eventually collect over their lifetime in retirement.

1 We need to eventually have those funds in preparing for when they retire. We don't have to have
2 it in today. Our goal is to get that in by 2040. The goal is to make sure that we have enough
3 assets set aside for our current active population. We have to monitor this each year because we
4 will always have active officers. That \$13,000,000.00 represents what these 20 active will
5 eventually collect. The individuals who worked while they were active they are required to
6 contribute close to 10% of their salary every paycheck.

7
8 Mrs. Reynolds-Parks stated so we are projected to payout \$16,000,000.00 over time to the 15
9 officers that on average make \$54,000.00 a year. Officer Barry stated that there were two
10 questions here that he thinks he might be able to clear up a little bit. He stated where the fund sits
11 right now is roughly \$8.2 Million in total assets. We want to be at that \$16,000,000.00 by 2040.
12 That's what we need in our fund. That gets added in by employee contributions, tax levy
13 contributions over the next 20, 25-years.

14
15 Officer Barry stated that with regard to the cap, there is a cap built-in by salary. There are two
16 tiers of pension right now. The old tier which was hires before 2012 at 30-years of service you
17 maxed out your pension. If you retire out at 30-years of service you will get 75% of that year's
18 ending salary for the rest of your life, and also figuring in the cost of living increases as they go
19 down the line. The law was changed in 2012. Any hires after 2012, when they retire will be
20 collecting 75% of the average of the last 96-months of service. You had indicated if an officer
21 worked for 40-years he would keep going up and up. He can't. It gets locked in at 30-years. He
22 stated that 30-years is your max and 75% of the salary is the max. Should an officer retire before
23 they do a full 30-years of service, each year is 2.5% less off of that 75% that he would have
24 received had he put in his full 30-years. Does that help?

25
26 Mrs. Reynold-Parks stated yes. She inquired do all of the officers have to live in the Village? Do
27 all of our officers live in the community? She stated no, they don't. All right.

28
29 A woman in the audience stated that from listening to the Presentation it looks like all the funds
30 generated no matter where they come from the Village, we protect the fund. It looks like we also
31 contributed an abundance over many, many, many years of being over 90% that we have to put
32 into it based on the State. So we raised our taxes for something that we have been over giving. Is
33 that a better way of saying that, or no?

34
35 Miss Fain stated that there is a difference between what you should put in and what you are
36 legally required to put in. The Statutory minimum number is the legal amount you should put in
37 to keep it low treading water. It doesn't mean that it is the amount that you really should put in to
38 make sure that you have good pension health. The minimum number is a good bottom line
39 number to put in. But for true fund health you've got to think of that 100%. At the end of the day
40 we are not paying out 90% benefits to our officers. They are going to collect the full amount. If
41 we prepare our whole time planning on only giving them that 90% number, we are going to be in
42 trouble at a certain point. It is nice to have that 100% target. This is built-in with an expectation
43 of an investment return. We have that \$16,000,000.00 number we want to hit. That's also based
44 on as the officer mentioned, the employees contribute, the tax levy goes in, and we have an
45 investment team that tries to earn as much as they can from the market to reduce that tax levy
46 number as well. It's designed to try to be as efficient as possible. Let's get the money in now.
47 Let's be able to earn investment returns. That's another key thing. If we only ever put in the 90%
48 you lose out on the ability to earn investment returns. If we are only putting in the minimum,

1 then we have that loss. It is not as efficient long-term. If we can try to put in a little bit more than
2 what is legally required, then we have the ability to earn investment returns. In the long-term it is
3 cheaper for taxpayers because your investment returns are met for you versus it having to come
4 directly from a taxpayer.

5
6 Mrs. Reynolds-Parks stated that it seems like the Village as a whole wants to protect the Pension
7 Fund, our Veterans, our Police Officers, and everything. That is the priority. So anything else
8 that we all want to do to try to stimulate the economy, if the Pension Fund doesn't get funded,
9 they aren't going to have extra money to do anything. That's just the reality of it all.

10
11 Miss Fain stated that she is impressed with how vocal everyone is. It's really nice to have a
12 group that comes out here and cares, and asks those questions to make sure that there is that
13 balance between making sure the officers are taken care of, and understanding that there is a lot
14 of other cash flow needs as well. She likes this discussion.

15
16 Mr. Pat Collier inquired over the last 10-years, how has our funded percentage changed.

17
18 Mrs. Saenz stated that our funded percentage levels have increased over the years. Years ago we
19 were required to contribute based on a calculation from the State of Illinois, the Department of
20 Insurance. That calculation did not take into consideration all of our individual police officers.
21 When GASB 34 came into play in 2005, all of the Municipalities were required to hire an
22 Actuary to do this work. At that point the Actuary comes up with that 90% figure that tells us
23 what we need to start contributing into the fund so that we can be 90% funded or 100% funded
24 by 2040, which again is State Statute. Legally, we have to be 90% funded by 2040. Over the
25 years the Village has actually been in a position where we could start contributing what the
26 Actuary actually recommends. In prior years that wasn't the case. We had to steer stuff our way
27 to that. Last year we were funded at 43%. This year we are funded at 39%. As Jessica explained
28 there were some changes in our plan that resulted in that slight decrease. It is still the Board's
29 intention to fund the Pension Fund at 100%. That is our target. We are given the two different
30 figures every year. We do budget for the 100% funding level. We actually levy for the 100%
31 funding level.

32
33 Miss Fain stated that to go back to the question on why the funding percentage decreased, it is a
34 ratio of assets to liability. Liability is just how much are you going to payout in benefits. Our
35 assets improved this year. We had positive returns in a tough market. Our assets went up. But
36 with this new information we are suddenly seeing that we need a lot more in benefit set aside
37 because people are going to live longer. Now because you need to have more money set aside it
38 looks like we are lower in funded percentage and really we are not. If we had this table last year
39 that said people were going to live longer, what you probably would have seen is last year we
40 would have been funded around 37% and this year it would have looked like we had a nice
41 increase. Our assets went up. We are getting closer to being wholly funded. The key thing is you
42 contributed what you should. Your assets grew. Now all if a sudden this new information tells us
43 that we should have put more money aside that we didn't realize. You have to roll with it. That's
44 the way a lot of Pension Funds do it. You use the best information you have to figure out what
45 you need. If new information comes out and tells you something different you've got to figure
46 out how to work with it. The nice thing is you have that 100% goal. You set a high target. So if
47 we fall a little short of it we are still going to definitely be above the 90% target. It gives you a
48 little wiggle room and a buffer for funds to make sure that they are taken care of long-term.

1 Legally you only need to put in that 90%. This is a group that is more conscious minded. They
2 want to make sure that they do what they can to handle that full amount of benefit they have to
3 pay out.

4
5 Mr. Sterling Burke inquired of Miss Fain whether or not the pension is based on base pay or base
6 pay and overtime. Miss Fain stated that there are a lot of different rules and restrictions for what
7 is considered pensionable pay. There are some instances where overtime might be considered
8 and some instances where a holiday might be considered. A lot of times it is not. So what you
9 might see is that an officer's salary at the end of the year, and what actually you see as a
10 collected benefit could be different. They are very restrictive of that. They want to make sure that
11 since that final salary number is what determines the benefit that there are a lot of rules and
12 regulations around it. It is going to depend person by person. In general they are pretty tough on
13 what they will consider pay that is allowed to calculate the pension.

14
15 Corporal Lopez stated that in our case it is strictly salary, no overtime. Mr. Burke stated that in
16 Olympia Fields case it is strictly base salary. Miss Fain stated it is not going to be overtime. It's
17 not going to be any sort of increases or any sort of additional benefits beyond that. It's that set
18 pay because it determines the benefit and from there on out it is the cost of living increases. One
19 of the things they talked about was there is this cap on it. It is a wonderful benefit to have. It is
20 not one that allows for them to go buy yachts or anything. It's restrictive. It's fair. It's intended
21 to be designed in a way that for the service and the risk that they put themselves at during their
22 working career, it's an equal return for them. There has to be a worthwhile benefit in the end. It
23 is designed in a way to be fair, but to not be unfair to the public as well to ask you to pay an
24 exorbitant amount for the amount of service that you are receiving from your officers or from
25 your firefighters. Another way that is intended is keeping in mind that balance to give and take
26 just to make sure that it is fair on both sides of the coin.

27
28 Dr. Doris Langon inquired in the expansion of the hospital, were there negotiations for the
29 hospital to pickup police expenses. Trustee Hudson stated that is not within her Presentation. We
30 can talk about that in the next session.

31
32 Dr. Langon stated another way to grow our own is to have a relationship with our School District
33 to have a First Responders Program so that we can have other economic opportunities for our
34 youth.

35
36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated certainly thinking outside the box and being creative as
37 we have forged a relationship with the hospital to provide healthcare classes and opportunities
38 for the high school, that is something certainly she is sure that Public Safety would consider. It
39 sounds like a wonderful idea. It has never been suggested. She likes it. In thinking outside the
40 box and being creative, just as we have done with healthcare, we can certainly do something with
41 Public Safety as well. Thank you so much for that suggestion.

42
43 Dr. Langon stated that she understands that Wal-Mart is picking up the cost for their police
44 services. She is just concerned about why this is not happening with the hospital.

45
46 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the hospital didn't request extra public safety
47 officers. What we have decided in being proactive is talking to Chicago Heights and their
48 experience at their Emergency Room, the fact that those two Emergency Rooms are being

1 consolidated, it would be wise for us to prepare to have officers ready to address any concerns.
2 She stated that when St. James, now Franciscan Health was a Trauma Center, there were all
3 kinds of issues there that were related to police. She is sure that our officers can speak to that.
4 There were all kinds of issues. We are just trying to be proactive so that we don't have to be
5 reactionary, but that we already have plans in place to be able to address those things. But to this
6 point the hospital has not requested that of us. Certainly we have ongoing negotiations with them
7 so that we can have a plan in place to address potential need. She thanked Miss Fain for her
8 presentation. Previously, we have met with our Pension Board. It is quite informative to get these
9 new numbers as we proceed with the State Law and their requirements.

10
11 Miss Fain stated thanks for having me out. She stated that she has done a lot of these
12 Presentations. No one has asked the questions that you guys have asked. No one cares as much.
13 She stated that for her that makes her excited because regardless of where the economy goes,
14 regardless of what the new Presidential Election means, you got people that care and are willing
15 to be creative and come up with ideas and voice their opinion. You have a Board that cares. You
16 have a Pension Fund that cares as well. She has no concerns that you guys are going to put your
17 heads together and be able to weather any storm that comes this way simply because you care.
18 You would be surprised at how few places you get that feeling. She is excited to see how this
19 fund grows and how you guys handle it. (There was a round of applause).

20
21 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that was our Presentation for the Workshop Meeting.
22

23 **ADJOURNMENT:**
24

25 **Motion by Trustee Hudson, second by Trustee Pennington to adjourn at 7:53 P.M.**
26 **Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.**
27

28 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.
29
30
31
32

1 **REMARKS FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

2
3 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is very happy to see the Board Room full. We
4 don't experience this a lot. It is very rewarding to know that there is interest in what we do here
5 at the Board level. Thank you so much for being here.
6

7 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that over the course of the past two-weeks since our last
8 Board Meeting, a lot of things have transpired in the Village. She stated one being some
9 information that was shared among residents, as well as with some of the other Municipalities.
10 When she reviewed some of that information she found it to be in some cases inaccurate, in some
11 cases misrepresentations of what is really going on. During the last Board Meeting there was a
12 lot of discussion. There was a lot of commentary related to our Administrator. She has said on
13 many, many occasions, David Mekarski, the Village Administrator who has been here for 11-
14 years, his responsibility is to answer to the Board, and to answer to the residents. He does not
15 have the authorization to make decisions on his own. Everything that occurs here is decided by
16 the Board, by the Board's approval, the Board's sanction, the Board's direction. David will
17 gather information for us to review. Our job as Board Members is to make policy. She stated
18 policy that will enhance the Village that will grow the Village that will enhance the quality of
19 life for our residents. That is the job of this Board. She does not have the time to explore every
20 piece of information, every resource that could potentially be available to this Board to make an
21 informed decision. She does not have that time. She doesn't think that anybody else on the Board
22 has the time to do the in-depth research to bring to this Board resources, or information that is
23 available to make informed decisions to enhance the quality of life in the Village.
24

25 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that if, in fact, you are unhappy or dissatisfied with the
26 way the Village has done its business, handled its business, it is at the Board level that your
27 questions should occur. She stated that she has heard that we have not been conversational
28 enough. We haven't been as informative as we should have been. If, in fact, that is the
29 perception, then she apologizes for that. She believes, and she thinks that the Board believes that
30 we had several instruments to get information out. She stated one being the Newsletter which
31 comes out quarterly. She stated one being the Board Meetings which all of this information is
32 discussed twice a month every month of the year. She created "Coffee with the President." That
33 is every second Saturday of the month. We just had a meeting this past Saturday. There were
34 about 25-people here. They were concerned about the information that they had received and that
35 they had read. It was such a great dialog because we were able to discuss all of those things that
36 concern them, that they had questions about, and that is why the Coffee with the President was
37 created. That was the design of it. If you didn't want to come to a Board Meeting, if you didn't
38 want to read the Newsletter, then this was the perfect opportunity. She has been doing it for
39 three-years. There are some people that come every month. They know exactly what's going on
40 in the Village because they come and they ask. We give them that information because we are
41 proud of that information. We are proud of how hard we work.
42

43 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are proud of the Budget process that starts in
44 January and ends in April. Those meetings are public, open meetings. We have a Finance
45 Committee. Trustee Byrd is the Liaison. The Finance Committee vets everything that comes
46 through that Budget. This is a Committee of residents that vet this Budget. If they have questions
47 the Finance Committee is right there to answer. The Department Heads have to explain,

1 legitimize, and justify every cost, every line item in their Budget. There are checks and balances.
2 David is not involved in that in terms of the Finance Committee. That is between the Finance
3 Committee, the Department Heads, and the Board. At the end of the day the Board approves that
4 Budget. It is open for anyone to attend.

5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is disappointed that there wasn't a better way to
7 get that information out. At the Coffee with the President on Saturday it was suggested, and she
8 thinks it is a wonderful idea, in addition to the Newsletter, in addition to the website, in addition
9 to Channel 4, in addition to NIXLE, in addition to Code Red, that we send out a communication
10 telling progress whether it is good or bad, highlights, or low lights. At the end of the day there
11 would be better communication she would assume. She has always said that her door is open to
12 having those kinds of discussions. The Department Heads doors are open. Trustees are open.
13 They all serve at large. They don't represent a particular segment of town. Even though Trustee
14 Hudson lives in the Original Village, she can have a discussion about Maynegaitte. She can have
15 a discussion about Olympia Fields East. That's why we serve.

16
17 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that there was information that addressed line by line
18 some of the information that was shared in the letter that went out to residents clarifying,
19 explaining, opening up to you what the real facts are in context. She has been around a long time.
20 You can take facts and you can twist them anyway you want to, to say anything you want to.
21 You all know that is true. Look at this past election that we just experienced. She has gone to
22 Homeowners Association Meetings, homeowners that put out Newsletters. We have lost our
23 media in the south suburbs. We use to have the Star and the Daily Southtown. The Daily
24 Southtown is more interested in reporting on what goes on in Orland. If a fly sneezes in Orland it
25 is in the paper. We can have accolades of our high school, we can have accolades of charities, we
26 can have all kinds of wonderful news and it does not make the papers. She has said time and time
27 again, it is so important for information that goes out to be clear, accurate, and in context. If there
28 is a question, why not come to the source? Why not come to where the information generates
29 from? That does not mean that everything has to be vetted through the Board because it is your
30 Newsletter. She thinks that if you are going to share information that you want that information
31 to be correct. That is her personal belief that you would want that to be true so that people are not
32 angry, or concerned, or afraid of something that is not really as it is presented. She thinks that
33 would be important. It is important to her. That's why she sits on Saturday so that people can
34 understand.

35
36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Non-Home Rule Sales Tax did pass. (There was
37 a round of applause). It was not created to deal with police pension. It's mandated by State Law
38 that it can only be used for infrastructure and capital improvements. It's mandated by State Law.
39 If we used it for anything else in spite of our Resolution, we could be in big trouble legally. It
40 was very rewarding to her that it passed. As we said time and time again, the Village only
41 receives 11% of your tax dollars. That's all the Village receives. She stated that 75% of your
42 money goes to the school and the other taxing bodies. It is difficult to accomplish all that you
43 need to accomplish at the Village with 11% of Property Tax. That being said, that was the least
44 painful because in our estimation and our calculations 90%, possibly 95% of that 1%, that one
45 penny on the dollar will be paid by other residents of the region and not Olympia Fields citizens.
46 Thank you so much for those of you that supported that. It spoke volumes to the ability to have

1 an understanding when you have a chance to talk, when you have a chance to discuss. You can
2 achieve anything if you just allow that flexibility and that ability to speak.
3

4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we had information out that addressed some of the
5 concerns. In this information it talked about the Asset Forfeiture Program. It said that asset
6 forfeiture had to do with the Village seizing property of residents. “Asset Forfeiture Program
7 used to finance Village Hall and police via seizure of resident and non-resident property.” The
8 Asset Forfeiture Program was a very specialized program that not many Villages got to
9 participate in. The bottom line is if you were selected, if you were chosen, you got to send one
10 officer to the Customs Program to work with them through the Department of Justice. As our
11 former Chief Chudwin use to say, we would use the bad guys money to pay for projects related
12 to Public Safety in the Village. So yes, the Asset Forfeiture Funds do help to pay for the police
13 segment of this Village Hall. It is because when our officer works with other Customs Officers
14 and other Department of Justice Officers, and back in the day Lars use to work with our officer
15 as well, when they would capture drugs, when they would capture money, we got a percentage of
16 that seizure. That’s how asset forfeiture works. It has nothing to do with taking residents’
17 property.
18

19 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she appreciates your concern. She understands your
20 concern. There are certainly challenges in this Village just like there are challenges in every
21 other Village related to financing, related to services. It has always been her opinion that
22 sometimes when you have become what is known as a “minority/majority town,” that housing
23 stock goes down, services go down, and trash is not picked up. We have been very, very diligent
24 to make sure that does not occur. That’s why we have a Code Enforcement Officer. Whenever he
25 shows up, she always says you may not like him however, he has an important role. That role is
26 to make sure that your housing stock does not deteriorate. That can happen if you are not
27 diligent. That is the role of our Code Enforcement Officer. She is very proud of him.
28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Jim Landini will tell you that she is on the phone
30 with him constantly. If she is driving and there is trash everywhere, that is unacceptable. It is
31 really important to her that there is an understanding between this Board and the residents. If
32 there is anything that she can do, or this Board can do to make that a better relationship, then she
33 is all for that. You just have to tell her. It needs to be in a constructive way. She thinks that is the
34 best way. She knows that on Saturday that worked. We had a wonderful conversation. There
35 were concerns. There were questions. What’s this all about? Why is this? What are you going to
36 do about this? It wasn’t a cakewalk. It wasn’t Kumbaya. But it was effective. The Johnsons were
37 there. She thinks that when they left everybody felt better because they understood. That’s all she
38 asks is that you understand. We all live here. It’s important to us just like it is important to you to
39 deal with these high taxes which are strangling the south suburbs, not just Olympia Fields. In
40 terms of Economic Development you are always in competition with regions that don’t pay that
41 kind of Property Tax, ala Will County, Indiana. You are always in competition with these places.
42

43 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the Town Hall Meeting is tentatively set for
44 November 29th. That will be the opportunity for everyone who has questions or concerns, and if
45 that document does not answer things that you have questions about, she welcomes you to come.
46 She honestly does. We can hash out all of the questions that you have. Everything is open for
47 discussion. In local government that is the perk that you can do that. You can’t go to Washington

1 and do that. She stated that most of the times you can't even go to the State. We have our
2 Legislators. She doesn't think that they are going to devote the amount of time that she does, and
3 this Board, and the Administrator, and the Department Heads are willing to do. She will send out
4 that document that addresses those things if you didn't get a chance to get a copy. Bring it along
5 with you if you come to the Town Hall Meeting. If there is something in there you don't quite
6 get or don't understand we are open to do that.

7
8 **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

9
10 Village President Meyers-Martin opened Communications & Petitions at 8:20 P.M.

11
12 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she is going to open Communications & Petitions.
13 She hopes that you saw on the table that there is "Rules for Compliance with Public Comment."
14 These Rules were handed down from the Attorney General's Office. They were passed and
15 adopted October 27th, 2014. This didn't just occur. We have heard a lot of testimony and we
16 have heard a lot of comment. It is now 8:20. She is going to limit public comment to 9 o'clock.
17 She welcomes you to come forward and take a microphone. We are going to limit commentary
18 to the three-minutes as prescribed by our Ordinance that we did adopt in 2014. If you cannot
19 make your commentary in the three-minutes, there is a provision if the Board agrees to it that
20 you can finish your thought. That is the way we will conduct this. Chief Krull will be keeping
21 time. She stated that for most of your questions she is hoping that you will come to the Town
22 Hall Meeting. This is just a listening mechanism. We won't be able to have dialog. We won't be
23 able to go back and forth like the Town Hall Meeting which is where you will get most of your
24 information.

25
26 Mr. Charles Durley stated that he resides at 20429 Attica Road. He stated that the Village
27 President is right that facts can be skewed anyway that we want them to be. When we were here
28 two-weeks ago, we asked that you all go into Executive Session to discuss our Management
29 Team. He is wondering if you all did that.

30
31 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she doesn't remember being asked to go into
32 Executive Session. She remembers being asked to not renew a contract that is up in the spring.

33
34 Mr. Durley stated that Trustee Pennington brought it up and said that he heard the residents and
35 he felt that you all should do that.

36
37 Trustee Pennington stated that was a recommendation that he made. We did not go into
38 Executive Session. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we haven't had a meeting since
39 then.

40
41 Mr. Durley stated that you answered his question you did not go into Executive Session. He
42 wants people that are here to know that as a resident he is not going out and saying things wrong
43 or inappropriate. He is saying that he is wary. He has been here 23-years. Our tax base has gone
44 up. Our indebtedness as a Village of 2.4 miles has increased drastically. In his opinion, he
45 doesn't think this 1% is going to get us where we need to be. We need to look at cutting staff at
46 this Village Hall. He is a working individual. He can't get over here unless he takes a day off. He

1 thinks that is inappropriate. We don't have hours that fit the residents out here to get to this
2 Village Hall and handle their business. He is going to let it go at that.

3
4 Mrs. Beverly Sokol stated that she resides at 10 Wysteria Drive. She thanked the Board for the
5 state of the Village of Olympia Fields. She looks forward to reading it. She is asking that the
6 Board of Trustees reconsider their vote against the erection of the 105-foot cell tower by Central
7 States Tower on the Greek Orthodox Church parking lot. That is her request for the following
8 reasons: The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that the only reason to disallow the
9 construction of a cell tower is if it significantly impacts property value and/or blocks a scenic
10 view that adds to the value of the property such as a lake or a mountain view. The FCC reasons
11 for not erecting a cell tower do not exist in our case. Defending our suit against Central States
12 Tower could involve the outlay of up to \$400,000.00 in legal fees. It is for these reasons that she
13 asks you to vote yes for the erection of the cell tower and avoid unnecessary and costly legal fees
14 for an indefensible case that has no legal legs to stand on. Thank you very much for listening.
15 She hopes that you will consider voting yes for the cell tower.

16
17 Mr. Pat Collier stated that he needs to make the same request that he did two-weeks ago. He was
18 impressed with Debbie's explanation about how the Village is run and everything. He knows
19 most of you personally. He knows that most of you want the best for the Village. He is the same
20 way. As he said before he is worried because we are going deeper and deeper into debt. As you
21 said speak up and let yourself be known. He wants to speak up now and say to the Board, to all
22 of you who he knows personally, you guys have got to do something to cut the expenses. We
23 can't continue to overspend our Budget. Otherwise, we are going to be just like the Villages that
24 you describe which don't have electricity and garbage pickup and so on and so forth. The time to
25 do it is now before we get deeper and deeper into debt. We are in a lot of debt now. If he is not
26 mistaken, we probably overspent our Budget if we hired four new employees. Three of them are
27 police. We are now talking about the Police Pension Fund. There is no way we are going to meet
28 our Budget this year. He thinks he heard something about Wal-Mart picking up part of the funds
29 for the police services that they are having there. That's the kind of thing that you guys should be
30 doing if that is what is indeed happening. If you are convincing Wal-Mart now to pickup part of
31 the expense for the additional police service that's what he would expect out of you guys. He
32 doesn't like the fact that for the last 10 to 15-years we are getting deeper and deeper into debt.
33 We will be like many of the homes that are out here now which are empty because of
34 foreclosure. Everything that Debbie said about the Village, he loves it. He feels the same way.
35 But we have got to be responsible. You guys have got to do something on this Board to decrease
36 or to hold our expenses in line. It has got to be a way to do that. If you make a Budget you got to
37 stick with it. He doesn't know how this year's Budget is coming out. But if we hired three police
38 and office personnel and we are not going to make Budget. You guys have got to do something
39 so that we decrease our expenses and don't continue to go in the hole as we have. It is said we
40 went from \$2,000,000.00 in the hole to \$15,000,000.00 in the hole. That's not good. He is
41 certainly glad that's not true. That scared the hell out of him. If that's not true that is good. His
42 request is that you guys have got to do something to stay in line and to stop getting further and
43 further in the hole.

44
45 Mrs. Shiree Bush-Giblin stated that the \$2,000,000.00 in debt went to \$15,000,000.00 in debt.
46 At the Reception for the new owners, did she hear Administrator Mekarski say that that debt was

1 not being paid by the residents? We have entrepreneurs paying some of that \$15,000,000.00
2 debt. We have the Country Club paying some of that debt.

3
4 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that some of the debt that shows up in the Budget is what
5 we call a pass-through. On the front end it is an expense. On the back end it is reimbursed. Some
6 of those dollars are reimbursed. They just don't show up that way. Secondly, it is not
7 \$15,000,000.00. As she said in the document that is on the table it is approximately
8 \$9,000,000.00. She stated from 2008 until now that's eight-years, there have been projects that
9 have been required that we attend to that are mandated that we address. So therefore, debt
10 amortized over a certain period of time is the way Municipalities work. That is the most efficient
11 way to address those projects that need to be done. She met with the Bond Counsel recently. His
12 theory which is universal throughout the Bond Market, is that if you take your reserves and you
13 pay for a project, then the people that live in town now are paying for roads for people who are
14 going to use those roads 20, 30, and 40-years later. It is much fairer if you amortize that debt to
15 repair those roads. But now the people that are using them 20-years from now are part of that
16 repayment schedule.

17
18 Mrs. Shiree Bush-Giblin stated that she is very pleased with all of you, especially you David;
19 you seem so passionate when you talk about this Village. You always start to cry. She can't see
20 someone having that much passion doing that much wrong. (There was a round of applause). She
21 stated that it was brought to the Christmas Committee's attention that we were not going to have
22 a Holiday Party this year. She called the Mayor. The Mayor told her to talk to the residents and
23 see what they want to do. Mrs. Bush-Giblin made a few calls. She is happy to say for the first
24 time with the exception of 37-tickets left at the Village Hall that we are sold out. Over 224
25 people will be attending that party. (There was a round of applause). She stated thank you for
26 listening to the residents. Thank you for our Annual Christmas Party that she has been a part of
27 for the last 12-years. She has lived here for the last 25-years. (There was a round of applause).

28
29 Mr. Ron Bean wanted to speak about two points that were raised. The first is about Bond
30 indebtedness to the Village. The first point that he would make is the Village continues to
31 maintain its AA Rating. That is because the Bond indebtedness is much less than the
32 recommended total percent on the assessed valuation of the Village. We are not anywhere near
33 what our total Bond indebtedness could be as recommended against the assessed valuation. 2.
34 Capital expenditures which have been the subject of Bond indebtedness should be paid for over
35 long-term Bonds and not as you pointed out through our current revenue. They should be paid
36 for over the use of the life.

37
38 Mr. Bean stated that he will make a comment about the communication he received about Family
39 Dollar. As he drives down Route 30 he is not excited about seeing a Family Dollar Store at that
40 location. He also recognizes that private property that is owned in a particular zone, and zoned
41 for a particular commercial use, and the Family Dollar Store is a Permitted Use. The Village
42 cannot stop that if the owner came forward with that request. He doesn't like it. It is a reflection
43 of things that are happening outside of the Village. He thinks that it is spurious to say that the
44 Village Administration created that. There are Permitted Uses in a zone. When an owner or a
45 lesser comes to you and makes an Application for a Permitted Use, the best you can do is have
46 them put in some bushes and make sure that he paints the building and so forth. But you have to

1 issue the Building Permit for a Permitted Use. Thank you. (There was a round of applause).
2 Village President Meyers-Martin stated Ron Bean, former Village President in Park Forest.

3
4 Mr. Robert Dawson stated that he resides at 209 Brookwood Drive. He stated first, positive
5 feedback because we live right behind Wal-Mart. He stated that because we put “local only”
6 signs at both entrances we have not seen a lot of traffic. We have seen a lot more police presence
7 so that has been great. One of the concerns that you talked about was not being heard in the
8 media with the Southtown and all the other papers. One of the things that he sees limiting it in
9 Olympia Fields and most African or minority communities is the use of digital technology. The
10 game has changed. President Elect Trump was elected because he used Twitter effectively. We
11 are using Newsletters, mail; he would like you to use the Web Team that you are using to
12 develop this new site to make sure that they talk to you about how to use social media. He is
13 under 50 and the only way he gets his information is from this device. He came across the letter
14 that someone sent out because it was below his mail. If we are going to have Olympia Fields in
15 25-years, the next generation of Olympia Fields people that are going to hear about Olympia
16 Fields are going to live Olympia Fields on this device. If you are not in the digital space you are
17 not counted. You are not there anymore. Oak Park has 5,000 followers and they put 2500
18 Tweets. It has to be strategically used. You can’t do like some candidates have done and send out
19 bogus stuff. It is a great way to get your message out as well as to get good press about our
20 community. You can put things like responses, surveys, and everything. Most people that work
21 50, 60-hours a week that is where they get their interaction. He would encourage the Board to
22 start to move forward and embrace social media. Don’t be scared of it. It is terrifying for most
23 people. He stated Facebook, Twitter, start to evaluate that. (There was a round of applause).

24
25 Mr. Robert Lewis stated that he resides at 605 Wysteria. They use Homewood Disposal. They
26 are very happy with it. About four or five-years ago they put out a fuel adjustment cost on the
27 bill of \$4.00 or \$5.00. He stated that the fuel prices were up. They have come way down and it is
28 still there. He wondered if somehow the Village can resolve that issue for him. Village President
29 Meyers-Martin asked Administrator Mekarski to make a note of that.

30
31 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she doesn’t know if Mr. Lewis had a conversation
32 with them. The Village has contacted them about other issues. We will check into that. She
33 hasn’t paid attention that they were still charging the fuel cost. She thanked Mr. Lewis.

34
35 Mrs. Sharon Eubanks-Pope stated she resides at 1027 Evergreen Circle. She has a request to
36 make of the Board. As she understands it and she may be wrong, we have several TIF’s in the
37 Village. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we have two. Mrs. Eubanks-Pope stated
38 that they have boundaries. They are a very useful tool to a governing body in order to set aside
39 some taxes to do things that you would like to do that you may not otherwise be able to do. She
40 is requesting that this Board consider having an Advisory Group to this Board for the decisions
41 of how those Tax Increment Financing Funds would be used. A TIF boundary is drawn. The
42 taxes are frozen for that boundary at the point where they were when the TIF was created. As
43 time goes on and tax is elevated, that extra money is put into a separate pool and then you are
44 able to draw from that pool in order to encourage investment and improvement within that
45 boundary. You can send the funds to another area other than that boundary. She is requesting that
46 we have Village input. She noticed in Debbie’s Newsletter that we have a preferred developer.
47 She interpreted that as being a single developer. She would like to see requests for Proposals so

1 that it is open to more than a preferred developer, and that we can make sure that our tax dollars
2 that are being set aside and not used for the Village as a whole. She would not like to see any tax
3 dollars funneled off to the point that we couldn't use it for the bodies generally without us having
4 residential input. She is requesting that we try to create that Board.

5
6 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Mrs. Eubanks-Pope for that comment. She stated that
7 we have an Economic Development Committee that does do that. They are residents. Mrs.
8 Eubanks-Pope stated that she would be interested in serving. She is sure that there are others who
9 would also. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that there are Applications in the foyer for
10 any Committee or Board that you would like to join. Mrs. Eubanks-Pope stated that for the TIF
11 she is interested in serving on that because it is an excellent tool in order to promote the things
12 that we would like to see come about in this Village. She stated that she does have expertise.
13 Thank you.

14
15 Mr. Sterling Burke stated that he resides in The Greens. The document that you referred to that
16 was discussed at the last Board Meeting was a perspective of a number of people. The items that
17 are in there they feel are true. They remain to be true. The great thing is it seems like there has
18 been some more openness about some of these things and you have gone in and looked at some
19 of these things, and you have some documentation that would refute some of these things that we
20 still feel are very true. It's interesting it's a good idea to defer roads being billed to someone in a
21 later generation. We are trying to pay for all the police pensions right now even though it is a
22 state requirement to do that. He stated from the point of view of the debt, the debt still exists.
23 Somebody still has to pay it. One of the reasons that you needed this 1% Sales Tax whether we
24 are getting it from a third party or not, is that you are taking \$850,000.00 out of the Sewer and
25 Water Department, and you are using that money to balance the books in the General Fund. If
26 you just took that same \$850,000.00 you would have never had to do the 1%. He thinks that most
27 of us would say that 1% is something we still need to do. We are glad that it passed. But in the
28 three or four different Presentations that he personally sat through, he saw as much as
29 \$39,000,000.00 worth of projects that you claimed that you were going to use this money for.
30 The \$735,000.00 a year that was estimated that you would get from this 1% would take 52-years
31 to pay for it. Mr. Burke stated that he isn't going to say that we are not being honest about this,
32 he is going to say that part of the reason the piece was sent out was to get more communication
33 and more discussion. That is not just something that comes from the Village flier about things
34 that you are doing. If any of the people here go and look at the Budget, look at the actual Audit
35 Reports, you will see things in there that you will have a lot of questions. They never get
36 discussed at any of these meetings. In the meetings that he has been to he hasn't seen anybody
37 talk about it. It was kind of a shock when we came up with the fact that you were \$15.7 Million
38 in debt and you just sort of passed over it, and brought it up three times. He doesn't think that the
39 public as a whole knows anything about it. Communication is very important and having things
40 open is very important. We would hope that you would continue to do that.

41
42 Mr. Burke stated that we have heard about this preferred developer. Has the Board ever had the
43 preferred developer that we keep hearing about come and give a Quarterly Presentation on those
44 opportunities that he is working on to address the revenue shortfall that we have in the Village?
45 One reason we are where we are is because of low success in Economic Development.

46

1 Mrs. Janice Thomas stated that she resides at 3005 Arrows Drive. She thanked the Village
2 President for her comments. She stated to the Board that we are still holding you accountable. It
3 was nice of you to speak up on behalf of the Board and to explain that our Administrator isn't
4 making decisions that those decisions fall at the Board. We want to hear the Board. We want to
5 hear what are your positions? What do you think? We don't want you to talk in silos and talk one
6 way with the community and then talk another way when you get around your fellow Board
7 Members. We have some concerns. Whether the information is received all factual, or half
8 factual, it did start a conversation. It is important that we feel like you are concerned about what
9 we are concerned about. She knows that it is hard to not take things personal when you are
10 sitting in a position where it seems like you are being criticized. What is really happening, we are
11 expressing our concern because we plan to be here for a long time. She would just ask and
12 recommend that the Board speak up and tell us what are your concerns. What are your positions?
13 Don't let our President be the only one with a voice. We want to hear what are your positions as
14 well.

15

16 **Motion by Trustee Waite, second by Trustee Byrd to allow Mrs. Shiree Bush-Giblin to**
17 **speak again.**

18 **Voice Vote:**

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

19

20 Mrs. Bush-Giblin stated that she didn't receive this letter that came in the mail. She has friends
21 that received that letter. There was no signature on it. She stated that if you think you are
22 speaking the truth why not sign your name. Is there a reason for not signing your name to a letter
23 that you sat down and thought heavily about? Or do you feel like you are going to be sued for
24 defamation of character? She just wants to know why you didn't sign your name.

25

26 Mr. Kelvin Oliver stated that he is one of the authors. Mr. Burke stated that he is one of the
27 authors. There's a whole bunch of people.

28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin stated excuse me and banged the gavel. She stated that this is
30 public comment, not a debate, not a dialog.

31

32 Mrs. Bush-Giblin stated that she just wanted to know why they didn't sign their name.

33

34 Mr. Lee Langon stated here's one of these cowards. He resides at 20111 Aegina Drive. This
35 letter went out with a grass roots effort. It's not one individual. It is a growing effort. It is easily
36 verifiable. And it is very factual. So let's get that clear. If you really want to know what's going
37 on with it, just go to the Village's Website and take a look at their Audited Financials if we are
38 liars, if it is rumors and you will see that we are in debt. In 2005 this Village didn't have any
39 debt. At the end of 2015 throughout the Audited Financials we are \$15.7 Million in Bonding. We
40 understand that we have issues with infrastructure and we have to fix our roads. We have to do
41 various things. Are any of these projects ever done? He understands the Village Administrator
42 gets all these Grants. It is great that he brings all this money into our Village. We are thankful for
43 it. But explain this \$15.7 Million in debt. This is what we don't get. This is what we are
44 concerned about. We are willing to work here. We have a major investment here in Olympia
45 Fields. And again, we're not going anywhere. We want to see this happen. The 1% we needed it,
46 absolutely. It's a band aid. We need much, much more. He is basically here because at the last
47 meeting he brought up an issue where we have an employee at 1:26 in the morning sent an e-

1 mail out encouraging residents to vote with an attachment of vote yes for the Referendum. He
2 doesn't have issues with let's get the vote out. He does have issues when employees use Village
3 equipment, Village server, on Village time to send out something encouraging our Village
4 residents to vote. That employee doesn't live in this state. He has issues with that. He would like
5 to know if that has been addressed.
6

7 Village President Meyers-Martin stated we have reached out to our Village Attorney. He is in the
8 process of giving an opinion to us on that allegation. Once we have an opinion from him we will
9 proceed after that. She inquired whether or not there were any Trustees that would like to speak
10 in the five-minutes that are left for public commentary.
11

12 Trustee Hudson stated that at some point in time within her 30-years here she was also concerned
13 about what was happening in the Village. She didn't stay at home. She came to the Village
14 meetings twice a month to make sure that she could hear exactly what was going on. Every time
15 she came, if she did not understand something she would ask. And she got an answer. It helped
16 her to know exactly what was happening in our Village. She would suggest that if you really are
17 concerned, and you really want to know what is going on, it is really something that you could
18 get a lot of information from if you could come to the meetings on the second Monday of the
19 month and the fourth Monday of the month at 7 o'clock. She will guarantee that you will
20 understand a lot more than you can when you come to a Town Hall Meeting. She stated thank
21 you.
22

23 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that the comments that Mr. Langon had and those
24 questions, this is not the appropriate venue because we don't have the ability for facts, figures,
25 dialogs and all of that which would provide answers to the questions. She encouraged everyone
26 that if they still have questions and are still concerned about any of the information that was
27 shared, that you come to the Town Hall Meeting. She really encourages you to do that.
28

29 Trustee Pennington stated that he wanted to follow-up with what Trustee Hudson said. It is
30 important that the residents know exactly what goes on at the Board level at our meetings on the
31 second and fourth Mondays. More often than not residents cannot come to the meetings for
32 whatever reasons. He stated to that end he would suggest, and we have the technology to do it,
33 he would suggest that we make arrangements to have our Board Meetings videotaped and aired
34 on Comcast. (There was a round of applause). We aren't the only ones that don't do this. Tinley
35 Park does it. Country Club Hills does it. We have had the technology in place for a number of
36 years. Let's use the technology. If there is a cost involved, he would think it would be a cost that
37 the Village residents wouldn't mind us spending because it gives them the overall view as to
38 what is really going on in the Village. This is phenomenal in terms of the residents that are here
39 tonight. On any given second or fourth Monday we might have five people in here. That's
40 ridiculous given your concerns and given what's being said to-date. That is his recommendation.
41

42 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she thinks it is a great idea. We have had some
43 conversations because we do not have all of the personnel and technology we need.
44

45 Mr. Nate Grant inquired whether or not you will address that issue. We do have the technology.
46 We have everything we need to make it happen.
47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated at the Town Hall Meeting. We are getting ready to close
2 public commentary now and adjourn. She stated at the Town Hall Meeting, yes.

3
4 Mr. Grant stated that he just asked for it right now. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
5 he made a suggestion. Trustee Pennington stated it was a suggestion.

6
7 Trustee Byrd stated that as he said in the past, this Village is strong because of volunteerism.
8 There are Committees there. People have got questions and want to know things get involved.
9 Get involved in one of the Committees. You will find out a lot on those Committees. The
10 Finance Committee meets. Dr. Gibson sits on that Committee. We do vet everything. We have
11 an open meeting. You can come in and sit in that meeting. You can talk to him personally. He
12 heard Mr. Collier. He is a block from him. You asked was that Budget being balanced. You can
13 ask me that question. He saw him Saturday. You don't have to bring that up here. We are open,
14 talk to us. We don't mind talking to you. We don't mind sharing. We live here also. He stated
15 that he has been here for 30-years. He would still tell you that this is the best Village. (There was
16 a round of applause).

17
18 Trustee Gibson inquired of Village President Meyers-Martin how many times have we not been
19 within our Budget. Trustee Byrd stated none, never. Trustee Gibson stated that she has been on
20 this Board for 16-years. She can't remember any time. Trustee Byrd stated that he has been on
21 the Finance Committee for quite a few years. He doesn't remember. Trustee Gibson stated that
22 she keeps hearing the idea that, "You go over your Budget. You don't spend your money right."
23 When? We've always had a Budget. We've always been in Budget Sessions. It's open to
24 everybody who wants to come. Even on a Saturday when the Board is working through the
25 Budget. It's an open meeting. We have always had a surplus. It may not have been a great
26 surplus but it was one. She can't understand why all the people who are saying this, "We are
27 over our Budget. We are just spending money." She can't understand that.

28
29 Trustee Pennington stated that we have always had a Balanced Budget. He was the Finance
30 Chair for eight-years. During that entire period and subsequent to, including this year, we have
31 always had a Balanced Budget with a surplus. We have never been over Budget, in the red, or
32 anything of that nature. Let's be clear about that.

33
34 Trustee Gibson stated that we have not had to go into our reserves. So wherever you are getting
35 this information you don't probably have much idea of what a Municipality does.

36
37 Trustee Waite stated that he has lived in this community for 32-years. He has never seen a
38 Budget that wasn't balanced and not a deficit. He stated that 100% of the police officers costs of
39 patrolling over at the Wal-Mart Store are paid for by the Wal-Mart Store. We hired two more
40 employees, but we had some employees that were out that were injured on the Police
41 Department. We had to cover those holes or risk not having the kind of protection that we like to
42 have. A TIF is called "Tax Increment Financing." It does not mean that Wal-Mart doesn't pay
43 anything but they get to defer it. That is enough incentive for them without getting a big subsidy
44 to come to our Village and build a store. Thank you.

45
46 Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications & Petitions at 9:00 P.M.

47

