

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Held on December 9, 2013**

10 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 9th, 2013, at the
11 Linzey D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Debra Meyers-
12 Martin at 7:02 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrator
13 MekarSKI/Village Clerk called the roll.

14 Present: Trustees – Gibson, Nale, Byrd, Hudson, and Waite
15 Village President Debra Meyers-Martin
16 Village Administrator/Village Clerk, David A. MekarSKI

17 Absent: Trustee Oliver

18 Administrator MekarSKI stated that due to a work conflict Trustee Oliver was unable to attend the
19 Board Meeting this evening.

20
21 **MINUTES:**

22 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Waite to suspend with the reading of the**
23 **Minutes of November 25th, 2013.**

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

25 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to approve the Minutes of November**
26 **25th, 2013, as amended.**

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

28
29 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

30 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she has Bills for Approval in the amount of
31 \$103,281.30. She stated that there is a Cover Memo in the Board Packet designating the more
32 significant payouts.

33 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to approve the payment of Bills for**
34 **December 9th, 2013, in the total amount of \$103,281.30.**

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

36
37
38 **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:**

39 Village President Meyers-Martin opened up Communications and Petitions at 7:06 P.M.

40
41
42 **Certification Presentation – 2013 Citizens Police Academy Graduates** – Village President
43 Meyers-Martin stated that we have something very special tonight. We have the graduation of
44 our Citizens Police Academy. We are very happy to be able to do that tonight. This is the second
45 graduating class. There were 18 members of this graduating class. It was very well-attended.
46 There was a lot of enthusiasm for our Citizens Police Academy.
47

1 Village President Meyers-Martin stated the Coordinators for the 2013 Citizens Police Academy
2 were Officer Sean Barry, Officer Dan Kickert and Corporal Don Dean. Many members of the
3 police department volunteered their time and their expertise to assist with the class including
4 Sergeant Bruce Beauchamp, Detective Corporal Mark Akiyama, Officer Scott Metzger and K-9
5 Lars, and our Training Officer Bernie Hogancamp.

6
7 The following individuals graduated from the Second Class of the Citizens Police Academy.
8 Barbara A. McKinzie; Ann Bonds; Alfredo Arceo, Jr.; Clive James; Arthur Byrd, Jr., Trustee;
9 Gladys Foster; Sharon Flessner; George W. Chandler; Angel D. Griffin; Karen L. Kerr; Carlando
10 Owens; Ryan J. Peterson; Rosalinda Ekstrom; Sam Cosentino; Marcus A. Richardson; and
11 Karlando Owens, Jr.; The graduates were congratulated by Village President Meyers-Martin,
12 Trustee Gibson as the Trustee Liaison to the Public Safety Committee, Chief Krull, Officer Sean
13 Barry and Officer Dan Kickert.

14
15 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we thank everyone for participating in our Citizens
16 Police Academy. This is our second graduating class. We hope that this will grow in popularity
17 and enthusiasm among our residents. She stated that you learn a lot. You get to see the
18 interworkings of our Public Safety Department. That is always a benefit and a plus when you are
19 a resident to understand how our police department actually works, and the importance of their
20 contribution to the Village in making our residents feel safe and protected.

21
22 Officer Kickert stated that the class was widely successful again. We had a little better turnout
23 this year than what we did last year. They are hoping for a better turnout next year. He stated that
24 any of the graduates that missed any classes can make them up next year. He stated that if they
25 want to go through the program again that is fine too. Officer Kickert stated that we need you to
26 be our eyes and ears. We need you to tell your neighbors and your friends about the program. It
27 is a great program. He believes that everyone had a positive experience.

28
29 Officer Barry stated that when we first started this a couple of years ago, we had a small class to
30 start off with. We more than doubled it this year. He hopes that we can continue that in the
31 future. He believes that this illustrates the working relationship that we have with our residents
32 and that we have always had, and will continue to make even better. Officer Barry thanked
33 everyone for attending the program. Officer Barry thanked the Village President, Chief Krull,
34 and the Village Board for giving them the opportunity to go forward with the program.

35
36 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are very happy to do it. (There was a round of
37 applause for the graduates).

38
39 Trustee Gibson thanked Chief Krull and the police officers for the time that they spend and for
40 the information that they portray to the residents. She is sure that the residents have a much
41 better understanding of what goes on. She stated that we appreciate that. (There was a round of
42 applause).

43
44 **Parking on the Sidewalk on Hellenic Drive** - Mrs. Karen McCormack stated that she resides at
45 20525 Hellenic Drive. She stated that we have our beautiful new streets and she is very happy
46 about that. They have their patchwork sidewalks and that is awesome. Mrs. McCormack stated
47 about a month ago she was having her floors redone and she had her cars parked on the sidewalk.

1 They have always parked part of their car on the sidewalk because you can park on either side of
2 the street on Hellenic. There is no sign telling you that you can't do otherwise. They have been
3 doing that since they moved to the Village 21-years ago. Now that the streets have been paved
4 and the sidewalks fixed, we have a shorter curb now. She has less than an inch in front of her
5 house. People don't know that they are on the sidewalk.
6

7 Mrs. McCormack stated that she had a Graduation Party the night before Thanksgiving. The
8 police came. When she had her floors redone and the cars were parked out there the police came.
9 The police are wonderful. They are very nice. They were warning her not to park there. She is
10 having Christmas Eve at her house and she doesn't want the police there. She believes that a
11 letter should have been sent out stating that this was going to be an issue. She has been to the
12 police station to tell them that she is having people over and is there anything that we can do. She
13 inquired whether or not there were signs they could put up. All of her friends have parked on that
14 sidewalk for the past 20-years. She understands that the sidewalks and the street are new and a
15 lot of money was spent. No one appreciates it more than she does getting all these new benefits
16 on our street. It is a beautiful street and it is even prettier now. She doesn't want to have the
17 police coming to her house every time somebody is parked on the street. She stated that if it is a
18 ticketed offense then signs should be out and people should know that it is a ticketed offense.
19 She stated that if she had received a letter she would have never parked there if it was bothering
20 somebody. She believes that a Trustee was bringing this to the attention of the police.
21

22 Trustee Nale stated that she has brought it to the attention of the police. Mrs. McCormack stated
23 that we have been parking that way forever. Trustee Nale inquired of Mrs. McCormack why she
24 would want to park on the sidewalk. Mrs. McCormack inquired why didn't we get higher curbs.
25 Why didn't we get all new sidewalks and bigger curbs? Mrs. McCormack had about 30-people at
26 the Graduation Party. She had to have all of them go out and check because they couldn't tell if
27 they were on the sidewalk or the street. She almost feels like she is being harassed at this point.
28

29 Village President Meyers-Martin asked Chief Krull to talk about what we have done to try to
30 curb the cars on the sidewalks. She stated that when you are going to have an event at your
31 house, you always contact the police and let them know that you are going to have people over to
32 kind of forestall that type of activity.
33

34 Chief Krull stated for clarification purposes, the officers are instructed to try to make contact
35 with the homeowner. They don't like writing Parking Tickets to anybody. If they need to, they
36 will. It was not a targeted complaint towards Mrs. McCormack or anybody else in the area. He
37 stated that we have cited other people for that. There is a tremendous focus at this point on
38 vehicles parking on the grass as well. Sometimes it is hard to see where the roadway stops and
39 the grass begins.
40

41 Mrs. McCormack stated that Hellenic Drive is an unusual sidewalk because there is no grass in
42 between the curb and the sidewalk.
43

44 Administrator Mekarski stated as part of the Road Repaving Project, Phase I, these sidewalks
45 were included. The sidewalks are not designed for vehicular weight. Even parking two of the
46 vehicle's wheels on it would put a tremendous amount of weight on the sidewalk, which would
47 cause it to deteriorate, and crack, and would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

1 Mrs. McCormack stated that she agrees that nobody should be parking on the sidewalks. She
2 stated that you can't go from 21-years of parking that way to all of a sudden the police coming to
3 her door every time somebody comes to her house and they are parked on the sidewalk. It is
4 ridiculous for them to have to do that. She believes that they deserve respect as residents of this
5 community. She cares a lot about her home. She cares a lot about her street. She has been pulling
6 the weeds out of Hellenic Drive for 20-years because it looked like a Hillbilly Lane. She stated
7 that nobody was happier than her when we fixed this whole thing up. She doesn't want to
8 entertain her guests and be panicked that they are getting tickets or that the police are going to
9 show up again. The neighbors are talking like why were the police at your house again. She
10 doesn't think that she deserves that. She loves the police. They are wonderful. They are not rude
11 or anything. She believes that they should have been sent a letter that this protocol was going to
12 be put in place. They weren't. She thinks that this is a little drastic. She believes that if it is going
13 to be a ticketed item on Hellenic Drive that signs need to be put up.

14
15 Administrator Mekarski stated that we can work with Joe Alexa our Public Works Director to
16 erect signs for notification to the residents. Our Chief can work with Mr. Alexa about a Notice
17 that would be in keeping with his responsibilities and we can mail that out. He stated that we
18 have no problem with that. Mrs. McCormack believes that a Notice would be very efficient.

19
20 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Mrs. McCormack whether or not her guests
21 received tickets. Mrs. McCormack stated no. The police came. Village President Meyers-Martin
22 stated that she wanted to get clarification on tickets versus warning. Mrs. McCormack stated that
23 up until now it has been a warning. The people that live across the street from her have had
24 guests that have gotten tickets.

25
26 Mrs. McCormack wishes that Trustee Nale would have just come and knocked on her door. She
27 stated that we won't do it again. It is just that they have always done it. It just changed overnight
28 that we weren't allowed to do it. Now it is coming fast and furious. Before she had the
29 Graduation Party, she came in and the girl at the police reception said that it is the law you are
30 not allowed to park on the sidewalk. Mrs. McCormack stated that she understands that. Hellenic
31 has an unusual sidewalk. It is part of the street in a way. She stated perhaps the police could put a
32 Notice on the windshield of whoever is parked there and then they will personally know not to
33 do it.

34
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she thought there were orange stickers that were
36 placed on vehicles. Chief Krull stated that is for parking on the grass.

37
38 Chief Krull stated that a reasonable solution at this time would be for him to work with Joe
39 Alexa. He will have a letter and have the officers' hand-deliver it to everybody on the street and
40 we will go from there. Administrator Mekarski stated and we will work on signage.

41
42 Mrs. McCormack stated that she didn't really want to have signs because our street is so bucolic
43 and it is so beautiful. She doesn't think it is fair to ticket people if there is no warning.

44
45 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she believes that we have come to a reasonable
46 resolution here.

47

1 Mrs. McCormack stated that if you go to some of the side streets in Flossmoor you can park on
2 one side but not the other side. There will be signs saying, "No parking on this side of the street."
3 But then there is plenty of room in the street. She stated that on Hellenic Drive if you have
4 people parked not on the sidewalk and in the street nobody will be able to get by them. That is
5 why people have always pulled up on the sidewalk.

6
7 Village President Meyers-Martin thanked Mrs. McCormack for coming in and letting the Board
8 know of this issue. Chief Krull stated that he will take care of that by the end of the week.

9
10 Trustee Nale stated that she was so proud of the work that was done on Hellenic with the streets
11 and the sidewalks that we have been waiting forever and ever for, that it almost broke her heart
12 to see cars that were parked on the sidewalk. The people that were walking during the summer
13 had to get off the sidewalk to walk in the street. She agrees that perhaps a Notice should have
14 been sent out to the public beforehand. Trustee Nale apologized for that. She believes that it is an
15 issue that can be resolved very easily and she appreciates Mrs. McCormack coming in.
16 Village President Meyers-Martin closed Communications and Petitions at 7:29 P.M.

17
18 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

19
20 **5(A) Recommendation for Final Waiver of Lien and Payment of Invoice #21333f to**
21 **Suburban General Construction, Inc. for work completed in connection with 21 Graymoor**
22 **Lane in the amount of \$874.75.**

23 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we will move to the Consent Agenda. The Consent
24 Agenda consists of items that are considered to be routine by the Village. It allows the Board to
25 approve and vote upon them without discussion. She stated that this evening we have on the
26 Consent Agenda item 5(A) which is a recommendation for Final Waiver of Lien and payment of
27 Invoice #21333f. None of the Trustees wished to remove the item from the Consent Agenda.

28 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to approve Consent Agenda Item 5(A).**

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

30
31 **FINANCE:**

32
33 **Ordinance #2013-20 – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal**
34 **Year Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village of Olympia Fields,**
35 **Cook County, Illinois. (First and Second Reading) –** Trustee Byrd stated that on his Agenda is
36 Ordinance #2013-20 – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year
37 Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook
38 County, Illinois. This is on First and Second Reading. He stated that this is the Tax Levy for the
39 2013/2014 Year.

40 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to waive in First Reading and adopt in**
41 **Second Reading Ordinance #2013-20 – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of**
42 **Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village**
43 **of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois.**

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

1 **Ordinance #2013-21 – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Special Service Area**
2 **Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village**
3 **of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, in and for Special Service Area Number One.**
4 **(First and Second Reading)** – Trustee Byrd stated that the second item on his Agenda is
5 Ordinance #2013-21 – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Special Service Area
6 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April 30, 2014, of the Village of
7 Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, in and for Special Service Area Number One. This is on
8 First and Second Reading. He stated that he believes that this is the Governors Office Park.
9 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to waive in First Reading and adopt in**
10 **Second Reading Ordinance #2013-21 - An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of**
11 **Special Service Area Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2013, and Ending April**
12 **30, 2014, of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, in and for Special Service**
13 **Area Number One.**

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

15
16 **Ordinance #2013-22 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2013 Tax Levy for Village of Olympia**
17 **Fields Special Service Area No. 3. (First and Second Reading)** – Trustee Byrd stated that the
18 next item is Ordinance #2013-22 – An Ordinance Adopting the 2013 Tax Levy for Village of
19 Olympia Fields Special Service Area No. 3. This is on First and Second Reading. He stated that
20 he believes that this is Oak Lane.

21 **Motion by Trustee Byrd, second by Trustee Gibson to waive in First Reading and adopt in**
22 **Second Reading Ordinance #2013-22 - An Ordinance Adopting the 2013 Tax Levy for**
23 **Village of Olympia Fields Special Service Area No. 3.**

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

25
26 **Authorization for the Economic Development Committee to Develop an Economic**
27 **Development Incentive Loan Program** – Trustee Byrd requested to withdraw the proposed
28 Motion to authorize the Economic Development Committee to develop an Economic
29 Development Incentive Loan Program.

30
31 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Trustee Byrd whether or not he requested to
32 withdraw it or to table it. Trustee Byrd stated that he requested to withdraw it. Village President
33 Meyers-Martin inquired whether or not there is a second. Trustee Byrd stated that he didn't
34 believe that a second is needed. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that it is an action item.
35 We have to have a second. Trustee Byrd stated that as the maker of the Motion he can move to
36 withdraw it without a second. It is not debatable. It was not restated by the Chair so he has the
37 privilege to withdraw the Motion as the maker of the Motion.

38
39 Administrator Mekarski stated that would be correct from Parliamentary Procedures because it is
40 not an action item per se. It was a discretionary Motion that Trustee Byrd wanted to make at the
41 last meeting, but he was not able to because it was not placed on the Agenda. As a courtesy it
42 was placed on the Agenda to allow him to make that Motion. He is basically withdrawing
43 consideration of the Motion so there is no necessity of a second for that.

44
45 Trustee Waite inquired of Trustee Byrd why he is withdrawing it. Trustee Byrd stated that his
46 reason for withdrawing it is because he thinks that it would be best served if we had a discussion
47 in a Work Session.

1 **BUILDING:**

2
3 Trustee Hudson stated that we are still trying to finalize a date for the Beautification Committee
4 to review the decorated residences for the Holiday Awards. They were not able to do that this
5 past week.

6
7 **PLANNING:**

8
9 **Ordinance #2013-23 – An Ordinance Amending Section 22-431(d) of the Village of**
10 **Olympia Fields Zoning Ordinance to Allow for Community Residential Homes Consisting**
11 **of Nine (9) or more Residents in R-1 and R-2 Districts. (First and Second Reading) –**

12 Administrator Mekarski stated that on behalf of Trustee Oliver he wanted to introduce the two
13 activities under Trustee Oliver’s Agenda item. The first is Ordinance #2013-23 – An Ordinance
14 Amending Section 22-431(d) of the Village of Olympia Fields Zoning Code to Allow for
15 Community Residential Homes Consisting of Nine (9) or more Residents in an R-1 and R-2
16 District. This is on First and Second Reading.

17
18 Administrator Mekarski stated that on the dais is a final Revised Agenda which includes the
19 actual Ordinance language which was drafted over the weekend by our Legal Advisor to
20 introduce this Zoning Text Amendment. This Text Amendment is associated with Pastor
21 Oliver’s request to provide transitional housing in the former Tolentine Monastery, Tolentine
22 Seminary, for Honorably Discharged Veterans of the United States. Hope Charities which is part
23 of the mission of All Nations Assembly is working with the Veterans Administration to try to
24 address the difficulties that U.S. Veterans face in returning home from the service. It is
25 recognized as a disgrace that U.S. Veterans are left to sleep under bridges and cardboard boxes
26 and not getting the support they need to get full-time employment or permanent housing. They
27 are working with the VA and putting in an Application which would be a long-term Application.
28 Pastor Oliver is here. He can explain this to you. He wants to use some of the dormitories that
29 were left by the Archdiocese as part of the transitional housing. The transitional housing, as
30 represented by Pastor Oliver is limited to 18-months. It is for Honorably Discharged Veterans.
31 They will be working with an array of non-profit organizations such as Respond Now in Chicago
32 Heights. There is a host of other agencies. They would try to work towards finding full-time
33 employment for the Veterans and also permanent housing during that 18-month period.

34
35 Trustee Waite stated that you say, “Nine or more.” He inquired whether or not there is a limit as
36 to how many people they can have.

37
38 Administrator Mekarski stated that there is a two-stage process on this. This is not something
39 that would impact our residential zones throughout the Village, the R-1 and the R-2 Districts. He
40 stated that if you read the Ordinance it is limited to properties that are zoned R-1 and R-2 and
41 that have 20-acres or more. There are not many 20-acre parcels that can accommodate this.

42
43 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not there are any 20-acre parcels.

44
45 Administrator Mekarski stated that outside of this there is the property adjacent to it which is the
46 former Tolentine Subdivision which was purchased by St. James Hospital for hospital expansion.
47 This is not an automatic permit. He stated that all you are addressing tonight is the Zoning Text

1 Amendment which would afford consideration of a Special Use Permit. The Special Use Permit
2 has been deliberately set for your January Meeting for consideration.

3

4 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not they still have to come back
5 and get a Special Use Permit.

6

7 Administrator Mekarski stated yes, from this body. It has gone through a Public Hearing at the
8 Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission has given unanimous
9 approval for the Zoning Text Amendment. They have also given unanimous approval for the
10 Special Use Permit. The Village Administration felt very strongly about staging this in multiple
11 meetings of the Board so you can ask the kind of questions that this body really needs to ask of
12 Pastor Oliver, and possibly prior to the final action of the Board giving a Special Use Permit, or
13 at least considering it, we might even hold a Work Session with Pastor Oliver to really take a
14 deep dive. It is a long-term commitment to the property if you issue a Special Use Permit. Pastor
15 Oliver is in the audience and can address to you his Application to the VA.

16

17 Administrator Mekarski stated it was originally going to be staged for January and February for
18 both considerations. The reason why it was placed on the Agenda for tonight's meeting is
19 because Pastor Oliver informed our Building Commissioner at 3 o'clock on Friday that his
20 Application to the VA has to be in by the end of December. He stated that if you look at the
21 Ordinance associated with the Zoning Text Amendment, it gives the recognition that he has gone
22 through the Planning and Zoning Commission. He has received a recommendation of approval
23 on the Text Amendment, and the Text Amendment is up for this body's vote tonight. We felt
24 confident that it would be sufficient for his Application with the VA without taking that second
25 step of actually issuing the Permit. The Permit as you can see from the Planning and Zoning
26 Commission's correspondence that John McDonnell has provided in the Board Packet, contains
27 17-conditions. That is what is going to be considered in January. We would like those conditions
28 in a legally binding agreement which could be attached to the Special Use Permit.

29

30 Trustee Waite stated that he hasn't had a chance to read it yet. He just got it here today. Trustee
31 Gibson stated that it was in the Board Packet. Trustee Waite stated no, it wasn't. Administrator
32 Mekarski stated that we had a Staff Memorandum sent in a separate envelope and we have
33 advertised 48-hours in advance the Ordinance. The actual Ordinance #2013-23 was not delivered
34 to our offices by our Legal Advisor until this morning because we essentially ordered it at 4
35 o'clock on Friday. It was worked on over the weekend. It doesn't issue any Permits. It authorizes
36 a Text Amendment, a Language Amendment, to permit this kind of activity as a Special Use. He
37 stated that you have full discretion in your subsequent meetings to approve it, to table it, or deny
38 it. It cannot move forward without the Board's Special Use consideration.

39

40 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski how he arrived at "nine or more." He inquired
41 what is wrong with one or more.

42

43 Administrator Mekarski stated that a family is defined in the Zoning Ordinance as eight or less
44 individuals. That's why a group home can locate by State Law and have eight or less occupants.
45 That's a legal definition of a family by the Zoning Ordinance. This allows for a larger family, if
46 you will, to get into a Residential Zone.

47

1 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not people that are related would
2 be considered a family.

3
4 Administrator Mekarski stated that is the definition of families in litigation and Court Cases
5 involved on definitions of families. He believes that the Courts would find that is legitimate
6 because of marital status. You can have eight or more related or unrelated individuals in a house
7 and it would not violate the Village's Single-Family Code.

8
9 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she wanted to speak to the question about the
10 maximum of 28-residents. That is listed as one of the conditions for the Special Use.

11
12 Trustee Waite stated that he has not had a chance to read it. Village President Meyers-Martin
13 stated that this was in the Memo that you received in terms of what conditions are in the Special
14 Use. This was in the Board Packet.

15
16 Administrator Mekarski stated that would be for consideration in January. He stated that what
17 Trustee Oliver was intending to do at the meeting this evening is to report to the Board that both
18 items went through the Planning and Zoning Commission. Both had unanimous approval. He
19 would request you to approve the Zoning Text Amendment allowing this to even be considered
20 as a Special Use Permit, and then forward the Planning and Zoning Commissions
21 recommendations and their conditions to our Legal Advisor so that can be drafted in a Legal
22 Agreement for your consideration in January. That could start in January, but the Board can take
23 as long as it needs to feel comfortable with this use, and ask a lot of the tough questions that have
24 to be asked to make sure you are getting what you are getting because it is a long-term
25 commitment.

26
27 Trustee Waite inquired of Administrator Mekarski whether or not we are going to have a vote
28 now.

29
30 Administrator Mekarski inquired whether or not the Board had any specific questions right now
31 of Pastor Oliver who is in the audience. It is up to the Chair's discretion on how she would like
32 to proceed.

33
34 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that if the Board would like Pastor Oliver to speak to
35 some of your questions, we can suspend the rules to allow him to come forward. She inquired of
36 the Board whether or not there was a consensus that the Board would like to hear from him.
37 Trustee Gibson stated that she would not. She imagines that there are some people that might
38 want to. Trustee Waite stated that he would.

39 **Motion by Trustee Nale, second by Trustee Gibson to suspend the rules.**

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

41
42 Pastor Oliver stated that it is an honor and a privilege to be part of this community. We, as a
43 church, are concerned and we want to be a blessing to Veterans who have put their lives on the
44 line for us. He stated that the opportunity came that part of the dormitories there can be used to
45 help our Veterans to transition. We can provide accommodations. We can help them in terms of
46 employment and other things that they need to do. The Building Commissioner and David have
47 been very gracious giving us their time and attention going through the process of the Planning

1 and Zoning Commission with our consultants. They have looked at all the issues. They have said
2 that they want us to move forward. We are excited about it.
3
4 Trustee Waite stated that somebody mentioned “Respond Now.” Trustee Waite inquired of
5 Pastor Oliver whether or not he is working with any other charities.
6
7 Pastor Oliver stated that they are working with PADS. They are working with PADS and
8 Respond Now.
9
10 Trustee Waite stated that he is a Board Member at Respond Now. It has never come up at a
11 Board Meeting. They just had one two-days ago.
12
13 Pastor Oliver stated that Carl is the person that they are working with. They also have letters
14 from him.
15
16 Trustee Waite stated that Carl’s report to him about his interaction with Pastor Oliver’s
17 organization was almost non-existent. Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or not he
18 had many meetings with the Executive Director.
19
20 Pastor Oliver stated yes. He has had meetings with him. He has had correspondence with him.
21 Pastor Oliver stated that he could forward the correspondence to Trustee Waite. Trustee Waite
22 stated that he can get it from the Executive Director. Trustee Waite stated that he is his boss. He
23 is on the Board. Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver that if he asks the Executive Director for
24 all of the information that he has in terms of communications with Pastor Oliver, whether or not
25 he would see multiple contacts with Pastor Oliver. Pastor Oliver stated yes. Pastor Oliver has
26 met him at the office in Chicago Heights. He has been to the facilities and looked at everything
27 with Pastor Oliver. They also had meetings with the VA. Carl has gone there and asked
28 necessary questions and they told him that it is approved. They are waiting for the Village of
29 Olympia Fields to give them the Special Use Permit. The Executive Director is aware of that.
30
31 Trustee Waite stated that the only feedback he had from Carl, the Executive Director, is that
32 Pastor Oliver had made an Application to the VA, and the VA had said that they would like
33 Pastor Oliver to have a partnership with some other organizations that have a track record with
34 Grants from the VA. At that point in time Pastor Oliver didn’t have any approved Grants or
35 Applications that were submitted to the VA that were approved. Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor
36 Oliver whether or not that was correct.
37
38 Pastor Oliver stated that is not correct. We have an Application that is approved. Trustee Waite
39 inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or not he could see a copy of the approved Application. Pastor
40 Oliver stated that he will email it to Trustee Waite. The first time he was here for the
41 recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission it was included.
42
43 Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or not he submitted to the Planning and Zoning
44 Commission an approved Grant Application from the VA. Pastor Oliver stated not an approved
45 one. It was conditional approval pending when we get a Special Use Permit from the Village that
46 we can use. Secondly, to engage other people in the community that can help us run the place.
47 We have PADS and Respond Now, and also our consultants working on this project.

1 Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver what the amount of money is of the Grant Application
2 that he has that is conditionally approved. Pastor Oliver stated that it is per diem. It depends on
3 the number. It could be between \$2,000,000.00 to \$5,000,000.00. It is good for 20-years. Trustee
4 Waite inquired whether or not \$5,000,000.00 is the limit. Pastor Oliver stated that it starts at
5 \$2,000,000.00. It depends on the number of people that they have. It is per diem. They have a
6 rate for each day and it is projected per person.

7
8 Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or not the Veterans that they are going to work
9 with are handicapped. Pastor Oliver stated not necessarily handicapped. He stated that any
10 Veteran that qualifies comes to them. We have a facility there for the handicapped.

11
12 Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver how they qualify to participate in your services. Pastor
13 Oliver stated that the VA approves the list. Trustee Waite inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or
14 not the VA sends the applicants to him. Pastor Oliver stated exactly. Trustee Waite inquired of
15 Pastor Oliver whether or not there is any limitation as to what kind of applicants they can send to
16 him. Can they have mental problems? Can they have physical problems? Can they just send
17 whatever they want to send to you? Pastor Oliver stated no. They send to them people who have
18 been Honorably Discharged.

19
20 Trustee Waite stated that could be almost everyone. Pastor Oliver stated almost everyone that
21 qualifies for it. PADS are working with them to provide part of the service. They are in Country
22 Club Hills. They have the huge building at 57th and Pulaski. Pastor Oliver stated that what we are
23 providing is the facility. The VA is the one who recommended them and approved it. Respond
24 Now is to work on other parts of it. It is all put together and approved by the Veterans Affairs,
25 VA and Hines. Trustee Waite thanked Pastor Oliver.

26
27 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that a lot of those questions, Trustee Waite, are
28 addressed in the conditions of the Special Use Permit such as going forward there will be no
29 action taken or no approvals given unless we are assured that you have the approval of the VA
30 and that you are working lock step with the Veterans Administration. It does speak to what other
31 organizations must be involved in assisting you in this project. They list CEDA, Threshold,
32 South Suburban Pads, possibly Respond Now, which you may or may not be getting that report
33 soon regarding their affiliation with this project. Pastor Oliver stated that you are right.

34
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the January Meeting we will be going over these
36 Special Use conditions to make sure that they are exactly what we have requested in terms of the
37 Village's requirements for this particular project. Pastor Oliver stated yes.

38
39 Trustee Waite stated that what you are proposing to do with Tolentine is magnificent. He can't
40 think of a better use for that facility. It is a beautiful facility. He would love to see lots and lots of
41 people getting help there. Pastor Oliver stated thank you sir.

42
43 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Pastor Oliver how long is the term of his affiliation
44 with the VA in terms of this project. Pastor Oliver stated that it is a Transitional Program.
45 Normally it is about 18-months. That is one leg. The second leg is that maybe we will come back
46 to you to get them what they call "Permanent Housing." That part of the Grant requires that the
47 VA provides 65% of the funding and we provide 35%. At that point in time we will come back

1 to you. We can say we have this and we need this much for the VA to provide more permanent
2 housing for them. It will be a huge thing for this community. The first level is to get into the
3 transitional housing. From there we can go into permanent housing if the Village allows it. We
4 have multiple buildings around there. It is phased.

5
6 Administrator Mekarski stated that Pastor Oliver represented to the staff and the Planning and
7 Zoning Commission that if given a Special Use approval, and he makes the commitment towards
8 doing the renovations for the transitional housing, he has to show a commitment to the VA that
9 he is going to maintain and operate this facility for x amount of years. He thought that Pastor
10 Oliver had stated 10 or 20-years.

11
12 Pastor Oliver stated yes. That is the beauty of the Grant. When it is approved, the VA also gives
13 you money to maintain the place. That is a different Grant. As soon as it is approved, you go
14 back to the VA and tell them what is lacking. He believes that they give you \$300,000.00 to
15 maintain the facility.

16
17 Administrator Mekarski inquired of Pastor Oliver whether or not there is a certain period of time
18 that the facility would have to operate in the Village. He inquired whether it was 10-years, 15-
19 years, 20-years. Pastor Oliver stated no. As soon as it is operating and the Veterans are living
20 there you are qualified.

21
22 Administrator Mekarski inquired of Pastor Oliver that if they are going to put \$2,000,000.00 or
23 \$3,000,000.00 in renovations, do you have to sign a contract that you have to run that facility on
24 behalf of the VA for a period of time. Pastor Oliver stated yes. Administrator Mekarski inquired
25 of Pastor Oliver what period of time is that. Pastor Oliver stated that he doesn't know yet until
26 we get details. We qualify for that.

27
28 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Ordinance before the Board tonight is a Text
29 Amendment. It just allows larger size families in the R-1 and R-2 District as a Special Use
30 Permit if you have 20-acres or more. The entire Text Amendment is shown on Page 3 of the
31 Ordinance. It basically says, "A community residential home consisting of nine (9) or more
32 residents who are persons with disabilities is prohibited in any R-1 or R-2 District unless located
33 on a lot consisting of twenty (20) acres or more. A community residential home consisting of
34 nine (9) or more residents shall be permitted in a R-3 District, and in a R-1 or R-2 District on lots
35 greater than twenty (20) acres only upon the issuance of a Special Use Permit as set forth in
36 section 22-434 and an Administrative Occupancy Permit as set forth in section 22-432."

37
38 Administrator Mekarski stated that one is the Public Hearing Process and Planning and Zoning
39 Commission review, and discretion of this governing body to give a Special Use Permit. The
40 other one is the Occupancy Permit which essentially is another control under the Building and
41 Regulatory Section of our Ordinance.

42
43 **Village President Meyers-Martin stated may I have a Motion to waive on First Reading**
44 **and approve on Second Reading an Ordinance amending Section 22-431(d) of the Village**
45 **of Olympia Fields Zoning Ordinance to allow for community residential homes consisting**
46 **of nine (9) or more residents in R-1 and R-2 Districts.**

47

1 **Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she doesn't hear anyone moving that Motion**
2 **or seconding it.**

3
4 Administrator Mekarski stated Pastor Oliver the Motion fails essentially, as there was no
5 member making a Motion or seconding the Motion for consideration.

6
7 **Authorization for the Village's Legal Advisor to Draft Special Use Consideration for the**
8 **Hope Charities Veterans Transitional Facility, to be Considered by the Board of Trustees**
9 **at the January 2014 Meeting** – Administrator Mekarski stated that the second item is moot as
10 we don't have a Special Use Permit consideration. He recommended withdrawing the second
11 portion of the Agenda which authorizes for the Village's Legal Advisor to Draft Special Use
12 Consideration for the Hope Charities Veterans Transitional Facility, to be considered by the
13 Board of Trustees at the January 2014 Meeting. He doesn't believe that it needs a Motion for
14 withdrawal. It is moot from the lack of the first and second on the Special Use Text Amendment.
15 He stated that is all that Trustee Oliver has for a report under "Planning."

16
17 **PUBLIC WORKS:**

18
19 Trustee Waite stated that he didn't have a Formal Report this evening.

20
21 **HUMAN RESOURCES:**

22
23 **Interviewing for Public Works Position** – Trustee Nale stated that we have completed the
24 interviews for the two individuals that are attempting to be employed for Public Works.

25
26 **Library Board Meeting** - Trustee Nale stated that she attended a Library Board Meeting on
27 Wednesday, December 4th. They mentioned that the drop box that they had ordered has been
28 delivered to another town and they are in the process of correcting that mistake. They expect it to
29 be resolved very shortly.

30
31 **Toy Drive at the Library** – Trustee Nale stated that at the Library Board Meeting they
32 mentioned that the Library is sponsoring a Toy Drive. It was to be held until December 15th, but
33 they have extended it to December 21st.

34
35 Village President Meyers-Martin inquired of Trustee Nale whether or not the drop-off for the
36 toys is at the library only. Trustee Nale stated yes.

37
38 **Library Teen Center** – Trustee Nale stated another item they discussed at the Library Board
39 Meeting was the Teen Center. They hadn't been able to find a meeting place until recently. The
40 meeting place will be held at Dining On The Green. This is a temporary place for the teens to
41 meet. They are very happy about it because they need a place that is big enough to accommodate
42 all of the teens.

43
44 **Help for Citizens at the Library with the New Health System** – Trustee Nale stated that the
45 public can call the Library for help with the New Health System that is being introduced. They
46 will be more than happy to help you on an individual basis. She recommended that individuals
47 call the Library ahead of time and make an appointment.

1 **Meeting Dates for the Library Board for 2014** – Trustee Nale stated that the Library Board
2 discussed the meeting dates for 2014. It was approved by their Board. Trustee Nale reminded the
3 Library Board that it was important for them to also schedule those meeting dates with the
4 Village so that they would have room for them at the Conference Center.

5
6 **Pizza Parties at the Library** – Trustee Nale stated that the Library is planning on having Pizza
7 Parties for six-year-olds to 12-year-olds in April through June of 2014. Trustee Nale stated that it
8 was a very nice meeting.

9
10 Trustee Gibson inquired of Trustee Nale what the specifics are for the Toy Drive. She inquired
11 whether or not they want wrapped toys, unwrapped toys, or brand new toys. Trustee Nale stated
12 that they want new toys. That is all the specifics that they gave her.

13
14 **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

15
16 **Cook County Sheriff’s Award of Merit – Officer Scott Metzger and K-9 Lars** – Trustee
17 Gibson stated that the Olympia Fields Police Department is proud to announce that Officer Scott
18 Metzger and K-9 Lars will be recognized by Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart with the Cook
19 County Sheriff’s Law Enforcement Award of Merit on December 10th at Moraine Valley
20 Community College.

21
22 Trustee Gibson stated that the Cook County Award of Merit is presented to police officers
23 throughout Cook County in recognition of their heroism, outstanding service to the community
24 and their professionalism. Officer Metzger and K-9 Lars were nominated by their peers with the
25 Chief of Police submitting the formal application to Sheriff Dart. Officer Metzger and K-9 Lars
26 have consistently demonstrated their dedication to duty including the recovery of a large amount
27 of illegal narcotics, tracking and apprehending offenders, and successfully tracking and locating
28 an elderly resident who had wandered away from her home in the wintertime. That’s just a few
29 of the very important duties that Officer Metzger and K-9 Lars have done. Trustee Gibson stated
30 that they have held demonstrations at many public functions so that everyone will know exactly
31 what happens with a K-9 Officer. Trustee Gibson stated that they are a credit to the Village of
32 Olympia Fields and to the law enforcement profession.

33
34 Trustee Gibson stated that she, along with Village President Meyers-Martin and Chief Krull will
35 attend the ceremony in support of Officer Metzger and K-9 Lars.

36
37 **REPORT OF VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

38
39 **To Authorize the Finance Director to expend \$7,000.00 for the Suburban Woods**
40 **Subdivision Water Main Replacement/IEPA Project Plan from the Village’s Water Fund,**
41 **Tap In Fee/Oak Lawn Reserve Account** – Administrator Mekarski stated that the first item he
42 has is to authorize the Finance Director to expend \$7,000.00 for the Suburban Woods
43 Subdivision Water Main Replacement/IEPA Project Plan from the Village’s Water Fund, Tap In
44 Fee/Oak Lawn Reserve Account. He stated that included in the Board Packet is a short narrative.
45 He stated that when we were discussing the Phase I Road Paving Program, there was a large
46 segment of roads in Suburban Woods that were scheduled for repaving in Phase I. It had to be
47 deferred until Phase II because of the water main in a good portion of the subdivision. There is a

1 water main that Mr. Alexa, our Director of Public Works has indicated continually breaks and is
2 getting beyond its useful life. There are some very serious soil conditions that are causing that
3 line to be unstable.

4
5 Administrator Mekarski stated as we did previously when we were able to get the Grant and
6 Loan for our Sanitary Sewer Project, there is IEPA monies available for a low interest loan. It is
7 less than 1%. It is estimated that 2.13 Million Dollars is required to fix this line. Robinson
8 Engineering has prepared a Project Plan and Preliminary Engineering Documents to secure the
9 IEPA Loan. If the loan is secured the Village would then be taking that money out to get this line
10 corrected. Once the line is corrected, then this road can be scheduled for paving under the Phase
11 II Road Program.

12
13 Administrator Mekarski stated that this is a Capital Improvement Project. He stated that under
14 the Village's 2030 Plan, there is some \$10,000,000.00 of water mains that have to be replaced in
15 the Village. He stated that water mains typically last anywhere from 50 to 100-years. Many of
16 them in the Original Village are probably entering their 90th year. Those are scheduled for
17 replacement. This would be the first segment of the Village's \$10,000,000.00 Capital
18 Improvement Strategy that is listed in the 2030 Plan. If the Village can secure a low interest loan
19 this would be substantially cheaper than even our AAA Bond Rating could yield under a typical
20 Bond.

21
22 Administrator Mekarski stated that in order not to tax the Water Fund, the Director of Finance
23 and Mr. Alexa are suggesting that the monies be taken out of a Reserve Account. Administrator
24 Mekarski passed out to the Board the Fund Balances for four Reserve Accounts. They are all for
25 Capital Improvements. There is a total of \$484,950.00 in the Capital Reserve Accounts. They are
26 entitled a "Tap In Fee/VOF Reserves," "Tap In Fee/Oak Lawn," "Central Water Supply Fund"
27 and "OFCC Water Main Project Tap-In Fees." This is coming out of the \$149,750.00. If there
28 are additional engineering documents that are required by the IEPA to secure the loan we would
29 continue to take it out of this line item.

30 **Motion by Trustee Waite, second by Trustee Gibson to authorize the Finance Director to**
31 **expend \$7,000,00 for the Suburban Woods Subdivision Water Main Replacement IEPA**
32 **Project Plan from the Village's Water Fund, Tape In Fee/Oak Lawn Reserve Account.**

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

34
35 **Lincoln Highway/Western Avenue TIF 2 – Notice of Intent –**

- 36 **a. Resolution #2013-10 – A Resolution of Intent to Utilize Tax Increment Financing to**
37 **improve deteriorating Physical Conditions and to Stimulate New Economic**
38 **Development within the Lincoln Highway and Western Avenue District –**
39
40 **b. Ordinance #2013-19 – An Ordinance of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County,**
41 **Illinois, Authorizing the Establishment of Tax Increment Financing “Interested**
42 **Parties” Registries and Adopting Registration Rules for Such Registries. (First and**
43 **Second Reading).**
44 **c. TIF Interested Parties Registry Registration Rules**
45 **d. Public Notice – Village of Olympia Fields – Tax Increment Financing**
46 **Redevelopment Project Area**
47 **e. Registration for Interested Parties Registry**

1 Administrator Mekarski stated that items a through e; there are only two legal requirements that
2 the Board would have to adopt tonight. Resolution #2013-10 and Ordinance #2013-19 are
3 relative to your Tax Incremental Financing Plan for the major Lincoln/Western Retail
4 Redevelopment Strategy that this Board is undertaking. At the last meeting a six-month Tax
5 Incremental Financing Schedule was passed out to the Board Members. A copy of that schedule
6 is included in the Draft Eligibility Study which was just completed by Teska Associates today.
7

8 Administrator Mekarski stated that this is merely an introduction; we have six-months more of
9 work on this. He stated that in order to begin the TIF Process, two things have to take place
10 tonight. That is passing Resolution #2013-10. It authorizes the Village to conduct a Feasibility
11 Study on designated certain parcels in the Lincoln Highway and Western Avenue District as a
12 Redevelopment Project Area under the TIF Act. It also allows for Municipal expenditures to be
13 made for the Feasibility Study to the extent they are eligible expenses under the Act. And if, and
14 when, the necessary implementation Ordinances are adopted it provides Notice to all taxing
15 bodies immediately upon the adoption of this Resolution. He stated that Section 6 on Page 3
16 states as follows: “The Village Clerk is hereby authorized to send a copy of this Resolution of
17 Intent immediately upon adoption to all Taxing Districts that would be affected by the
18 designation of the proposed Study Area as a Redevelopment Project Area.”
19

20 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Board approved a TIF District in 2009. That TIF District
21 has attracted two property owners to consolidate property. There is a Contractual Agreement
22 with a redevelopment group for revitalization of that Harold Motors/Currie Motors area. This
23 TIF essentially replaces that old TIF. It amends it and it includes that area on the north side of
24 Lincoln Highway. It also includes the Jewel-Osco Plaza or Olympia Corners. He stated that with
25 this new TIF this body will have the requisite tools to induce Class “A” Retail to return to this
26 corridor. The TIF captures tax increment. That tax increment can be utilized by retail developers
27 to subsidize retail development. That is the reason why we have the contract that we have today
28 with the retail development group. We hope to expand it with additional Class “A” Retail across
29 the street. There has been discussion about trying to attract Mariano’s to fill the Jewel-Osco
30 location, Kohl’s, or other kinds of activities, Nordstrom Rack, all of that is possible with the TIF
31 strategy. Administrator Mekarski asked the Board to begin the six-month TIF Process.
32

33 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she just wants to be clear that this new Resolution
34 allows us to now include the Jewel-Osco parcel in the TIF. That has been a very difficult parcel
35 since Jewel left. This would give the Village the incentives that we need in order to attract
36 Economic Development to that parcel.
37

38 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she received correspondence from Senator Toi
39 Hutchinson with her intentions of helping the Village move forward with the Economic
40 Development at the Jewel-Osco Plaza. Mariano’s is in the market of looking for new space.
41 Senator Hutchinson wants to do a full Court Press. Village President Meyers-Martin stated that
42 we only can be competitive if we have a TIF in place to allow us to give some incentives. She
43 just wanted to be clear on the importance of this action on the Board’s part.
44
45
46

1 **Motion by Trustee Waite, second by Trustee Nale to adopt Resolution #2013-10 – A**
2 **Resolution of Intent to utilize Tax Increment Financing to improve deteriorating physical**
3 **conditions and to stimulate new Economic Development within the Lincoln Highway and**
4 **Western Avenue District.**

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

6
7 Administrator Mekarski stated that the second legal instrument for the TIF Process is Ordinance
8 #2013-19. That is an Ordinance of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois,
9 authorizing the establishment of a Tax Incremental Financing “Interested Parties” Registries and
10 adopting Registration Rules for such Registries. This is on First and Second Reading. He stated
11 that the Board Members that were here in 2009 will recall that after sending a Legal Notice to all
12 the taxing bodies we were required to set up a Joint Review Board of those taxing bodies to
13 review the eligibility findings and to discuss the plans of retail and business redevelopment. That
14 process is started with this Ordinance which establishes a registry of all interested parties. After
15 tonight’s adoption of the Resolution and Ordinance, the public can receive a copy of the
16 Ordinance, the Resolution, and the Eligibility Study, which will be available at the counter. A
17 disc will be mailed out of these instruments to every taxing body that could be affected by the
18 TIF from Prairie State College, to District 162, to District 227, to the Mosquito Control District
19 and MWRD.

20 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Byrd to approve Ordinance #2013-19 – An**
21 **Ordinance of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, authorizing the**
22 **establishment of Tax Increment Financing “Interested Parties” Registries and adopting**
23 **Registration Rules for such Registries on First and Second Reading.**

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

25
26 Administrator Mekarski stated that sometime in January the Board will be having a Work
27 Session with our Planning Consultants and our Legal Advisor on the whole TIF Process. He
28 suggested that the Board keep the Eligibility Report and that schedule. They are going to try to
29 keep each and every deadline over the next six-months until we get this accomplished.
30 Hopefully, within that period of time the retail development group will be making public permits
31 through our Planning and Zoning Commission, MWRD, and IDOT. And the Village President
32 and the Board can make public announcements about major redevelopment in the Village.

33
34 **Meetings with IDOT regarding Vollmer Road Underpass -** Administrator Mekarski stated
35 that he has a verbal report on what is occurring on Thursday, December 12th and Friday,
36 December 13th, which from all accounts is unprecedented. The Village has applied through
37 Robinson Engineering for HSIP Funds for the early warning safety devices for the Vollmer Road
38 underpass. We have a commitment from the County to go through preliminary engineering and
39 possible funding for \$35,000,000.00 for reconstruction of the underpass and the road itself. It is a
40 long-haul process. It is anywhere from five to seven-years. It may be longer. In order to prevent
41 catastrophic crashes and to prevent the congestion involved with backing up vehicles and to
42 prevent fatalities and major injuries to individuals, an Application was made for early warning
43 safety devices and for a pedestrian crossing. IDOT has asked for a meeting of the key
44 stakeholders, Chief Krull, Mr. Alexa, and the Village’s Engineer for two-days. They are coming
45 out in the field with a team walking the roadway, surveying the roadway, and meeting in the
46 IDOT Offices asking a series of questions. The Village’s Engineer stated that they have put
47 numerous HSIP Applications in and they have never seen this kind of response. It has gotten

1 great attention. The Village applied for \$350,000.00 in early warning devices. It could be more
2 depending on the priority.

3
4 Administrator Mekarski stated that the Village President wants to acknowledge a major
5 contribution by one of our State Legislators that we believe helped put this on the IDOT Agenda
6 in such a salient manner.

7
8 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that Senator Michael Hastings has been working with the
9 Village from the very beginning as we started this project to enlist Cook County as well as
10 Metra, as well as the Village of Flossmoor, and all of those parties that were here to talk about
11 the proliferation of incidents that occur at the Vollmer Road Bridge, and how disruptive it is to
12 the entire region when there is an incident because it blocks traffic for hours on end. It calls for
13 our emergency personnel, our police department to be on-hand for hours redirecting traffic and
14 assisting in removing the trucks that run into that bridge. Senator Hastings has fought with the
15 Village in Springfield and here. He has included the Village in every meeting that he has had
16 with IDOT. He was quite instrumental in getting this meeting on tap to have the Safety
17 Commission come out, which as Administrator Mekarski stated is very rare to get this level of
18 support from the State. The Village is very happy about Senator Hastings.

19
20 **REPORT OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

21
22 **Increase in Water Rates Effective January 1st, 2014** - Village President Meyers-Martin stated
23 that she has one thing that she wants to mention because it is coming after the first of the year.
24 The City of Chicago controls the Village's water rates as they relay it to the Village of Oak
25 Lawn. The Village has received word that effective January 1st of 2014, that Chicago is
26 increasing the suburban water rate by 43 cents per 1,000 gallons. This is a rate that Chicago
27 charges Municipalities like Oak Lawn who purchase their water from Chicago, and therefore
28 pass it onto its users, Olympia Fields being one of them.

29
30 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that she just wanted our residents to be prepared. The
31 Village will be sending out a letter to all of the residents letting them know that this rate increase
32 is coming and that it is not the Village of Olympia Fields. The Village merely passes on the rate
33 increases that it receives from the Village of Oak Lawn.

34
35 Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in addition to that the Village has realized that if
36 water rates continue to escalate the way that they do, it will be financially unsustainable to keep
37 that Chicago water coming from the Village of Oak Lawn. Oak Lawn is doing a
38 \$190,000,000.00 rehab to their system. They want to pass on that cost to its users. She stated that
39 the big users are Orland, New Lenox, Mokena and Tinley Park. The Village of Olympia Fields,
40 the Village of Matteson, and the City of Country Club Hills are on the very end of that pipeline.
41 Unfortunately, because the Village is a user they are passing on that \$25,000,000.00 cost to this
42 Village. The Village is in investigative mode to find out what other resources we can possibly
43 tap into in order to rectify some of these rate increases that have been coming along. She stated
44 that over the past year, if not longer, those rates have been coming fast and furiously. This is not
45 surprising but it is certainly unwanted. She wants to make sure that the members of the audience
46 know that. The Village will be sending out a letter letting our residents know that that rate
47 increase is on the horizon.

1 **Coffee with the President the Second Saturday of Every Month** – Village President Meyers-
2 Martin stated that starting on Saturday, January 11th, she will begin “Coffee with the President.”
3 It will take place in the lobby of the Village Hall. Anyone who wants to have a conversation, talk
4 about issues, wants to talk about things that are concerning them she will be there. It will take
5 place the second Saturday of every month. Village President Meyers-Martin is looking forward
6 to it. She is hoping that the residents will take that opportunity to come out and speak with her.

7
8 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

9
10 The Board did not have any Unfinished Business to discuss this evening.

11
12 **NEW BUSINESS:**

13
14 **2014 Public Meeting Schedule** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that in the Board
15 Packet is the Public Meeting Schedule for 2014. It lists all of the meetings coming up for the
16 Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Commission, Library Board, Community Relations
17 Commission, Beautification Committee, Enhancement Organization, Police Pension Board,
18 Human Resources, Educational Commission, Public Safety Committee, Economic Development
19 Committee and the Veterans Committee. The dates are on the Village’s Website.

20 **Motion by Trustee Nale, second by Trustee Gibson to approve, publish and distribute the**
21 **2014 Public Meeting Schedule of all Boards, Commissions and Committees.**

22
23 Trustee Nale stated that there is a mistake in the date for the Human Resource Committee
24 Meeting. She hasn’t had a chance to give that to the Village yet. The Human Resource
25 Committee will be meeting on the third Tuesday in January of the New Year rather than having
26 no meeting at all. She doesn’t have the date.

27
28 Village President Meyers-Martin asked Trustee Nale to provide the date to Naomi.

29
30 Trustee Gibson stated that she doesn’t see Human Resources on here at all. After a brief
31 discussion, it was determined that the second page is missing from the Memorandum in some of
32 the Board Packets for some of the Trustees. Administrator Mekarski stated that he would provide
33 the missing page to the Board Members that did not receive it.

34
35 **Motion by Trustee Nale, second by Trustee Gibson to accept the amendment from Trustee**
36 **Nale for her January Meeting.**

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

38
39 **Recognize Dr. Ernie Gibson** – Trustee Byrd stated that he just wanted to recognize one of our
40 citizen’s, Dr. Ernest Gibson. He was Trustee Byrd’s honored guest and recognized at Alpha Phi
41 Alpha Theta Mu Lambda’s Chapter Award Banquet on November 17th. They celebrated their
42 50th Anniversary of doing Community Service as a Chapter. Dr. Gibson was one of the initial
43 people that worked in Community Service in Joliet, Illinois during the ‘60s. He wanted to let
44 people know what a tremendous person Dr. Gibson is and what he did as a person while he was
45 in Joliet. He was a young man doing service activities for the community of Joliet.

1 **Business Connections Breakfast** – Village President Meyers-Martin stated that we are hosting
2 another Business Connections Breakfast on Thursday, January 23rd. It will be at 7:30 A.M. Our
3 very first one was hugely successful. This particular Business Breakfast will be a Panel
4 Discussion. There will be someone from the Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity speaking of resources for small businesses. We will have someone from Accion
6 Chicago which is a micro lender. She just spoke with the SBA on Friday. The Small Business
7 Administration will be here as well.

8

9 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

10

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

13

14 **ADJOURNMENT:**

15

16 **Motion by Trustee Gibson, second by Trustee Nale to adjourn at 8:38 P.M.**

17

Voice Vote: All Ayes Motion Carried.

18

Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

19