

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Held on January 20, 2021

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Board Meeting is being conducted remotely via teleconference. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, January 18th, 2021, was rescheduled to Wednesday, January 20th, 2021, due to the continuation of the Planning Commission Public Hearing that was previously scheduled for January 19th, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Village President Sterling M. Burke at 7:03 P.M.

Present: Trustees – Watkins, Oliver, Pennington, Finley, and Matz
Village President Sterling M. Burke
Village Administrator, Cynthia Saenz

Absent: Trustee Thomas and Village Clerk Drella Savage.

Village President Burke stated that beginning in March 2020, the Governor of Illinois issued a series of State-wide Disaster Declarations related to public health concerns. Those declarations remain in effect. As the head of this body, I have determined that an in-person meeting, or a meeting otherwise conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act is neither practical nor prudent because of the disaster. This meeting will be conducted by Internet Teleconferencing without the physical presence of a quorum. Prior to the commencement of this meeting, all members of this body will verify that they can hear one another. We don't have Zoom. I further find that the physical presence of members of the public is not feasible at this meeting due to the disaster, and more specifically, the practical difficulties associated with accommodating the public in an accessible, hygienic location that allows for appropriate social distancing.

Alternative arrangements have been made to allow the public to contemporarily hear all discussion and Roll Call Vote live via conference call. The call-in numbers are available on the agenda. Notice of these arrangements have been given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The public may address this body consistent with the rules previously adopted and recorded, and adopted by the Village President's Order.

Village President Burke stated that we have developed an informal protocol where the Board Members can speak, and then when they are done speaking say, "I yield," so we are not talking all over each other. The amendment to the Open Meetings Act requires that we allow the public to observe the meeting. It does not require the public be given an opportunity to participate in the meeting. However, it is our policy to give the public the opportunity to present comments to the Board. With that in mind, the public was given the opportunity to submit comments by email. Village President Burke inquired of Village Administrator Saenz whether or not we have gotten any comments so far.

Village Administrator Saenz stated no, we did not receive any Public Comments for tonight's meeting.

1 Village President Burke stated that we are recording this meeting. A copy of the completed
2 Minutes will be posted to our website when approved. All votes shall be conducted by roll call
3 and a verbatim record of this meeting shall be made and maintained in accordance with the Open
4 Meetings Act. Cynthia Saenz is physically present at our regular meeting location. Now, let's get
5 started with the meeting. He inquired whether or not Drella has joined us yet. There was no
6 response. Village President Burke asked the Village Administrator Cindy Saenz to please take
7 the roll.

8
9 Village Administrator Saenz proceeded with the roll call in the absence of Village Clerk Drella
10 Savage. Present were: Trustee Watkins, here; Trustee Oliver, present; Trustee Pennington, here;
11 Trustee Finley, here; Trustee Matz, here; Village President Burke, here. Village Administrator
12 Saenz stated that Trustee Thomas will not be in attendance tonight. We also have joining us on
13 the line Acting Chief Scott Morgan, no response. Jim Landini, Public Works Director, here;
14 Betty Zigras, Finance Director, here; John McDonnell, Building Commissioner, here; Faith
15 Willard is here our Court Reporter; Stan King, Treasurer, here, and I am Cynthia Saenz, the
16 Village Administrator.

17
18 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

19
20 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Dispense with the Reading of**
21 **the Minutes of the December 14th, 2020, Board Meeting; and to Approve the Minutes of the**
22 **December 14th, 2020, Board Meeting as Presented.**

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

24
25 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

26
27 **January Bills for Approval - \$522,202.91** – Village President Burke stated next on the agenda
28 is the January Bills for approval in the amount of \$522,202.91.

29 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Bills for January**
30 **2021 in the Amount of \$522,202.91.**

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

32
33 (At 7:08 P.M. Acting Chief Scott Morgan joined the meeting. He stated that he was in, but it
34 wouldn't let him talk for some reason). Village President Burke stated thanks for joining us,
35 Chief.

36
37 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

38
39 **Report of the Village President:**

40
41 **Economic Development Update** – Village President Burke stated that next on the agenda are
42 the Administrative Reports. He has a report to give. First of all, he just wants to give a quick
43 update. As he indicated at the last meeting, we were expecting the two new businesses in town to
44 be up and running.

45
46 **Fisherman's Island** – Village President Burke stated that Fisherman's Island is definitely up
47 and running and doing quite well. You have to wait 20 minutes to get your food.

1 **Bebo's** – Village President Burke stated that Bebo's is open. They have been open for about a
2 week. They too will cook your food on the spot. There is a wait there. You need to probably
3 order ahead. He has had an opportunity to speak with the owners. They are both very nice
4 people. They live in Flossmoor. He thinks they are going to be a great addition. He has been
5 there twice this week buying food. He thinks everybody will be pleased with the service, the
6 friendliness, and the food that is at both of these locations.
7

8 **Shell Station** – Village President Burke stated that the gas station that was going to be moving
9 adjacent to Perros Brothers, it's still in the works. They are still dealing with ground fill issues
10 where there were possible fuel tanks that might have been leaking. They can't start construction
11 until they have a plan with the EPA to clean up those potentially leaking gas containers. That's
12 on the horizon and it is coming.
13

14 **Village of Olympia Fields Reduces the Levy** - Village President Burke stated that the next
15 thing he would like to talk about a little bit is some of the things that are happening right away,
16 or have happened already. He stated first of all, where the pandemic has taken a toll on all of us,
17 the Village of Olympia Fields is doing very well. It passed the last Audit with flying colors. A lot
18 of the towns who have not been so lucky, they have had to layoff people. They've had to reduce
19 services. The Village of Olympia Fields has not had to do any of that. In fact, for the first time
20 ever, as indicated in our last Board of Trustees Meeting, we voted to reduce the levy. This is the
21 first time this has ever been done in the Village of Olympia Fields. He doesn't know of anyone
22 around us who has ever reduced their levy. And what this means, is that this has been done to
23 reduce the overall property taxes for our residents. The part that we contribute to our property tax
24 is about 10%, 11%. The schools, library, and everybody else around us, they all have to do their
25 share. But the Village has been able to successfully lower its levy for the very first time.
26

27 **Email Blasts** – Village President Burke stated thanks to a5 our Market Development Consultants
28 and the Economic Development Commission, we now have the ability to do electronic
29 newsletters, send many email blasts to 2,000 or more email addresses to help keep our residents
30 up to speed on important notices. He stated that two examples of this was letting the public know
31 of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Cook County Department of Health COVID-
32 19 testing and flu shot event that Trustee Matz helped to pull together. It was very successful.
33 They gave flu shots to people. This all occurred a couple of weeks ago. We put this up as an e-
34 blast to roughly 2,000 people in town. He thinks it was a big success overall. Most recently, we
35 sent out an e-blast concerning a Cook County Survey to get our community registered for the
36 vaccine for COVID-19. Some of you may have seen it. There have been a number of people who
37 have actually taken the survey. He stated what the survey does is to tell our residents how to get
38 registered and get on the list for this vaccine. We have an older population that is the average age
39 of 57. He thinks they are reducing the eligibility for the first normal citizens that are not First
40 Responders to drop it down to 65 years old. The sooner we get people signed up and registered
41 with that survey, the quicker they will be able to get access to that. We did that with one of these
42 e-blasts that we sent out, this mini newsletter.
43

44 Effective this month we will make the transition from a once every other month newsletter that
45 was included in our water bills, to a once-a-month newsletter that will be published at the end of
46 every month. He needs everyone to pass the word on this and to try to get more people signed
47 up. The way this system works is that we use the email addresses and telephone numbers for cell

1 phones to get to people. You don't need a third-party app to get signed up. All of this is done
2 strictly by putting in your email address or having a smartphone with a telephone number that we
3 can send a text to you. No third-party apps are required. No Next Door. No Facebook. This is
4 strictly where you give us your email addresses and give us your smartphone telephone numbers.
5 You will be put on the list to be able to get these email blasts as well as the newsletter. It's really
6 simple.

7
8 **New Utility Billing Payment System Service** – Village President Burke stated that in an effort
9 to increase our overall efficiency with our Finance Department, we launched a new Utility
10 Billing Payment System Service which added features such as auto pay, email reminders, pay by
11 text, and pay by phone. Since we bill bi-monthly, we send about 950 bills each month out. We
12 can now safely say that half of the Village is paying their utility bills using the new online
13 payment service in just over two months since we started this. He stated thank you, Betty for
14 your leadership in putting this together through the Finance Department. That's definitely
15 helping us increase our overall efficiency in finance.

16
17 **Resolution #2021-01 – A Resolution Establishing A Beautification Enhancement Program**
18 **within the Village of Olympia Fields** – Village President Burke stated tonight, we have a
19 couple of grants for our residents that we would like the Board to consider. The first is a
20 Beautification Grant to each of the HOAs. The Board should have received a memo that lays out
21 what the Resolution is all about. Basically, it's a Resolution that would provide \$1,000.00 to
22 each and every Homeowners Association, so that they can do things to improve the overall
23 beauty of their subdivision. We put up planters up and down Kedzie over by the post office. We
24 have a Beautification Grant where we give awards to people in the summertime who have lawns
25 that are really great. We have a Beautification Award that is given to people during the winter
26 months. This is a separate type of award that is replacing the golf outing program that the Village
27 use to have three or four years ago. He heard a lot of people asking about this. Every subdivision
28 would be eligible for this. This particular grant would be eligible for doing things like tulips, and
29 putting new green things in. It's not for cutting grass. It's not for maintenance. It's for above and
30 beyond the types of things that you normally do in a subdivision.

31 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve Resolution No.**
32 **2021-01 – A Resolution Establishing A Beautification Enhancement Program within the**
33 **Village of Olympia Fields.**

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

35
36 Trustee Oliver inquired whether or not the newly created Beautification Enhancement Program
37 would consider extending this grant to either the businesses or the Gateways to the community,
38 like over where the CVS is and where the new gas station will be.

39
40 Village President Burke stated that he thinks that we already do provide a big effort to put
41 flowers and things. The Beautification Committee itself already does that. This is something
42 above and beyond that. We are getting ready to get into the planning mode for next year's
43 Budget. He is sure Trustee Watkins and Ms. Burke; the Chair of the Beautification Committee
44 could request that Mr. Landini puts more money into the Budget to enhance what we already
45 have. We have the Tree Program where we distribute trees to people. There are things that we
46 already do. This is just an added kicker to add even more to it.

47

1 Trustee Oliver stated that he very much appreciates this little initiative. He would just like to put
2 in his little two cents about having our businesses be part of this as well. Thank you so much.
3 Village Administrator Saenz inquired whether or not Mr. McDonnell would like to give the
4 Board a little information regarding the discussion we had the other day about the new gas
5 station, and the idea that we would actually present to the owner some type of signage for
6 Olympia Fields as you enter there up on Governors and Lincoln Highway.

7
8 Mr. McDonnell stated yes. He thinks it is time that the Village elevate itself a little bit with the
9 businesses, especially since we do have interest for new businesses in the corridors that actually
10 enter the corners of our Village. He stated like other towns and cities do, they generally have
11 some type of monument sign or some type of decorative feature as you're coming into their town
12 that let's you know you have arrived at this town. The new station that is proposed for the corner
13 of Governors and Lincoln Highway, he thinks it might be a good idea for the Board, possibly the
14 Beautification Committee, and the Economic Development Commission to get together and talk
15 about some type of monument sign that comes into the Village at our corridors. They're going to
16 be putting in a new sign for that Shell Station. They will have to put in a monument type sign.
17 But naturally, they're not going to spend tens of millions of dollars on it. They're of course going
18 to do the minimal investment that they can to make something look nice and get approved by the
19 Sign Committee and the Board. So, it would be nice if we could elevate their funds so that we
20 could make it a more elaborate feature as we come into the Village.

21
22 Mr. McDonnell stated that sometimes you don't always notice when you are driving around, but
23 there is a monument sign on the corner of Crawford and Vollmer Road at the corner where The
24 Traditions subdivision is at. That's a type of monument sign that we could use to be the staple
25 monument sign for the Village, or we could go another direction. He thinks it would be a good
26 idea to possibly think of the Beautification Committee to get involved and the Economic
27 Development Commission to bring together some kind of idea and pitch in as it will, with this
28 new business that's coming in that's going to do this development on the very corner of Olympia
29 Fields.

30
31 Village President Burke stated that we have talked to probably 25 businesses. They show us
32 different types of plans for what they want to do on some of these corners. And we have been
33 really, really aggressive about ensuring that they put in something that is adequate. So far, no one
34 has really pushed back on us. Are you suggesting that the Village put some money in a pot to do
35 this?

36
37 Mr. McDonnell stated yes, he is, absolutely. He has spoken to Trustee Finley about this a few
38 times. She has talked to him about it a few times. Trustee Finley is always reminding him that
39 sometimes he is the first contact when a new business is trying to come into town, and that part
40 of it should be in the back of his mind all the time when he is talking to these businesses. We
41 really haven't had any businesses that have been looking at the corners of the Village of Olympia
42 Fields. On the corner of Crawford and Vollmer Road that's already developed. There is no new
43 development that is going to go there other than some new townhouses and single-family homes
44 in The Traditions in the near future. There is already a monument sign there.

45
46 Mr. McDonnell stated that there is no development going on, on the corner of Western and
47 Vollmer Road because we have Irons Oaks there right now and really no plan to put any kind of

1 monument sign there. He thinks there should be one there. He thinks that we should let
2 everybody know that they are in Olympia Fields when they cross that border.
3 Mr. McDonnell stated the current Shell Station that is there now on the corner of Western and
4 Lincoln Highway, there's no new development there. In the near future we would like to see
5 them renovate that corner. That would be another good time to possibly have some money in the
6 pot to help improve those corners as we see them from the outside.
7
8 Village President Burke stated the corner of Western and Lincoln Highway, the source of that
9 money since that's in the TIF that is an easy no brainer right there. We can't import money from
10 the TIF to the other locations. There is a small monument sign on the southeast corner of
11 Vollmer Road and Western. So, you are thinking about something bigger than that. Mr.
12 McDonnell stated yes.
13
14 Village President Burke stated that he is going to ask Trustee Watkins to get with the
15 Beautification Committee, and then you can give them some idea of the signs and things that you
16 are talking about. He is sure they would be more than happy to try to jet up something that is not
17 going to be too obtrusive, but at the same time something that we all will be proud of. Since you
18 are part of the Sign Committee you know what is reasonable and what isn't. We are getting ready
19 to get into Budget season, it would be a good time to do that like right now.
20
21 Trustee Pennington stated that he was thinking along those same lines. It would appear to him
22 that this would be deemed an example of a Capital Project since we are looking at perhaps
23 considerable costs. He doesn't know. If it is to be deemed a Capital Project, or part of a Capital
24 Project Program, we would want to include that in our Capital Project outline that is coming up.
25 We have a meeting scheduled for the 26th of this month to discuss Capital Projects. He doesn't
26 know if we will have anything developed at that particular point in time.
27
28 Ms. Zigras stated it is something that we discussed with the Directors and Cindy at yesterday's
29 preliminary Capital Project Meeting before the 26th. It will be on the Capital Projects list for the
30 Board to discuss on Tuesday. Trustee Pennington stated good.
31
32 Trustee Finley stated that while at home watching the Inauguration today and the other events
33 leading up to it, it clearly makes us understand the importance of the symbols of the sense of
34 place. She believes that what John is proposing and discussing with the other Committees and
35 Commissions are looking at from their various lenses, leads us to the same conclusion. Olympia
36 Fields will appear to be what we choose it to be. We should be deliberate, and invest in it, and be
37 consistent, and make sure that it communicates internally and externally the values and the sense
38 of our own feelings about the sense of place. That is why she think this is a very fine presentation
39 and a very fine idea. She hopes we can get to it as soon as possible.
40
41 Village President Burke stated as he indicated, we are getting ready to get into Budget season.
42 He thinks that someone just said that the Capital Plan is going to be discussed on Tuesday. He
43 talked with Cindy about this today, we were not able to do the repaving of roads like we would
44 have liked to have done because of the pandemic this year. We are going to try to double up for
45 Fiscal Year 2022. This would be the right time to slip into that Capital Plan the signage. That's
46 something that the team could make a determination on. Do we want to do all four corners, or do
47 we just want to do one or two of them a year? If we decide to take on all of them, we would have

1 to put that into the Budget. He thinks that we should be able to do that. We are going to have
2 another surplus this year. We are in a position to pay for the things that we want to get done
3 without having to borrow any money. If this becomes one of the most important things that we
4 say we want to do beyond repaving some of the roads which we are going to do, then everybody
5 should be ready to vote for that in these upcoming discussions that we are going to have with the
6 Capital Plan.

7
8 Mr. McDonnell stated that he brings it up only because this new station is pretty close to
9 finalizing some of the things that they are going through. They are going through the second
10 stage of soil samples and borings. They are a serious project. He doesn't think that they are going
11 to go away. As long as everything works out, they are going to move pretty quickly with the
12 development. That's the only reason why we are bringing it up now.

13
14 Trustee Pennington inquired of Mr. McDonnell what stage are they at with regard to the
15 underground storage tank issue with the EPA.

16
17 Mr. McDonnell stated that they have done their initial testing. They take some bore samples and
18 see if there is any slight contamination. Evidently, they found some. They had to go to a Stage 2
19 Plan where they do more and actually locate the sources and the boundaries of that spillage.
20 They are at that stage. He believes that stage is completed. They know how much it is going to
21 cost for the cleanup. He is sure that they have already negotiated with the seller that is selling the
22 property if they wanted to make a different deal because they found this and uncovered it, or if
23 everybody knew that it was there all along. He doesn't know. He stated that we are not privy to
24 the actual sales contract for them. He believes they are past all of that.

25
26 Mr. McDonnell stated that they are probably working on firming up bids for the project to take
27 out whatever needs to be taken out, and bring new soil and stone in to replace any contaminated
28 soils and to install new fuel tanks for the new station that is going to be there.

29
30 Trustee Pennington inquired of Mr. McDonnell do we know when the leakage was discovered or
31 when the EPA got involved with the storage tanks.

32
33 Mr. McDonnell stated that he doesn't know exactly when they got involved. He is sure that the
34 soil company that does the boring, they have to turn it in. He is sure there is some type of data
35 they have to turn in to the EPA for those borings.

36
37 Village President Burke stated Bill, any time you open up the soil at a gas station site, you're
38 subject to this kind of scrutiny. The Standard Oil Gas Station that is across the street in Chicago
39 Heights, they have not tried to put anything in there because all underneath that place there has
40 been leakage, even out in the middle of Western Avenue there has been leakage. We had three
41 different groups that we talked to about expanding the Shell Station on the corner of Western and
42 Lincoln Highway. As long as the station changes hands and you don't open up the soil, you don't
43 have to mess with the ground seal. But if you want to put in additional tanks and expand and
44 make it bigger, then you fall into that trap where you have to go do something about it. It's like
45 an ink blotter, it bleeds out underneath. And how far it goes, you don't know until you open it
46 up. This is a touchy situation. They're committed to go into that station. It's just a matter of how
47 much it is going to cost them to clean all of this stuff up.

1 Trustee Pennington stated that he is aware as to the issue with storage tanks. He handled them in
2 the past when he was with CNA. He knows the issues at hand. His question was how long ago
3 did they find out that this was an issue. But that's okay. He understands. Thank you.

4
5 Trustee Watkins stated that she had a quick question regarding the newsletter. Will the voice of
6 the Trustees be heard in this newsletter? She knows that over the last year nothing has been sent
7 to us to put anything in the newsletter.

8
9 Village President Burke stated that he's not sure that's 100% accurate. He thinks Gladys has sent
10 out emails to people. He knows that Cassandra Matz had something to go into the newsletter
11 about a cleanup activity that she had. She is soliciting information today as we speak. She has a
12 folder with things that have to do with the potential subjects that could go into that newsletter. If
13 you have something that you want to put in, there is nothing political. It is all about things that
14 are good and about what is going on in the Village of Olympia Fields. Those things are fair game
15 to go into this newsletter. Trustee Watkins stated okay.

16
17 **Report of the Village Administrator:**

18
19 **South Suburban Land Bank Update** – Village Burke stated that next on the agenda is a report
20 from the Village Administrator. Village Administrator Saenz stated that she wanted to give an
21 update on a few items that have taken place over the last year. She stated that because of
22 COVID, some of these items kind of dragged their way through the Court System and took a
23 long time. We got some good news last week regarding these issues and she just wanted to
24 update everyone.

25
26 Village Administrator Saenz stated that last January the Board approved an Intergovernmental
27 Agreement with the Land Bank to take over the old IRS Building here in the Office Park. The
28 address is 3615 Park. She is happy to report that we have received the Deed. Everything has
29 gone through the Court System and the Village now owns that building. It is with the Land Bank
30 which is a good thing, because the Land Bank is going to assess the property for us and submit a
31 report to let us know the condition, and to give us recommendations on what to do as far as
32 moving forward with that property. That was some good news that we received. If you recall,
33 with the developers that were interested in the parcels right next to that location for the restaurant
34 some time ago, they were actually interested also in that piece of property, to actually
35 incorporate all three of those parcels for the development that they were considering. The Village
36 now having that property is a good thing. As soon as we receive word back from the Land Bank
37 on the condition, and what their recommendations are, we will be sure to share that with the
38 Board.

39
40 Trustee Oliver stated congratulations. Village Administrator Saenz stated yes, that's great news
41 for us.

42
43 Village Administrator Saenz stated that the other piece of information that she wanted to share
44 with the Board, in October she notified the Board that Trustee Matz had actually given her some
45 information regarding a grant opportunity for two pieces of property in the Village that were in
46 pretty bad shape. She had spoken with the Board to see if we could get authorization to have the
47 Land Bank look at 3435 Attica and 820 Exmoor for us, so that we could secure those properties

1 for abandonment. The Land Bank is working on that for us. The cases are in the Court System
2 right now. We should hear something back hopefully very soon, as far as ownership for the
3 Village. The good news that we received last week, with the grant opportunity that Trustee Matz
4 sent to her back in September, she was officially notified that the Land Bank did secure the grant
5 from the Illinois Housing Development Authority. It's the Strong Communities Program. We
6 actually included those two properties. The Attica property and the Exmoor property were
7 included in the grant application with the Land Bank. She stated that \$175,000.00 has been
8 awarded to the Land Bank. A portion of those dollars are going to be allocated to the Attica
9 property and the Exmoor property. She should know the exact amounts next week. We have a
10 Land Bank meeting next week. The amount that we actually submitted through the grant was
11 \$40,000.00 for each property. Hopefully, we will receive that entire amount. She stated but if
12 not, at least those are funds that we can use to have the Building Commissioner give us a
13 recommendation on what we can do to actually rehab those properties. One of them, there is a
14 hole in the roof so we need to take care of that. These will be funds that will not come out of the
15 Village's Account, and will be a grant through the Land Bank. Those are her updates. Great
16 news for us as far as rebuilding in the community, which is the whole purpose of the Land Bank.
17

18 Trustee Pennington stated that's great. Village President Burke stated that's wonderful news. He
19 has gotten a number of emails from people over by that Attica property. He is sure the people
20 over there will be ecstatic to know that we are getting close to being able to fix that place up.
21 What he talked to them about was either the Village tearing it down and turning it into a small
22 park, or once we get acquisition of it, we could either do the park, gardens, or we could have
23 someone rehab it. The people in the area over there were most interested in getting it back on the
24 tax rolls and getting a new neighbor to move into the house. If we can use some of this money to
25 incentivize a rehab company that we could manage to fix the place up, he thinks the community
26 would be greatly appreciative of that.
27

28 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she thinks that's the recommendation from John
29 McDonnell. She knows that he and Reggi Ford the Code Enforcement Officer have already been
30 reaching out to secure some costs so that they have an idea of exactly what we can utilize those
31 funds for. As soon as we know next week, she is sure that they will get working and we will have
32 something else to report back to the Board hopefully next month. Village President Burke stated
33 wonderful.
34

35 **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:**

36 **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

37
38
39 **Maynegaite Fence Update** – Mr. McDonnell stated that he had a small update. As you all know,
40 the infamous Reserves of Maynegaite concrete fence along Route 30, we've gotten several
41 complaints in the past. Each time we've gotten a complaint, we've made either some repairs or
42 removal of that fence. There was a small, short period of time where the Village was contacted
43 by an attorney and someone filed basically a "Hands Off" suit against the Village. We were able
44 to win that. Now, we can proceed to make any repairs on the property that we see fit for the
45 health, safety, and welfare of the community.
46

1 Mr. McDonnell stated just recently we had 10 panels taken down that had expended their
2 lifespan for that location. We had them removed and taken offsite. Once we took those out there
3 were some dead trees and some old dead branches laying around, and some bushes and things
4 that were just not growing any longer. We also had those removed which beautified the area
5 when those sections of fence were taken down.

6
7 Mr. McDonnell stated in the future we will do the same thing. We're always reaching out to the
8 owner, and the bank, and the owner's attorney. Now when we do anything at that property, he
9 basically has to deem it dangerous to the public in order to do anything about it. That's what we
10 did this time. We just took 10 panels down. It looks pretty good over there. He stated come
11 springtime we may have to take some more panels down.

12
13 Mr. McDonnell stated that he has some updated figures if there are any questions about that. We
14 did get a firmed-up price from the company. We got some prices from them back in 2018 when
15 we had some work done there. Now, we have some newer figures with cost of materials and
16 things that are going up. He stated to take down and haul away the rest of that remaining fence is
17 \$65,649.00. That would take that whole fence away, and it would put up an eight-foot, cedar
18 privacy fence. Some people have actually asked us how much that would cost.

19
20 Village President Burke stated that this has been one that keeps bubbling up and we keep fixing
21 it. We keep going to Court. Village President Burke inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not
22 he knows how much they want to sell that piece of property for. Mr. McDonnell stated no, I do
23 not. Village President Burke stated that you might want to try to find out. The last time we talked
24 about this, there's a possibility that they may want to sell it. If you can find out what they want to
25 sell it for, not that the Village would buy it, but the people in Maynegaitte if they decide that they
26 want to annex that to be part of their community and turn it into a small park, the Village could
27 talk to them about being able to do something like that. Right now, we've done what we can do
28 and that is take them to Court. We've been putting liens on the property every time we do this.
29 Mr. McDonnell stated that's correct. Village President Burke stated and it keeps changing hands.
30 Now, the new person who owns it, does he want to retain it, or does he want to get rid of it?

31
32 Mr. McDonnell stated that he is pretty sure that he would like to get rid of it. The bank is
33 probably again, in the middle of foreclosing on it he would assume. We know he did pay the
34 taxes on it, or somebody paid the taxes on it. He is sure he would like to get rid of it. When we
35 spoke to him when he first purchased it, he was only suppose to have it for 30 to 60-days before
36 he was handing it off to somebody else. Mr. McDonnell stated that he thinks that he got stuck
37 with the property. The other person couldn't come up with the money to purchase it from him so
38 he ended up with the property. He doesn't think that he wanted it in the first place.

39
40 Trustee Matz inquired what's the name of the owner of the property. Mr. McDonnell stated that
41 he doesn't have his name at hand. He has it at the office. Trustee Matz inquired if it is under his
42 business name. Mr. McDonnell stated it could be. He does have a business. He is not sure if it is
43 under his business name. He believes it is under his personal name and not his business name.
44 Trustee Matz inquired of Mr. McDonnell how long has he had ownership of that property. Mr.
45 McDonnell stated that he has had it for about a year now. Trustee Matz stated thanks.

46

1 Village President Burke stated that it has changed ownership three or four times. People have
2 been playing games with it to try to avoid losing it. This guy who currently has it right now, he
3 thought he could flip it and he couldn't. If we get somebody who wants to buy that property and
4 turn it into something, that would be great. Meanwhile, we've been doing what we can to address
5 the issues by taking panels and tearing down the broken ones, and taking the ones at the end and
6 fill-in so it doesn't look like a Snagglepuss dog or anything. He stated that John has done a great
7 job of keeping it halfway maintainable. He thinks the end result should be that somebody should
8 buy it and either turn it into something where they could build some houses, but the Village
9 cannot be responsible for taking care of that piece of property because that will never work for
10 us.

11
12 Village President Burke inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not there was anything else that
13 he wanted to talk about. Mr. McDonnell stated no, that's it. Thank you.

14
15 **Jim Landini – Public Works Director**

16
17 **Backflow Prevention Program** – Mr. Landini stated what you have before you is a proposed
18 Backflow Prevention Program for your approval. This is a Cost Share Program to assist
19 qualifying property owners to help prevent sewage backup from coming into their basements.
20 This will not apply to everybody in the Village. There are some homes in the Village that have
21 this type of plumbing where they would need corrective action taken to help protect their homes.
22 That type of plumbing is where the service line runs out from the bottom of the house to our
23 sanitary sewer main. In the event of heavy rainfall where our sewer system gets full, the water
24 still moves through the system. It flows the way it should, but it is full so water will take the path
25 of least resistance. In these cases that path of least resistance is into the basement of some homes
26 in the Village.

27
28 Mr. Landini stated that what this program will do is a cost sharing option for homeowners who
29 qualify to do one of two things to help protect their home. They can put in a check valve in their
30 service line. When the sanitary system starts to overflow and it starts heading towards their
31 house, that check valve will shut and not allow anything into the home. That's a cheaper option.
32 It's a good option. It helps protect the home. He stated that the subsidy offered for that portion is
33 50% cost share up to \$2,500.00 for the resident. The other option we have is putting in an
34 overhead sewer system in the home. That is a system that goes in the basement. Instead of your
35 sewage coming out at ground level or sub ground level in the basement, it's an overhead system
36 where it has to elevate to go up and then drop into our sanitary sewer system. It's the best way to
37 protect your house. Most of you, if not all of you have this system in your house. Some homes in
38 the Village do not. It's a little bit more expensive. It may not work for all homes depending on
39 how their plumbing is currently set up, or what they have in their basement. We would be
40 offering a 50% cost share up to \$5,000.00 for that protection in the home.

41
42 Mr. Landini stated if you look through the packet, you'll see the eligible properties for people
43 that qualify for this program, and what kind of requirements they have to meet. The inspections
44 that would follow-up, and everything like that. He can go into more depth. He thinks it might be
45 easier to answer any questions. It's a pretty detailed prevention program. If there are any
46 questions about it, he would be happy to answer it.

47

1 Village President Burke stated that we have a Staff Meeting every other week and we talk about
2 different things around the Village. He stated that he and Jim have been out to five or six houses
3 over the last year, year and a half, where this has been a problem. When it has rained heavily, we
4 have been out talking to people about water that they have complained about being in their
5 basement. This isn't something that we just popped up to fill a hole. This is something that we
6 should do. This is something that is the result of about a year, year and a half study, of
7 complaints and things that people have complained about. It's something that he thinks our
8 residents would greatly appreciate. It's not a give away program. The residents have to put in
9 their share of the money. This thing is capped at 10 of these a year. First come, first serve. We
10 think it will provide relief for some people who have had complaints about this, not that it's the
11 Village's fault that this has happened, but this is more along the lines of something that was
12 created when their houses were built. This will provide relief for them at a reasonable price. If
13 you have questions, ask about it. It wasn't something that we came about lightly. This is
14 something that we have had a lot of experience with. He stated that Jim has gone out and done a
15 lot of research to find out what other Village's have done around the southern suburbs. Chicago
16 Heights had a program similar to this. He stated that John McDonnell was over there. He can talk
17 about this extensively also. It's something that our residents would greatly appreciate.

18
19 Village Administrator Saenz stated that Jim may have said this, but just to clarify, with this
20 particular program the resident has to have all of the work completed prior to submitting this
21 paperwork and receiving any type of assistance from the Village. The installation, everything
22 would have to be completed. They would have to submit proof to us that the work was done and
23 which option they elected to have added to their home. That is when we would process the
24 reimbursement to them at either \$2,500.00 max or \$5,000.00 max.

25
26 Trustee Pennington stated so it is the responsibility of the homeowner to engage the contractor in
27 order to do the work he would think. Mr. Landini stated yes. They have to be licensed and
28 bonded within the Village, a certified plumber. Everything has to meet Village Code Standards.

29
30 Trustee Pennington inquired of Mr. Landini which areas of the Village have you found this to be
31 a needed change. Mr. Landini stated that he doesn't know for sure how many homes because it's
32 not something that we can figure out by looking at the home. He knows some homes in Olympia
33 Fields East for sure. He stated some homes in Arcadia for sure. Some homes in the Original
34 Village for sure. The general rule of thumb is that it's a possibility to need this type of plumbing
35 if the home was built pre-1965. He stated post 1965 homes were starting to be built more with
36 overhead sewers. He has found some older homes in town that have already, from previous
37 owners, retroactively put in overhead sewer in their homes. It's kind of a discovery process. He
38 would be willing to bet most parts of the Village will have a few homes in it that could benefit
39 from this program.

40
41 Village President Burke stated that it also has a lot to do with how high up the foundation was at
42 the time they built the house. If you have a house that is kind of low, or has a drop out basement
43 in the back, they would be subject to having a problem like this. If you are up kind of on a little
44 hill, then you have good drainage down to the sewer system.

45
46 Trustee Matz stated just to piggyback onto that, she is the second owner of her house. She
47 bought her house from the builder. Her house was built in 1963, but she is lower than the houses

1 that surround her just by a little bit. She has an overhead sewer drainage. The pipe comes up out
2 of her sump pump and it goes out the window. That will give you a little understanding of what
3 Jim is talking about.

4
5 Mr. Landini stated that is correct. If you have an ejector pit in your basement that's also separate
6 from your sump pit, that is an indicator of overhead sewer, and if you can see your plumbing and
7 your PVC piping is around eye level hence the term "overhead sewer," that's how you would
8 definitely know. If you don't see any of that and you just have floor drains, then that would be
9 something that you would want to look at to see if this would benefit your property.

10 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve the Village of Olympia**
11 **Field's Backflow Prevention Program Presented by Jim Landini, Public Works Director.**

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

13

14 **Graymoor Force Main Replacement Update** – Mr. Landini stated that he has a couple more
15 updates for the Board. The first one is the Graymoor Force Main Replacement Update. This is a
16 project that we brought up last year in the Capital Projects to replace the Graymoor Force Main
17 which comes from the Graymoor Lift Station, runs west on Vollmer Road and then south on
18 Western to Country Club Drive.

19

20 Mr. Landini stated that the reason for this replacement is we have had multiple breaks on that
21 line. That line pumps all the sewage out of the Graymoor Subdivision. The more breaks we have
22 on there the more opportunity there is for critical failure of that main, plus we have to report it to
23 the EPA. We have been waiting a long time for this project and hoping to get it done in this
24 Fiscal Year. We waited 10 months for IDOT Permits to come through. They finally came
25 through and we had everything ready to go. The RFP went out January 11th. That's when
26 everything got posted for this job. We were expected to have a bid opening January 29th and a
27 projected start date for this project of March 21st.

28

29 Trustee Pennington stated Halleluiah. Mr. Landini stated yes, that is a much-needed Capital
30 Project. Once the work is completed that's a line we won't have to worry about for about 60 or
31 70-years. That is the update on the Graymoor Force Main. He would be happy to answer any
32 questions.

33

34 Trustee Pennington stated thank you very much for getting that done because it is much needed
35 here in Graymoor. Mr. Landini stated definitely.

36

37 Ms. Zigras stated that the project will begin in March. She inquired of Mr. Landini when the
38 project would be completed.

39

40 Mr. Landini stated that it kind of remains to be seen. It will be a little bit weather dependent. It
41 should take about a month. It should be completed hopefully, early to mid-April. He stated that
42 nobody will be out of sewer service in the Graymoor Subdivision. We will have bypass pumping
43 set up. As a homeowner in the Graymoor Subdivision you will see absolutely no difference in
44 how the things are working in your home.

45

46 **Arborist Update** – Mr. Landini stated that his final update is the Arborist update. He stated that
47 Daryl LoSchiavo, one of our employees in Public Works passed his Arborist Test. He is now the

1 Village’s Certified Arborist. That means that he is available to help out with anything that the
2 residents may have concerning trees on their property, recommendations, and we can do all this
3 work in-house for the Village’s trees as far as what needs to be cutdown, how to identify trees,
4 how to treat diseased trees, anything like that. So, we will not have to contract any of that work
5 out at all. It will all be done within the Public Works Department.
6

7 Village President Burke stated that was a lot of very valuable information that we all need to be
8 aware of.
9

10 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

11
12 **Building Department/Community Relations Commission – Trustee Finley**

13
14 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee Finley stated that we already had our Building
15 Department report. Trustee Finley stated that she will move to the Community Relations
16 Commission. She has the sad duty of making sure that this goes into the record because we have
17 lost a member of the Community Relations Commission, Mr. Yuan Liang. She can’t think of
18 anybody who wouldn’t know who he is and have some very strong feelings about his devotion to
19 service. He was 96 years old. You might not have known that because he jumped around here
20 like he was the sunny side of 80-something maybe. He joined the CRC in 2012. He was
21 passionate, insightful, and totally committed to protecting the prosperity in the Village of
22 Olympia Fields. His long and stellar service on the Community Relations Commission defined
23 him as a thoughtful and generous leader. We are all the better for having had the privilege of
24 serving with him. We will miss him greatly. She knows that you join her in saluting an amazing
25 man.
26

27 Trustee Finley stated that the second thing she wanted to share with you is that the Community
28 Relations Commission is now under new leadership with our Chair, Carl Hill. The next
29 upcoming meeting is Monday, February 1st. The main issue on the agenda is a full embrace or
30 engagement of the resources of the South Suburban Housing Center and the Village’s Program
31 called “The Smart Home Mortgage Review.” We have just under 2,000 homes in the Village.
32 She stated from what we understand in the way of resources for the South Suburban Housing
33 Center and what the goals of this campaign are about, there’s not a house that should not spend
34 sometime with the South Suburban Housing Center simply to make sure that everything that can
35 be done to support your investment and the quality of life that you want to enjoy in the home, is
36 being supported by the business that supports your house. The Smart Home Mortgage Review
37 will give you the rollout program that pushes to engage for the purposes of review every home in
38 Olympia Fields.
39

40 Trustee Finley stated that the next thing she wanted to let you know is that Bebo’s and
41 Fisherman’s Island are just two wonderful additions to the community. She has eaten their food.
42 She had Fisherman’s Island food. She had to wait for them to do what they do with the fish. It
43 was well worth the wait. She stated that today she dined on Bebo’s. She had to sit and wait for
44 them to do what they do with it. It was well worth the wait. It’s a pleasure to go into these
45 businesses and know that they are here. Trustee Finley stated that she is asking for all of you, and
46 everybody you might want to share that with when you go in, not only order your food, but let
47 them know that you are happy to have them there. You have to remember they are trying to build

1 their businesses in the time of COVID. It has to be one of the more difficult, heavy lifts that you
2 can do. Let the people know that the residents are happy and we have every hope that they will
3 be successful because we continue to buy their food. That is perhaps one of the most cheering
4 things that we can possibly do.

5
6 Village President Burke thanked Trusteed Finley for co-signing the quality of the food at both of
7 those locations. If you want fried things, Bebo’s is the place to go. If you want steamed, fresh
8 food with vegetables, then Fisherman’s Island is the place to go. They are both well worth the
9 wait. You should get the menu ahead of time and order ahead so you won’t have to wait. You
10 will not be disappointed as she just said.

11
12 **Public Works/Park District – Trustee Matz**

13
14 **Public Works** – Trustee Matz stated that she doesn’t have anything additional to report on
15 Public Works. She stated that Jim Landini said it all.

16
17 **COVID-19 Testing and Flu Shot Event** - Trustee Matz stated that she has a couple
18 acknowledgements that she wanted to continue from your report earlier. On January 4th, Olympia
19 Fields hosted for our residents and the surrounding communities the free COVID-19 Testing and
20 Flu Shots in the old Jewel Plaza. Cook County Health and IDPH administered the COVID Tests.
21 Family Christian Health Center provided the flu shots. ComEd gave out backpacks with PPE and
22 energy efficient information in the packets. Blue Cross Blue Shield gave out reusable bags with
23 PPEs in it. We had a wonderful turnout with 179 tests given. She stated that seven flu shots were
24 administered. It was a great collaboration with our neighboring Villages. People came from all
25 over as far as north, Chicago; west, Plainfield; east, Ford Heights; south, Crete. She would also
26 like to give out special thanks to Public Works for preparing the area for us so that we could be
27 safe. The snow was plowed and salt was placed down.

28
29 Trustee Matz stated our finest department, our police department for controlling the area and
30 keeping the event safe.

31
32 Trustee Matz stated that she would also be remiss if she did not thank you Mr. President, and the
33 Board of Trustees, for acknowledging the need and the value of this event for our residents to
34 keep them healthy and safe.

35
36 Trustee Matz stated that all of this could not have taken place without Cook County
37 Commissioner, Donna Miller’s Call to Action with all the agencies that participated in this
38 initiative. We are only as strong as our neighboring suburbs. If we’re not healthy, they’re not
39 healthy. And to have this collaboration and this initiative where everybody came out and shared
40 in on this COVID Testing and flu shot, it was a wonderful thing. She commends you all for
41 seeing the value of this and allowing this to happen in our Village.

42
43 **Park District** – Trustee Matz stated as far as our Park District, they have not put together their
44 spring brochure yet. Here are some highlights that they plan to put in their brochure. They are
45 open with limitations because of the pandemic. They have ballet and tap classes. Here is one for
46 you, Mr. President, they have extreme Hip Hop Classes. Get you ready for the summer.

47

1 **Easter Bunny Drive-by** - Trustee Matz stated that their Christmas Santa Claus drive-by was
2 such a success, that they are going to have the Easter Bunny drive-by. They will have the Easter
3 Bunny come out and go to different homes for the children to take pictures and get treats.

4
5 **Mother's Day Trivia** - Trustee Matz stated that they are going to have a Mother's Day Trivia,
6 but this is going to be via Zoom. The mothers can still participate.

7
8 Trustee Matz stated that they will continue with their Zoom lessons every Saturday.

9
10 Village President Burke stated that he is practicing for it. He stated wonderful. Thanks for the
11 information and thanks for your leadership with the testing program. It was a great success.

12
13 **Public Safety/Educational Commission – Trustee Oliver**

14
15 **Public Safety** - Trustee Oliver stated that he would like to piggyback off of what Trustee Matz
16 was just indicating. On behalf of the Public Safety Committee, he wishes to give a salute to
17 Acting Chief Scott Morgan and the Olympia Fields Police Department for their outstanding
18 planning and execution regarding the logistical support for the COVID Testing and flu shots held
19 on January 4th.

20
21 As you heard from Trustee Matz, not only was the police department involved, but so was Public
22 Works. He wants to commend them as well. He wanted to make a public acknowledgement of
23 the manner in which you have given Olympia Fields such high regards and carrying out such a
24 project.

25
26 Trustee Oliver stated that on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, he wanted to acknowledge
27 Administrative Sergeant Derrick Blasingame for his outstanding television interview this past
28 Monday, which was Martin Luther King Day. NBC conducted a segment on the rash of
29 carjackings happening in the Chicago suburban area. In addition to interviewing the Aurora
30 Police on carjackings where a woman was shot, NBC chose to interview Olympia Fields Police
31 Department. Sergeant Blasingame reported the three carjackings, as well as provided some safety
32 tips. He also used the opportunity to speak about the Village's Program on Code Red and the
33 alert systems. Trustee Oliver thought that he did a great job with the backdrop of the Speedway
34 on Vollmer and Crawford. So, a big shout out to him.

35
36 Trustee Oliver stated we had a Public Safety Meeting on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021. We are
37 preparing for the first Annual Public Safety Committee Report to be completed in March. He
38 understands that Chief Morgan is on the line. He would like Chief Morgan to add anything else
39 at this point in time, including monthly calls, or any updates on the carjackings or the robberies
40 that took place in the Village.

41
42 **Update on Armed Robbery** – Acting Chief Scott Morgan stated that there are a couple updates
43 that he will send to the Village President and the Trustees possibly tomorrow. There is an update
44 for the Armed Robbery. One of the stolen autos we had from Wal-Mart and one of the
45 carjackings that we did have, those cases are going to be administratively closed. That
46 information will be provided to you in an email hopefully tomorrow.

47

1 **Update on Monthly Calls to the OFPD** - Acting Chief Scott Morgan stated that we have all
2 year, kind of because of COVID, been running about a hundred calls fewer than 2019. It is the
3 same in looking at the stats for December 2020. He stated 2020, we were at 646 calls for service.
4 In December of 2019, we were at 757. He stated for December 2020 there were 22 adult arrests
5 made. We had 37 car accidents in the Village. We made eight retail thefts. It is just the spread of
6 the usual calls that we've had.

7
8 **Kudos to Detective Don Dean** – Acting Chief Scott Morgan stated that Don Dean who is our
9 Acting Detective right now for the police department, has been doing an excellent job in that
10 position. It is because of him that you will be getting this email hopefully tomorrow about these
11 cases being solved.

12
13 Trustee Oliver asked Acting Chief Scott Morgan to follow-up on something that President Burke
14 had mentioned earlier. He noticed on the Olympia Fields Website, on the police section of the
15 website, the COVID-19 Vaccine Survey lies in that area. Did you want to say anything about
16 that? Trustee Oliver inquired that anyone that wishes to complete that survey, is there a direct
17 link for them to complete that survey form on the police section of the website?

18
19 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she is pretty sure the link is in the COVID mini-site and
20 not the police site. It goes directly to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

21
22 Trustee Oliver stated thank you so much for clarifying that. He thought he saw it on the police
23 site.

24
25 Village President Burke stated that was part of what we did with the e-blast. This survey is very
26 important. You should fill it out. Tell your friends to fill it out. This is one way you get on the
27 list.

28
29 Village President Burke inquired of Acting Chief Scott Morgan whether or not he wanted to say
30 anything about how many officers have taken the shot.

31
32 Acting Chief Scott Morgan stated currently we've got eight officers that have taken the COVID
33 shot. He stated that seven of us have gotten both shots. We have one officer that received the first
34 shot. He is off right now on COVID sick days because his wife and his two children have tested
35 positive for COVID. He is at home with them right now. He stated that with speaking with the
36 staff at the hospital, it is his understanding that we got the Pfizer shot. The officer will be past the
37 21-days, but he will still be able to receive that second shot when he returns to work and it will
38 still be just as effective.

39
40 **Educational Commission Report** – Trustee Oliver stated that the Educational Commission met
41 recently. We were given permission to poll some things which we are pretty excited about. We
42 were very hopeful that we might be able to get our own page. Many of the members of this
43 Commission have been in this struggle of trying to do different source of activities to enhance
44 and improve with the help of the School Districts, how they provide education to our
45 communities. As long as we have been doing this, and as much work, and effort, and all the trials
46 and efforts that we've made over the years, we've come to the conclusion that we are just stuck
47 under this current situation which has nothing to do with us, but the manner in which the school

1 system itself is. We are not deterred. We're not going to give up. It's just that we have so much
2 to do to try to get unstuck. We are not anywhere close to making any instrumental changes in
3 that. That is not just coming from him, but from the Commission as a whole. Just stay tuned. We
4 are not giving up. We are almost like in a holding pattern. Stay tuned. We have a lot of
5 information that will be provided to the residents of Olympia Fields.

6
7 **Chicago Heights Fire Department** - Trustee Oliver stated that something that he should have
8 mentioned under Public Safety is the Chicago Heights Fire Department has historically gone out
9 to the Arcadia School to provide fire prevention techniques, and talk to the kids, and things like
10 that. Now, under COVID, of course, they can't do that. They have created a video. We are
11 hoping to put that video on our Educational Commission page as well, so that more than just the
12 kids from Arcadia can benefit from it. He understands there are quite a few kids in Olympia
13 Fields that are homeschooled. We have to find a way to get that information out to them as well.

14
15 Village President Burke thanked Trustee Oliver for that update.

16
17 **Finance/Planning & Zoning – Pennington**

18
19 **December 2020 Financial Statements** – Trustee Pennington stated that he has three items on
20 his agenda this evening to present to the Board. He will start with the Financial Report. He will
21 be reporting the financial results of revenues and expenses for the Village of Olympia Fields for
22 eight periods ending December 31st, 2020.

23
24 Trustee Pennington stated starting with the General Fund, General Fund revenues for this period
25 were favorable to Budget projections by \$69,122.00, or 2% favorable to Budget. Our budgeted
26 revenue for this period was \$3,708,301.00. The Village realized actual revenues in the General
27 Fund of \$3,777,423.00. Trustee Pennington stated that gains in Sales Tax Revenue, Local Use
28 Tax, Municipal Fuel Tax, and Real Estate Taxes were the contributing factors in this positive
29 position. Trustee Pennington stated that General Fund expenses were favorable to Budget
30 projections by \$305,476.00, or 8% favorable. Trustee Pennington stated that Budgeted expenses
31 for the period were \$3,785,188.00, while actual incurred expenses were \$3,479,712.00. He stated
32 that when comparing total revenues to total expenses, we have an operating surplus in the
33 amount of \$297,711.00 for the period. The overall impact to the General Fund Budget is a fund
34 surplus in the amount of \$374,599.00.

35
36 Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Water Fund, Water revenue for the period was
37 favorable to Budget projections by \$15,511.00, or 1% above Budget projections. Water revenue
38 for this period was budgeted at \$1,602,133.00, while actual realized revenue was \$1,617,643.00
39 over this eight-month period. Trustee Pennington stated with respect to the Water Fund
40 expenses, Water Fund expenses for this period were unfavorable to Budget by \$188,930.00, or
41 11% unfavorable to Plan. Budgeted expenses for this period were \$1,459,596.00. The actual
42 incurred expenses were \$1,648,526.00. Water purchases for this period was up 17%, thus
43 contributing to this expense fund deficit. The overall impact to the Water Fund is a deficit
44 \$173,420.00.

45
46 Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Sewer Fund, Sewer Fund revenues for this
47 period were unfavorable to Budget Plan by \$59,178.00, or 5% of Plan. Our total revenue

1 operating Budget for this period was \$1,115,417.00, while actual realized revenues were
2 \$1,056,239.00. Sewer Fund expenses were favorable to Budget by \$121,000.00, or 12% of Plan.
3 He stated that \$1,015,170.00 was budgeted for the period. The Village incurred \$894,169.00 in
4 actual expenses. This resulted in an operating surplus in the amount of \$162,069.00. The overall
5 impact to the Sewer Fund Budget is a positive of \$61,822.00.
6

7 **Report of Cash Balances** - Trustee Pennington stated that in the Board Packet is an analysis of
8 the Village of Olympia Fields report of cash balances ending December 31st, 2020. You will note
9 that our cash balances realized a lower balance over the prior month of November. In November
10 we had a cash balance of \$13,668,770.14. At December 31st, 2020, our cash balance was
11 \$12,397,012.20. A difference of \$1,271,757.94. The reason for this change in our cash balances,
12 we issued a check on December 14th, for the \$990,000.00 plus dollars that we reimbursed Wal-
13 Mart for in the taxes that we reimburse them for. If you look at the cash balance, you will see
14 that in the TIF 2, Lincoln/Western Line Item where you clearly see that the book balance for
15 November was more than the book balance in December, which amounts to that \$990,000.00
16 plus dollars. The issue here was the fact that check did not clear. We still have that money in our
17 account. The check has not cleared yet. That's why we are showing a lower balance in our report
18 of book balances for the month of December. He asked Ms. Zigras if she had anything to add to
19 that.
20

21 Ms. Zigras stated no. Our cash balances are in line with expectations. That check just hadn't
22 cleared as of the end of December.
23

24 **Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Process Calendar** – Trustee Pennington stated that the next item on
25 his report is the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Process Calendar. As stated earlier by President Burke,
26 we are beginning the Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022. He stated to that end, a
27 memo was circulated from him to the Village President and the Board of Trustees, the Finance
28 Director, and the Department Heads regarding same. He will not go through the entire listing.
29 You have it in your packet. There are four specific items that we normally address during this
30 time. They are to be noted that the Clerical Union Contract and the Police Union Contract expire
31 on April 30th of 2021, and will need to be renegotiated for the 2022 Fiscal Year. Additionally,
32 the Department of Public Works Union Contract is still in negotiations for Fiscal Years 2020
33 through 2024. Those are important items that we have to take into consideration when we start
34 our Budget Process. At this particular point in time, he is recommending that we place a zero
35 percent increase on salaries for all non-union employees for Fiscal Year 2022, and this is
36 preliminary, until such time we see how the financial numbers rollout. Although we are
37 anticipating a large surplus, and we have shown that in past reports, we are still faced with issues
38 that will impact the Village coming from the State, as well as from the revenues that we generate
39 from the Federal Government. So, that is why we are looking at placing a zero-preliminary
40 increase in salaries until such time as we see how the numbers actually rollout during the Budget
41 Process.
42

43 **Capital Projects Workshop** – Trustee Pennington stated that we will have a Capital Projects
44 Workshop as indicated earlier on the 26th of January starting at 6:00 P.M. with the Board of
45 Trustees, and the Finance Committee, and all Directors. We will discuss the priorities and the
46 projects, funding for the projects and their impact on the 2022 Budget.
47

1 Trustee Pennington stated that we ask that everyone scrutinize any upward variances to their
2 departmental line items from Fiscal Year 2021 to Fiscal Year 2022. General Ledger Line-Item
3 Variations, and Capital requests will undergo critical scrutiny during this planning process.
4 We've all gone through that once before. It's pretty standard yet strategic in how we come up
5 with our Budget.

6
7 Trustee Pennington stated that we also include the Fiscal Year Budget Calendar for 2022. It
8 starts the 22nd, Preliminary Budget with Fiscal Year 2021 actuals through December will be
9 distributed to the Directors to update with Fiscal Year 2021 projected year end expenses and
10 Fiscal Year 2022 budgeted expenses as well. The Trustees will receive via email their budget
11 materials for the Commissions and Committees Budget.

12
13 Trustee Pennington stated that on the 26th of January, as he mentioned earlier, the Board of
14 Trustees and the Finance Committee will have our Capital Projects Workshop.

15
16 Trustee Pennington stated in February, all departments and Commissions and Committees
17 Preliminary Budgets are due to our Finance Director, Betty Zigras.

18
19 Trustee Pennington stated that on March 2nd, there will be a Finance Committee Budget Review
20 with the Trustee Liaisons and Directors. Review Budgets for
21 Administration/Finance/Building/CRC Committee/Economic Development. As many of you
22 know and remember, we have these Finance Committee Budget Meetings with the Trustee
23 Liaisons and the various Committees each year during this time. We go over on a line-by-line
24 basis each Committee and each Commission's Budget.

25
26 Trustee Pennington stated that on the 4th of March at 6:00 P.M. the Finance Committee will
27 review the Budgets for Water and Sewer/MFT/Beautification Committee/Police Department/ and
28 the Educational Commission. In all likelihood, these will be audio meetings because of COVID-
29 19. That's the way they will be handled.

30
31 Trustee Pennington stated on March 20th, there will be the Board of Trustees Budget Review
32 Workshop at 9:00 A.M. On March 27th, there will be another Board of Trustees Budget Review
33 Workshop at 9:00 A.M. At that time, we will go over the entire Budget. If we need to have a
34 third Budget Meeting, we will schedule one. Right now, we are going with the two in the month
35 of March.

36
37 Trustee Pennington stated in April, the first through the 14th, the recommended Fiscal Year 2022
38 Budget will be on public display in the Village Hall. And in all probability on the website as
39 well. On April 19th, the first and second reading of the Budget Ordinance will be considered at
40 our April Board Meeting. All being deemed to be proper; our Budget will go into effect on May
41 1st of 2021.

42
43 **Sikich Auditing Services Proposal** – Trustee Pennington stated that his last item is the Sikich
44 Auditing Services Proposal. Sikich has been our independent auditor over the last several years.
45 Their contract is up. They have presented a contract proposal for 2021. They have also included
46 a multi-year contract on years 2021 through 2023. We all know that Sikich is a five-star
47 accounting firm. They have tremendous assets that are deployed when they come and conduct

1 our audits. They know our business. They know our Village. They know our activities. He would
2 like to see them continue as our auditor. He is proposing for consideration that rather than going
3 to a one-year contract, we entertain the possibility of entering into a three-year engagement with
4 Sikich. He stated primarily because of the COVID-19 matter. The fact that they know us. They
5 know our operation. They have given us outstanding service and suggestions that has made our
6 Village a financially sound Village. Quite frankly, time is of the essence in order to do this. It
7 would be in his opinion, not appropriate to look for another accounting firm at this particular
8 point in time. It is his recommendation that we engage Sikich for a three-year engagement. He is
9 open for any comments, suggestions, and discussion.

10
11 Trustee Matz inquired of Trustee Pennington how long Sikich has been with our Village. Trustee
12 Pennington stated that Sikich has been with us since 2005. Trustee Matz inquired of Trustee
13 Pennington that with them being with us since 2005, you don't think that we should entertain
14 someone else to come and give us another option. That's a long time to be with the same auditor
15 and extend it for three-years. She stated not a one-year contract, but three more years.

16
17 Trustee Pennington stated first of all, he believes that they know us. They know our operation.
18 Quite frankly, he doesn't see a need to go out and seek another operation to come in at this
19 particular point in time given what we're faced with, with the CPI being not up to par at this
20 particular point in time. They know our operation. To that end, that's what he bases his
21 recommendation on. Trustee Matz stated that she appreciates that.

22
23 Trustee Oliver stated that he would like to follow-up with what Trustee Matz is sort of
24 suggesting. It's interesting Trustee Pennington, that you are making this recommendation for a
25 three-year extension. He recalls the Board having had some discussions in the past about this
26 very thing and actually trying not to extend contracts beyond a couple of years or so. He
27 understands your point about COVID. He wonders if you might be amenable to extending it for
28 two-years rather than three-years. Three-years does seem a little long to give them that contract
29 when we may need to revisit this. Trustee Oliver inquired are you looking for a response tonight.

30
31 Ms. Zigras stated one of the reasons is from our conversations, she discussed it, and yes, Trustee
32 Matz and Trustee Oliver, in the last two-years we have had single year contracts. It has been
33 President Burke's recommendation that we do look for another audit firm. We did discuss this
34 after last year's audit was finished. We did discuss it with Trustee Pennington and Stan King, the
35 Treasurer. When we were looking at this, one of our projects is a software conversion. That's a
36 project that we passed for Fiscal Year 2020. At that time, we decided as we were looking at this,
37 that it would be in our best interest to hold off on an Audit RFP until after the software
38 conversion. It's because of the complexity of a software conversion, along with bringing in a
39 new audit firm and bringing them up to speed with the Village's financials would be a very large
40 burden. She stated that Sikich would be better able to guide us with any conversion issues
41 understanding our financials. The software conversion we are looking at, our Chart of Accounts
42 changes. That's something that Sikich would be able to assist us with. It was in the 2020 Budget.
43 Unfortunately, with COVID, we were not able to proceed with this conversion. She only had
44 conversations with one software vendor. We still need to move forward with it. That's something
45 that we are looking into for Fiscal Year 2022. It could take six-months to eight-months to choose
46 a vendor. It could take another year to implement the conversion if not longer. That is why when

1 we discussed it with Trustee Pennington and our Treasurer, Stan King, we decided that we would
2 hold off on an audit RFP at that time and wait until after the conversion of our software system.

3
4 Mr. King stated just to concur, Trustees it is definitely prudent to revisit your audit firm after
5 maybe three, and if you get to five, five-years. Sometimes you try to rotate every three-years.
6 That may not be the smartest thing to do in all cases.

7
8 Mr. King stated that our situation is such this software conversion, and more importantly the
9 General Ledger that we have and the Chart of Accounts numbering scheme that has to be
10 completely revamped and streamlined because it is not streamlined now. He stated to have a
11 conversion with a new firm and an Audit that would follow, would be a daunting task and a
12 burden that he doesn't think that we should consider putting on the staff. He stated one, two-
13 years yes, to get us through a conversion makes sense to maintain the same firm. They do know
14 us. There's no reason other than just doing it as a routine, prudent thing to consider an RFP or
15 looking for another firm, except that we don't have any bad reasons. We have a good firm. Good
16 service. The price is not bad. They can truly help in a conversion. This is why we came to the
17 conclusion that we should consider a multi-year. Now, whether it is two or three, whatever it
18 takes to get us through a conversion is what makes the most sense. We concluded that we would
19 prefer to look at one-year to give ourselves another year to look at it. The conversion as Betty
20 said, would be right in the midst of all of this. That's where we are at. He said whether it is two
21 or three, because one probably won't get us through it as Betty said.

22
23 Trustee Watkins stated just taking off the table switching firms, what's the advantage of doing a
24 three-year engagement as opposed to just renewing this contract every year.

25
26 Mr. King stated price. Trustee Watkins stated that she doesn't see any pricing. She stated for
27 2022 on the three-year engagement, you have \$29,840.00. If we went with the one-year
28 engagement, what would the price be in 2022 and 2023? Mr. King inquired of Trustee Watkins
29 whether or not she had the information sheet in front of her. Trustee Watkins stated that she does
30 have it.

31
32 Ms. Zigras stated these are calendar years. Village President Burke stated that he has two options
33 here for Motions. He stated for a three-year contract it is \$29,110.00 for the first year. He stated
34 for the second year it is \$29,840.00, and for the third year it is \$30,740.00. That's what it looks
35 like it would be if it was three-years. He doesn't know if it was a two-year contract, would it be
36 the first two-years for what it will be and leave the third year out. He doesn't know if that
37 answers Trustee Watkins question or not.

38
39 Ms. Zigras stated if we go for a multi-year contract, in year one we would save something like
40 \$400.00 for year one. The 2022 contract for next year, she is not sure what the pricing will be.
41 She stated but comparing last year to this year, it will probably be maybe an additional
42 \$1,000.00.

43
44 Trustee Watkins stated that is basically what she is asking. If we went with the one-year
45 engagement, what is the price in 2022 and 2023? Those numbers aren't listed on here.

46

1 Ms. Zigras stated no, they won't tell you that. They will tell you that next year. Ms. Zigras stated
2 that she is looking at last year's contract. Last year's contract if we had signed a multiple year
3 contract, we would have been paying \$28,350.00 in 2021. But now, even if we sign a multi-year,
4 \$29,110.00. We are paying \$850.00 more this year. If we sign a multiple year contract, we will
5 be paying \$850.00 more this year than if we had signed a multiple year contract last year. If we
6 had a multiple year contract this year from last year, we would be paying \$28,350.00. It is about
7 \$1,000.00.

8
9 Village President Burke stated that he doesn't know if \$500.00, \$800.00, or \$1,000.00 is that
10 much of a deal breaker here when you look at a \$7,000,000.00 Budget overall. It's not that big of
11 a deal. He thinks that what we need to consider and he appreciates Betty saying that he
12 mentioned several years ago, and he has heard Stan say it too, that you should revisit your
13 Auditor every three to five-years. In many perspectives, we are kind of overdue. This notion of
14 doing a conversion is something that we need to get to the latest State of the Art Cloud Base
15 System that will be even more efficient than what we are doing today. If they are going to help
16 us do the conversion because they know our system, that would be a plus to them. If they are just
17 going to come in here and kind of make sure that things look right after we struggle through it,
18 then he thinks you can have anybody do that who is a reputable organization. One of the things
19 that they talked about at IML Classes is that you should change your Auditor and you should
20 change your Treasurer every three to five-years. He stated get a different set of people looking at
21 things differently. We are going to change our uniform by going to another system. He stated
22 having Sikich help us through the process of coming up with this new system, he could see that
23 would be helpful. He is personally of the opinion that three-years is a long time for us to get
24 locked into them. Maybe three-years is not the right number. Maybe one-year is a little bit light.

25
26 Village President Burke stated that he would ask Stan, because he has gone through a lot of
27 conversions. He knows what Stan's IT background is, and you've gone through a lot of
28 conversions. Is there any reason, if we said that we are going to get this started tomorrow, that
29 we would not be able to get done within a year to do the conversion?

30
31 Mr. King stated that if that upfront work of reshaping the ledger and the Chart of Accounts, and
32 then learning all of the applications, this is a comprehensive system. He is really excited about it
33 personally. He stated and learning it, and coding everything, and getting it to work, and then
34 hopefully on the IT side everything flows. There is where you can lose time and it would cost
35 more. He stated a year, if you had the software selected now and it's bought, and somebody is
36 installing it, and there are issues with that, you could lose a month here and there. A year might
37 be tight because you don't have a robust staff on this side, means you pay more on the consultant
38 side and it could string it out. They are going to drain staff time in that whole development
39 process of the implementation process. A year he thinks is tight. A year and a half maybe you
40 could get it done if you got the software. We only looked at one of the three that we think we
41 would be considering. He stated two probably should be fine. Three is long, yes, especially
42 considering the fact that we've been with them so many years, which on the outside looks like
43 we haven't been prudent. But we have some reasoning because we were going to do it before,
44 but COVID and everything precluded us from getting the software in place, or even selected.
45 Otherwise, we wouldn't be looking at this constant rolling situation.

46

1 Mr. King stated let me just say this, even the State says they recommend every three-years, at
2 least put it out to bid. It doesn't necessarily mean you end up changing firms. At least go outside
3 and take a look, whether it be functionality and/or price. It shouldn't just be price.

4
5 Village President Burke stated that's why he is making the comment about the price is not the
6 thing.

7
8 Mr. King stated he would say if we don't take too long figuring out what we want to buy.

9
10 Village President Burke stated let me add one other piece to this. He has 30 some years'
11 experience doing conversions too. He stated what happens typically is a software house is going
12 to come up with a system that says if you convert to my system and change all of your business
13 practices, then the consultant piece of making it work is mitigated and it costs less to make the
14 conversion. What you have done is advocated how you do business. If you turn around and say,
15 "I want to maintain my business practices. And I want somebody to recode the software to fit
16 how I do business, then you must spend a lot of money having some company to do the
17 conversion." He stated his assessment from what he has seen, he doesn't know if the Village has
18 made a decision which way they want to go. Are we willing to adopt somebody's new system
19 and take a vanilla approach to how they do business and let them do all the maintenance going
20 forward, or are we going to have a third-party consultant firm come in and modify the software
21 to match up to ours? He thinks that is part of what the decision process should be. How much do
22 we want to make it easy for the people who work for us to get the job done versus following the
23 blueprint that the software provider is giving us? That's a decision that needs to be made in order
24 to really nail down this thing about Auditors. Are they going to help us through the process and
25 be the consultant, or are they just going to step back and look at it, "Yeah, that looks good? You
26 need to do it this way. You need to do it that way? He stated Stan, you know what he is talking
27 about. Mr. King stated oh, yeah. He agreed.

28
29 Village President Burke inquired when we grow up what do we want to do. Do we want to pay a
30 bunch of money to change an SAP piece of software to match up to what we want? It's all about
31 the Fit Gap. What's between how you are going to compare how the process is going to look
32 after this, and how much is Sikich going to help us through that process?

33
34 Mr. King stated that he would think, and he doesn't know if Betty talked to them about it, he
35 would think just generally speaking, that the audit firm is not going to be as involved in the
36 implementation and the conversion. It is setting up all of the ledger, and accounts, number
37 scheme, and the ultimate report that they could assist in. It's implementing that system and
38 putting it in place is the software vendor. Ms. Zigras stated right. Mr. King stated now with
39 integrated accounting modules, accounts receivable, payables, and so forth, it is pretty standard
40 basically in terms for the input and all that. There are quirks depending on the coding and the
41 length of the ledger, and all that, and account numbering scheme, which is where the staff gets
42 hung up where an audit firm could help. That is not a lot of help. Most of the help is going to be
43 on the application software vendor, not as much on the CPA firm. Their knowledge of our
44 system and then having to audit it after the fact, whether it use to be here and it is slowing over
45 there, it is going to take them some more time when they do their audit and that costs more.

46

1 Ms. Zigras stated it is all that mapping from historical data. Sikich would have that and would
2 not need to be instructed and shown our mapping tables and all that. They would understand
3 what we are working with. Sikich would not help us with the conversion. They would just review
4 and make sure that our accounting is intact. We wouldn't have to retrain or show them what we
5 use to do and this is how we are doing it now. Sikich knows what we use to do. That's the
6 advantage of keeping them.

7
8 Village President Burke stated right now, he would agree that Sikich would be very valuable in
9 looking back in after we have made the transition to say, "I understand. And here's some spots
10 where you may have dropped the ball." As an auditor they know what we look like and what is
11 suppose to come out the backend of this whole thing. He could see the value in them doing that.
12 He has been in this Chair now for four-years and we've talked about making some kind of
13 conversion for two-years and we haven't got it done yet. What comes first, the chicken or the
14 egg? Are we going to get a new Auditor with the idea it is going to help us get through the
15 conversion to a new piece of software, a new system, or are we going to go get this system
16 conversion done like now, and the Auditor will be there to help us do the Audit function to make
17 sure that the new system works? What is the date that we need to sign up on this new contract
18 with them? What's the drop dead or perishable date?

19
20 Ms. Zigras stated that we typically have a planning meeting in February. If we want to get on
21 their calendar for field work in July, which is typically what we have the first week in July right
22 after the 4th, we need to have a planning meeting in February. Otherwise, they are basically going
23 to be taken. There's nothing to say that we can't push our field date to August, September, but
24 that means our Audit is not going to be delivered in time by the October 30th deadline and we
25 would have to file for an extension.

26
27 Village President Burke stated that we are letting the Audit drive us, not we're telling the vendor
28 what we want them to do.

29
30 Ms. Zigras stated that October 30th is the deadline. That is the State mandated deadline.

31
32 Village President Burke stated that if we are going to make a transition to a new total accounting
33 system, he thinks we need to put the stake in the ground and say, "We are going to do this by this
34 date." And then that helps us make a decision about what we want to do with this Auditor,
35 because the Auditor would be beneficial in helping us make sure that we went through the
36 transition properly and that we didn't drop anything. He is proposing that we make some kind of
37 decision on the software and the new system we want to do, as soon as possible. That helps drive
38 how long we will give a contract to Sikich. He doesn't feel comfortable doing three-years. He
39 does feel very comfortable having them be the ones because they know what comes out the
40 backend of our system saying, "Yeah, this looks right. This don't look right. You need to change
41 this and you change that." They will be very beneficial in helping us with that. But what comes
42 first, the chicken or the egg? You have to get the chicken to lay the egg first. The chicken that is
43 laying the egg is this conversion. And nail it down when we are going to do that. That helps us
44 determine whether or not it is going to be a multi-year contract.

45
46 Mr. King stated having said that, can he offer this. It makes sense. He inquired of Ms. Zigras
47 since April 30 is around the corner, are they under contract for the April 30th audit? Ms. Zigras

1 stated no, this is the contract from the April 30th Audit. Mr. King stated so they don't have a
2 contract for this coming April 30 year-end. Ms. Zigras stated no, no. If we do a one-year it would
3 be for the April 30th. Mr. King stated that if we did that, we are not going to get an accounting
4 system selected and anywhere near starting to install it until fall at the earliest if we get through it
5 all. A whole year will go before we could almost start the process. In other words, before April
6 of 2022 when the new Audit year-end would be on us, we'll know whether or not we are
7 progressing well with our implementation. Ms. Zigras stated correct. Mr. King stated and if that
8 even took us all the way through April of 2022, we'll have to know whether or not we are going
9 to renew what we have, or look for someone else. Hopefully, at that point, we have a new system
10 in place and the ledger closed for the 2022 year-end, which means anybody can come in and
11 Audit that because we will already be past implementation. The question is whether we can
12 select and implement by then. That's where the rubber hits the road.

13
14 Village President Burke stated that he agrees with you 100% on that. He thinks you have to do
15 them both if we are going to do this. If we are going to keep pushing out the actual selection and
16 conversion, then giving Sikich a three-year contract does not make sense. Mr. King stated that he
17 agrees. He is not suggesting a three-year. He was going through logistics.

18
19 Village President Burke stated that planning to do a conversion is very important. We should get
20 started. He will just put this out for argument sake here, if we give them a one-year contract and
21 then put a stake in the ground and say, we are going to make a decision to move forward and find
22 out from Sikich are they going to be someone that is going to help us do the right Fit Gap
23 Analysis, and the right backend analysis. That will help us determine whether or not we want to
24 go to year two or three. Does that make sense? Mr. King stated yes.

25
26 Trustee Matz stated they have been with us since 2005. That's 16-years and we have not pushed
27 them out. She is not just understanding that.

28
29 Village President Burke stated that he thinks what we are hearing from finance and from the
30 Treasurer, is that there's a reason right now they haven't done it. He is suggesting that it keeps
31 slipping because our business is requiring us, and the pressures to get things done, this is
32 common in every business. They just can't quite make the next step because they are so busy
33 doing what they have been doing in the past. Then they get further, and further, and further
34 behind the eight-ball on the whole thing.

35
36 Mr. King stated let's face it, COVID blew out this past year. We had already talked about this a
37 year ago and could have had a selection, but there was no way you would have made any
38 progress in this past year.

39
40 Village President Burke stated without a doubt. Mr. King stated that's why it's pushed again
41 further. God only knows what we can do in the next six to nine-months with COVID.

42
43 Village President Burke stated that Willis told us what he thought. We've had two or three
44 people. Does anyone else have any ideas, or concepts, or opinions on this? I am going to exercise
45 my authority as the President. I am going to make a proposal. If people don't want to go with
46 this, they can tell us and we will try something different.

1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Accept Sikich’s Auditing**
2 **Services Proposal for a One Year Contract Term for the Amount not to Exceed \$29,545.00,**
3 **and Add to that, that we put a Plan in Place to Identify what the New Software System**
4 **Package is going to be and get Something in Place to get Started within the Next Six**
5 **Months to do this.**

6 **Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustee Matz Voted No) Motion Carried.**

7
8 Village President Burke stated that the to do is Betty, Stan, and Cindy, you have to work at
9 putting together some kind of RFP with a deadline on when and what we’re looking for so that
10 we have both of these things running parallel with each other. We are going to come back to this
11 a year from now and are going to have the same discussion. And to get this thing moving we
12 need the other piece to get moving, the piece identifying what that system is going to look like
13 and who is going to be the vendor. That’s not something that we are putting down to vote on
14 right now. That’s just saying logically speaking from an IT standpoint that’s something that has
15 got to happen in parallel to this. Mr. King stated right.

16

17 **Human Resources/Police Pension – Trustee Thomas**

18

19 Village President Burke stated Trustee Thomas is not here.

20

21 **Beautification Committee/Library Board – Trustee Watkins**

22

23 **Beautification Committee** – Trustee Watkins thanked the Board of Trustees on passing
24 Resolution No. 2021-01. She, along with the entire Beautification Committee are excited about
25 the Village’s Beautification Enhancement Program.

26

27 Trustee Watkins stated that the Beautification Committee did not meet in December. They will
28 not meet in January.

29

30 **2020 Holiday Awards – Beautification Committee**

31

32 Trustee Watkins stated that she wanted to acknowledge the 2020 Holiday Award Winners. The
33 First Place Award Winner was Anthony & Anita Anderson, 3400 Cumberland Trail located in
34 The Trails Subdivision.

35

36 Trustee Watkins stated that the Second Place Award Winner was Michael & Karen McCormick,
37 20525 Hellenic Drive located in the Original Village Subdivision.

38

39 Trustee Watkins stated that the Third Place Award Winner was Michael & Peggy Haywood,
40 3013 Hermes located in the Olympia Club Subdivision.

41

42 **Library Board** – Trustee Watkins stated that the Library Board will meet in February. This will
43 be a Special Meeting. Then the Library Board will go on a Quarterly Meeting Schedule.

44

45

46

47

1 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

2

3 **Thank you to Village Administrator, Cindy Saenz** - Trustee Matz stated that this isn't really
4 miscellaneous. She failed to mention one more important person when she thanked everyone for
5 making the COVID-19 Testing a success. It couldn't have happened without Cindy Saenz. She is
6 the glue that sticks everything together. She did an exceptional job throughout the logistics,
7 making sure that the meetings went smooth. Trustee Matz really appreciates her. She wanted to
8 make sure that everyone knows that she is truly a gem.

9

10 Village President Burke stated that he agrees with her 100% that Cindy is the glue that holds all
11 this stuff together.

12

13 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

14

15 Village President Burke stated that we didn't have any Public Comments.

16

17 **NEW BUSINESS:**

18

19 The Board did not have any New Business to discuss this evening.

20

21 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

22

23 The Board did not have any Resignations or Appointments this evening.

24

25 Trustee Oliver stated that he had a quick question before you adjourn. He believes that we all
26 received an email about a Special Use Application. Can anyone talk about that? It has something
27 to do with the property at 4601 Lincoln Highway for a supply and equipment business.

28

29 Village President Burke stated that he doesn't know anything about that. He inquired of John
30 McDonnell. Trustee Oliver stated never mind. People are already signing off.

31

32 **ADJOURNMENT:**

33

34 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Matz to Adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:18**
35 **P.M.**

36

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

37

38 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

39

40

41

42

43

44