

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**  
2 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **Held on March 15, 2021**  
4

5 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this Board Meeting is being conducted remotely via  
6 teleconference. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>,  
7 2021. The meeting was called to order by Village President Sterling M. Burke at 7:00 P.M.  
8

9 Present: Trustees – Watkins, Oliver, Pennington, Finley, Thomas, and Matz  
10 Village President Sterling M. Burke  
11 Village Administrator, Cynthia Saenz  
12 Village Clerk, Drella Savage  
13

14 Absent: None.  
15

16 Village President Burke asked the Village Clerk, Drella Savage, to please call the roll.  
17

18 Village Clerk Drella Savage proceeded with the roll call. Present were: President Burke, here;  
19 Trustee Finley, here; Trustee Matz, present; Trustee Oliver, present; Trustee Pennington, present;  
20 Trustee Thomas, here; Trustee Watkins, here; Village Administrator Saenz, present; Chief of  
21 Police Morgan, present; Director of Finance Betty Zigras, here; Director of Public Works Jim  
22 Landini, here; Building Commissioner, Director of Building John McDonnell, here; She is Drella  
23 Savage the Village Clerk; Faith Stine Court Reporter, here; Mr. John Murphey, our Village  
24 Attorney, no response. Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that concludes the roll call.  
25

26 Village President Burke stated that beginning in March 2020, the Governor of Illinois issued a  
27 series of State-wide Disaster Declarations related to public health concerns. Those declarations  
28 remain in effect. As the head of this body, I have determined that an in-person meeting, or a  
29 meeting otherwise conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act is neither practical nor  
30 prudent because of this disaster. This meeting will be conducted by internet teleconferencing  
31 without the physical presence of a quorum. Prior to the commencement of this meeting, all  
32 members of this body will verify that they can see or hear each other. I further find that the  
33 physical presence of members of the public is not feasible at this meeting due to the disaster, and  
34 more specifically, the practical difficulties associated with accommodating the public in an  
35 accessible, hygienic location that allows for appropriate social distancing.  
36

37 Alternative arrangements have been made to allow the public to contemporarily hear all  
38 discussion and roll call vote, live via conference call. The call-in numbers are available on the  
39 agenda. Notice of these arrangements have been given in accordance with the Open Meetings  
40 Act. The public may address this body consistent with the rules previously adopted and recorded,  
41 and adopted by the Village President's Order.  
42

43 Village President Burke stated that we have developed an informal protocol where the Board  
44 Members can speak, and then when they are done speaking say, "I yield," so that we are not  
45 talking all over each other. The amendment to the Open Meetings Act requires that we allow the  
46 public to observe or hear the meeting. It does not require the public to be given an opportunity to  
47 participate in the meeting. However, it is our policy to give the public the opportunity to present

1 comments to the Board. With that in mind, the public was given the opportunity to submit  
2 comments by email. He stated as of 3:00 P.M. we have not received any Public Comments.

3  
4 Village President Burke stated that we are recording this meeting. A copy of the completed  
5 Minutes will be posted to our website when approved. All votes shall be conducted by roll call  
6 and a verbatim record of this meeting shall be made and maintained in accordance with the Open  
7 Meetings Act.

8  
9 Village Administrator Cindy Saenz is physically present in our regular meeting location.

10  
11 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

12  
13 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Dispense with the Reading of**  
14 **the Minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Workshop; and to Approve the Minutes of the**  
15 **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Workshop as Presented.**

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

17  
18 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Matz to Dispense with the Reading of**  
19 **the Minutes of the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting; and to Approve the Minutes of the**  
20 **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Board Meeting as Presented.**

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

22  
23 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

24  
25 **February Bills for Approval - \$205,954.04** – Village President Burke stated next on the agenda  
26 is the February Bills for Approval in the amount of \$205,954.04.

27  
28 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Approve the Bills for**  
29 **February 2021 in the Amount of \$205,954.04.**

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

31  
32 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

33  
34 **Ordinance #2021-02** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General Obligation  
35 Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2005A of the Village of Olympia Fields [First and Second  
36 Reading].

37  
38 **Ordinance #2021-03** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General  
39 Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2008 of the Village of Olympia Fields.  
40 [First and Second Reading].

41  
42 **Ordinance #2021-04** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the 2010 General  
43 Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds of the Village of Olympia Fields [First and Second  
44 Reading].

1       **Ordinance #2021-05** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the 2011 A & B  
2       General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds of the Village of Olympia Fields [First and  
3       Second Reading].  
4

5       **Ordinance #2021-06** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General  
6       Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2012A, of the Village of Olympia Fields  
7       [First and Second Reading].  
8

9       **Ordinance #2021-07** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General  
10       Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2012B, of the Village of Olympia Fields  
11       [First and Second Reading].  
12

13       **Ordinance #2021-08** – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General  
14       Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2014B, of the  
15       Village of Olympia Fields [First and Second Reading].  
16

17       **Resolution #2021-03** – FY2021 Obligation Retirement Resolution Section Number  
18       13-000-31-00-GB for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds Series 2012A for the  
19       Phase I Road Repaving Program.  
20

21       Village President Burke stated next on the agenda is the Consent Agenda. This is good. We are  
22       abating taxes for the public. He asked Ms. Zigras, the Director of Finance, to take us through  
23       those items and give an explanation for them.  
24

25       Ms. Zigras stated that before you we have the Consent Agenda to abate the 2020 Tax Levy for  
26       the General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds that were issued by the Village of Olympia  
27       Fields. This Tax Abatement is an annual requirement, where we are informing the County that  
28       the Village will abate, or reduce the levy for the existing debt obligation.  
29

30       In your packet we included a summary page listing the Bonds to be abated. It begins with  
31       Ordinance #2021-02 through 2021-08. It also includes the project for which each Bond was  
32       issued for. The original issue amount of each debt service obligation and the outstanding par  
33       amount as of the last audit, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
34

35       All of the Bonds shown on this summary page, except for Bond 2014A, are Alternate Revenue  
36       Source Bonds. When an Alternate Revenue Bond is issued, it states that the Village must use  
37       Alternate Revenue Sources outside of property taxes to pay for this debt service. Alternate  
38       Revenue Sources for some of these Bonds are: Income Tax, Sales Tax, and Use Tax. It is her  
39       recommendation that the Village Board pass the Consent Agenda items to abate the 2020 levy  
40       for the listed Alternate Revenue Bonds. Ms. Zigras stated that she would be happy to answer any  
41       questions if anyone has any.  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

1 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, second by Trustee Pennington to Waive in First Reading and**  
2 **Adopt in Second Reading the following Ordinances under the Consent Agenda:**

3  
4 **Ordinance #2021-02 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General**  
5 **Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2005A of the Village of Olympia Fields;**  
6 **Ordinance #2021-03 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the General**  
7 **Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2008 for the Village; Ordinance #2021-04 -**  
8 **An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for the 2010 General Obligation Alternate**  
9 **Revenue Bonds for the Village; Ordinance #2021-05 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020**  
10 **Tax Levy for the 2011 A & B General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds for the**  
11 **Village of Olympia Fields; Ordinance #2021-06 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax**  
12 **Levy for the General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2012A, for the Village**  
13 **of Olympia Fields; Ordinance #2021-07 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy for**  
14 **the General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2012B, of the Village of**  
15 **Olympia Fields; and Ordinance #2021-08 – An Ordinance Abating the 2020 Tax Levy**  
16 **for the General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, (Alternate Revenue Source),**  
17 **Series 2014B, of the Village of Olympia Fields.**

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

19  
20 Village Administrator Saenz stated that it appears that your Motion did not include the very last  
21 item on the Consent Agenda which is Resolution #2021-03.

22  
23 Trustee Pennington inquired whether or not we can vote on that separately. Village  
24 Administrator Saenz stated yes.

25  
26 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve under the Consent**  
27 **Agenda, Resolution No. 2021-03 - FY2021 Obligation Retirement Resolution Section**  
28 **Number 13-000-31-00-GB for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds Series 2012A**  
29 **for the Phase I Road Repaving Program.**

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

31  
32 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

33  
34 **Report of the Village President:**

35  
36 Village President Burke stated that last Friday he had the opportunity to be part of a Press  
37 Conference that was held by Congresswoman Robin Kelly. In attendance was a number of other  
38 Mayors and Presidents from the southern suburbs. The purpose of this was to talk about the new  
39 Rescue Plan that was passed by Congress last week, which I'm sure all of you heard about. This  
40 American Rescue Plan was looked at as probably being as significant as the Legislation of the  
41 new Bill. The Bill will provide something like \$350 billion to help state and local governments  
42 with revenues, whose revenues have declined because of a decrease in economic activity as a  
43 result of COVID-19. That includes roughly \$77 million to suburban communities in Robin  
44 Kelly's District. The money will help ensure that our governments can help pay workers,  
45 continue to provide essential services to constituents, expand economic development efforts to  
46 help grow revenue lost through the past year.

47

1 This was a really great opportunity for us. The Village will get a block of money that we can do  
2 things like roads, infrastructure, things like work on expand some of the things that we plan on  
3 doing with water and sewer, which we've already kind of had planned already. It also gives us  
4 some money to expand on some of our economic development efforts.

5  
6 Overall, this was a great deal, good deal, for all of us, including all of our neighbors. He just  
7 wanted to pass that on to you. We will be finding out how much our total will be. It is going to  
8 be in the form of a direct dollar amount, but there are also some other grants that we will be  
9 receiving. We will be working on those during the next 30-days. If anyone has any questions, he  
10 would be more than happy to talk to you. He thinks this is a great opportunity for the Village, as  
11 well as all of the southern suburbs.

12  
13 Village President Burke stated that he has to tip his hat off to not only the President, but Robin  
14 Kelly who is our representative. She did a fantastic job with the rest of the members of Congress  
15 to make sure that this Bill got passed.

16

17 **Report of the Village Administrator:**

18

19 **COVID 19 Vaccine Update** – Village Administrator Saenz stated that she just wanted to give  
20 everyone an update. Everyone should have received the email alert that was sent out Saturday  
21 morning regarding the availability of COVID vaccines for the residents of Olympia Fields. We  
22 received 200 doses of the Moderna vaccine that we made available to the residents after about a  
23 two-week planning session. She is happy to report that all of the vaccines were booked Saturday  
24 by 3:00 P.M. We're hoping to receive another allotment of doses and we should have that  
25 information in the next day or so.

26

27 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she wants to thank Trustee Matz for coordinating the  
28 phone call with Mia Cross and Dr. Lisa Green from The Family Christian Health Center, who is  
29 actually working with the Cook County Department of Public Health to bring vaccines to the  
30 southern suburbs. They worked with us when we had the COVID testing at the Jewel Plaza.  
31 They were very excited to bring the vaccine to our community.

32

33 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she wants to thank Jesus Vargas at the Olympia Fields  
34 Park District for agreeing to partner with us, without hesitation, and allowing us to utilize their  
35 facility for the event, and then working through logistics with Chief Morgan on traffic control.

36

37 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she wants to encourage all of you to encourage the  
38 residents that you speak with, to subscribe and receive alerts through the website. This is how we  
39 rolled out the information and how we could keep it contained to Olympia Fields. This is going  
40 to be our new mode of communication going forward. If you could help spread that word, and  
41 share that, that would be great. Also, if we could remind residents that we are just hosting the  
42 event. The Village has no control over the appointment portal, or for administering the vaccine.  
43 All eligibility is based on the requirements that are set by the State of Illinois.

44

45 Village Administrator Saenz stated that with the difficulty and the complexity of signing up for  
46 the vaccine right now, as we all know, it has been a horror story for a lot of people, especially  
47 those that are eligible. We are excited that we were able to bring this very important benefit to

1 the residents of Olympia Fields. She stated just a reminder, that the information is currently on  
2 the Village's website. The event is this Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. It begins at 10:00 A.M. at the Park  
3 District. It ends at 3:00 P.M.

4  
5 Trustee Matz stated that she just wanted to add Chief Morgan into that, as well as Sergeant  
6 Blasingame, because they are instrumental in making sure that there's a crowd control, that  
7 everybody is safe, and you know where to park. It's going to be a wonderful event. This is the  
8 first time that Family Christian Health Center has taken the vaccine out of their facility and  
9 brought it into the community. Right now, with everybody being unsure of the vaccine, this is  
10 more of an outreach to let them know that it's safe, we are bringing it to you. It's an opportunity  
11 for us to do this again, once this goes off without a hitch, we are able to do it again. A lot of our  
12 residents here are really disappointed that they didn't get in on the portal. They didn't get an  
13 appointment. She is hoping that we can bring this back. The first shot will be given Thursday.  
14 The follow-up date for the second shot is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

15  
16 Trustee Oliver stated that he understands there are 200 vaccines, but there is a possibility of  
17 another hundred. Is there a waiting list that has also been established?

18  
19 Village Administrator Saenz stated no. She is trying to get the answer from Mia Cross who is our  
20 representative over there. Once we know for certain that she will have the additional 100, we will  
21 send out another alert and that portal will be open. There is no waiting list. They're not  
22 maintaining a waiting list at all. They just have the portal open and available to people to make  
23 the appointment. The way we can keep it contained to the residents again, is to have our  
24 residents subscribe to the website so when that alert goes out, they will receive that information.

25  
26 Village President Burke stated that he just wanted to add-on something here. The Oak Street  
27 Health Center at Western and Vollmer Road are giving shots. St. James Hospital was giving  
28 shots. Some of the churches, including Victory was giving shots. As we get information, we will  
29 make it available through our E-blast and email system. We took great pains over the last year to  
30 grow our database with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the people in the  
31 Village. We have over 2,000 right now. Some of the people that may have missed out on this,  
32 were people who did not necessarily register in one form or another to be in that group of 2,000.  
33 It has been growing month by month.

34  
35 Village President Burke stated that as Cindy said earlier, we need to make sure that the public,  
36 our constituents, are aware, because this is going to be one of our main ways of sending  
37 information out. As we move along, and more vaccines become available, we have to make sure  
38 everybody hears about it. We put a lot of things up on that website and people may not know it's  
39 there. We do have the ability to go out and do outreach from the Village to make sure that people  
40 are aware and to be as transparent as possible.

41  
42 Village President Burke thanked Trustee Matz for her efforts in this, as well as Cindy, and our  
43 police department to make sure this comes off. They have been working on this for a couple of  
44 weeks. The fact that we had more demand kind of indicates that people are really interested in  
45 this. As we move through this, by May 1<sup>st</sup> the President has indicated that we should have  
46 enough vaccine for everybody in the United States. It's just a matter of getting it rolled out to the  
47 public. The pandemic, we can begin to see the light of day, and this is not necessarily claiming



1 Project between the Village of Olympia Fields and Baxter & Woodman Engineers. The  
2 agreement for the Construction Services is not to exceed \$57,900.00.

3  
4 Mr. Landini stated that if you remember from last month's meeting, we passed Michels  
5 Corporation, they won the project for a base bid amount of \$747,429.00. With the construction  
6 services, the total cost of the project comes to \$805,329.00. We budgeted \$890,000.00, so we are  
7 about \$84,700.00 under budget for this project. He is just looking for approval to accept Baxter  
8 & Woodman's Construction Services Agreement.

9 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Engineering**  
10 **Services Agreement between the Village of Olympia Fields and Baxter & Woodman**  
11 **Engineers for the Graymoor Force Main Replacement Project No. 180303-960 in the**  
12 **Amount not to Exceed \$57,900.00.**

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

14  
15 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

16  
17 **Building Department/Community Relations Commission – Trustee Finley**

18  
19 **Building Department** – Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. McDonnell whether or not he had  
20 anything that he wanted to report at this meeting. Mr. McDonnell stated no. Trustee Finley stated  
21 that she is happy that John is feeling better. They have a deal that when he finally heals, they are  
22 going to arm wrestle and see who wins.

23  
24 Trustee Finley stated that she wanted to commend your department for responding to one of our  
25 residents who had some concerns about getting a reinspection attended to. She was grateful to be  
26 able to call quickly and get Reggi's attention. Presumably that is moving more in keeping with  
27 what it is that the resident had in the way of expectation of service from the Village. Trustee  
28 Finley stated that she thanks you for that.

29  
30 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee Finley stated that the upcoming meeting for the  
31 Community Relations Commission is April 5<sup>th</sup>, if any of the Board members wanted to  
32 participate with input on what the proposed projects are going to be in the Budget.

33  
34 Trustee Finley stated that on the CRC agenda, we will be taking a fresh look at where we are  
35 with regard to COVID treatment in our communities. One of the issues that will be discussed is  
36 whether or not the narrative is shifting from black people not wanting the vaccination, to  
37 accessibility as the primary block. And what accessibility looks like. We think it is important that  
38 the narrative fit the real situation as we are experiencing it. Right now, we think the narrative is  
39 lagging behind what's really going on in our community with people trying desperately to find  
40 ready access to the vaccination. That's one of the things that will also be discussed at the CRC  
41 meeting. Those are the items for her report.

42  
43 Village President Burke stated that Karen is our Pharmacy Manager at the Vollmer Road  
44 Walgreens. We work very closely with her. We use her for vaccinations for members of our  
45 staff. She lives in the Village. He talks to her quite a bit going in and out of that Walgreens. It  
46 has definitely turned around. It is packed all the time. During this vaccination time for the virus,  
47 Karen told him that a lot of the people in the Village have not been able to get in through their



1 portal. She is very interested in trying to help get more people onboard. She got ahold of the  
2 announcement that you made about the vaccination that is being done on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He told her to  
3 let people that are residents to come in and sign up for it. He thinks it would be a good idea for  
4 the CRC to talk to her and maybe you can work out some kind of deal to get more people from  
5 the Village to get their vaccinations at Walgreens. She was trying to do that. People have a hard  
6 time getting into the portal. She is not only a local business person here, but a resident. She's  
7 definitely someone who has been looking out for the people in our community. If you could  
8 touch base with her and see what we can do, and see if anything that we can do through the CRC.  
9 Trustee Finley stated that she would be very glad to pass that along to our Chair, Carl Hill and  
10 make sure that comes front and center.

11  
12 Trustee Finley stated that she believes that today is Rosalind Brewer's first day in the actual  
13 chair as CEO of Walgreens. She expects from her leadership much more energy and access for  
14 the Walgreens serving our community than there has been in the past. She hopes it makes  
15 Karen's job a whole lot easier knowing that the top tier leader sees us and is working to make  
16 sure that we have what we need in the places where we actually live.

17  
18 Village President Burke thanked Trustee Finley.

19  
20 **Public Works/Park District – Trustee Matz**

21  
22 **Public Works** – Trustee Matz stated that she doesn't have anything to add onto what Jim just  
23 put on the table for us with Public Works.

24  
25 **Park District** – Trustee Matz stated that at the last meeting she had informed everyone, as well  
26 as you, Mr. President, that she spoke with Jesus Vargas, who is the Director of the Park District  
27 about our HOAs utilizing their facility without a fee. He agreed. Trustee Matz stated that she  
28 verbally came back and mentioned that we can use the Park District as long as it's not an earning  
29 date, one of their popular dates, they will accommodate that. And you had requested that we  
30 have that in writing. Trustee Matz went back to Mr. Vargas and asked for an Intergovernmental  
31 Agreement in writing to be put in our records so that we'll have that. As of yet, she doesn't have  
32 it. She spoke with Mr. Vargas. He wanted to make sure that the Board knew formally before he  
33 gave that to us. We will have that at the next meeting.

34  
35 Village President Burke thanked Trustee Matz. He stated that's how things work with these  
36 Intergovernmental Agreements. That way, everybody knows who is on first, and what is on  
37 second. He stated that Jesus is a good guy. He is sure with the two of you working this out, we  
38 will get it. We should be able to put it to a vote from our end at the next Board Meeting. Trustee  
39 Matz stated yes.

40  
41 Village President Burke inquired of Mr. Landini when he thinks the paving will start and the  
42 swale work will start.

43  
44 Mr. Landini stated that he doesn't have any exact dates right now. We are looking hopefully to  
45 have bids in by late spring and construction hopefully through the summer to early fall.

46

1 Village President Burke stated we may be getting some additional dollars. He knows we are  
2 going to do three-miles of road and swale work. The sooner you get this done the quicker we will  
3 get some relief on some of the streets. He wasn't trying to put Mr. Landini on the spot. He stated  
4 that people are asking about this. The sooner we do it the better.

5  
6 Mr. Landini stated yes, definitely. We are in the process right now of putting together our  
7 estimates. Hopefully, we can put this out to bid soon. And then there will be about a month lag  
8 time on that, and then construction. He would like to get it going through the summer and early  
9 fall. Village President Burke thanked Mr. Landini.

10  
11 **Public Safety/Educational Commission – Trustee Oliver**

12  
13 **Public Safety** - Trustee Oliver stated that the Public Safety Committee did not meet this month.  
14 We continue to work on the Annual Report which we will have at the next meeting. He would  
15 like to take this moment in time to allow Acting Chief Scott Morgan, to provide an update to the  
16 Board regarding any of the monthly reports or anything else he may want to apprise the Board  
17 of.

18  
19 **Update on Monthly Calls to the OFPD** – Acting Chief Scott Morgan stated that he will stick  
20 with the monthly stats here. This would be for the month of February 2021. The calls for the  
21 month of February was 509 calls for service. Out of this there were 24 arrests made, all adults.  
22 We had 13 retail thefts. There were 31 traffic accidents, and about 16 suspicious fraudulent  
23 activity, which is ID theft and things like that.

24  
25 Acting Chief Morgan stated that one of the things he would like to remind everyone since it was  
26 brought up earlier about the E-blast for the Village residents, is for all the residents to check on  
27 the Village website. Under the police section, there is a section for surveillance cameras. He  
28 would really appreciate it if the residents would read through that and possibly agree to be on a  
29 list, so that if any crime or activity happens in their area, this is only if the police department  
30 contacts them. The homeowner looks through the video to see if anything was captured that  
31 would be of interest to the police department then they call us. We don't come into your house  
32 and take your cameras away from you or anything else. All we are doing is looking for  
33 assistance. He would appreciate it if residents would look into that by visiting the police  
34 webpage and looking for that security surveillance camera systems.

35  
36 Trustee Matz stated that Chief Morgan is absolutely correct. She has cameras around her house.  
37 Across the street from her, a resident had her car stolen. In her car, she guesses they had the keys  
38 to get into the house. When Trustee Matz heard about it and they didn't know who did it, her  
39 camera points to her house. The Detective came over and got footage from her camera system  
40 and they caught the assailant. That is so important. If we can do a pilot program to have all the  
41 residents have the new Ring put on their doorbells, that's a camera, but it's a subtle camera, it's  
42 not invasive. It would just be so much more helpful in protecting not only ourselves, but our  
43 neighbors.

44  
45 Trustee Oliver thanked Trustee Matz. That was very good. As we walk around the Village, it  
46 appears there are so many different types of home security systems like Ring and Nest and things  
47 like that. It is becoming more common. The question is, can we get people to sign up for the

1 program to allow the police to be assisted? That would be a great thing. Trustee Oliver thanked  
2 Chief Morgan.

3  
4 **Educational Commission Report** – Trustee Oliver stated that the Educational Commission did  
5 not have a quorum at our last meeting so we weren’t able to take a vote on any of our activities.  
6 One of our main activities that we’re still having some discussion and gathering additional  
7 resources on is this issue of school choice. That’s all he is going to say about that at the moment.

8  
9 Trustee Oliver stated that now that schools are returning, or have some sort of a hybrid model,  
10 we are curious about our neighboring schools who is doing what. It’s rather interesting to see  
11 how all of the schools are setting up students returning to school.

12  
13 Trustee Oliver stated that Southland only has 573 students. They have a 50% attendance rate on  
14 any given day. If your last name starts with A through K, those students only attend school say  
15 Monday and Wednesday. On Tuesday and Thursday, they take school remotely. The students  
16 with the last name starting with L through Z, they may have school on Tuesday and Thursday,  
17 and remotely on the other days. Friday, they use the day to do a deep cleaning of their entire  
18 school. There are only 573 students so it is a little bit more manageable for them to have at least  
19 a 50% attendance rate.

20  
21 Trustee Oliver stated that both H-F and Rich 227 have nearly 3,000 students. Both are doing a  
22 hybrid remote learning. They have two separate groups. One is alternating days. H-F is  
23 alternating weeks, where the students are in school, versus having school remotely.

24  
25 Trustee Oliver stated that the one thing that he thinks “we” as a community need to learn more  
26 about, embrace, and to help promote, is the fact that Rich 227 is the STEM Campus for the  
27 District. He thinks that would bode well to learn not only how many students are in there, but  
28 how they are doing, and if they are increasing their enrollment. He believes it would become a  
29 great marketing tool for the school as well as for our community. That’s all that he has to report  
30 tonight. More for next month.

31  
32 **Finance/Planning & Zoning – Trustee Pennington**

33  
34 **Finance** - Trustee Pennington stated that regrettably he does not have a Financial Report for the  
35 month of February. That is being developed. He shall give that report next month.

36  
37 **Planning & Zoning** - Trustee Pennington stated with respect to Planning & Zoning, he has no  
38 formal report. He inquired whether or not Mr. McDonnell wanted to make any comments with  
39 respect to Planning & Zoning.

40  
41 Mr. McDonnell stated that he has no report at this time.

42  
43 **Human Resources/Police Pension – Trustee Thomas**

44  
45 Trustee Thomas stated that she did not have a report this evening.

46  
47

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

2

3 **Beautification Committee** - Trustee Watkins stated the Beautification Committee did not meet  
4 today. The Chair changed the meeting to Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. She does not have a report per  
5 se. We are working on the draft for our grant process. We are in the process of getting that done.

6

7 **Library Board** – Trustee Watkins stated and as you know, the Library Board is not meeting at  
8 this time.

9

10 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

11

12 Village President Burke inquired do we have any Miscellaneous Reports?

13

14 Trustee Watkins stated that she has a Miscellaneous Report. She got an email today that she just  
15 wanted to read from one of her neighbors. It was sent today at 2:46. It said:

16

17 “Good afternoon, Mrs. Watkins. I just received, and read the notice from Trustee Kelvin Oliver. I  
18 did not appreciate the mudslinging. I was on one of your coffee and conversations and thought it  
19 was a great idea. I got some valuable information. I hope when you win the election it will  
20 continue. I live” -- I won’t say the street “where the recent carjacking happened and was just  
21 outside. It could have been me. One, four, or 12 is too many. I’m pleased to see you taking  
22 action. I purchased my home in Olympia Fields in July. Have no regret and love my home. The  
23 reason for the email is that I would be honored to have your sign posted in my yard.”

24

25 Village President Burke inquired whether or not there were any other Miscellaneous Reports.

26

27 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

28

29 Village President Burke stated that we had no Public Comments.

30

31 **NEW BUSINESS:**

32

33 Village President Burke inquired whether or not there is any New Business. The Board did not  
34 have any New Business to discuss this evening.

35

36 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

37

38 Village President Burke stated Resignations and Appointments. There are several Appointments.

39

40 **Appointment – Cody Johnson to the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District**  
41 **(CSSMTD)** – First is Mr. Cody Johnson, who is currently a railroad engineer. Works with  
42 Metra. We have a need to replace Johnnie Morris on the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit  
43 District Committee, which is made up of 14 communities. One of the train stations that is in that  
44 group is our train station at 211<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Johnson is the person chosen to represent us on that  
45 Committee.

46

1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve the Candidacy of**  
2 **Cody Johnson to the Chicago South Suburban Mass Transit District (CSSMTD) for a**  
3 **Two-Year Term Ending in the Year 2023.**

4 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) (Trustee Watkins Abstained) Motion Carried.**

5  
6 **Appointment – Garland Jones to the Public Safety Committee** – Village President Burke  
7 stated that the next Appointment is Garland Jones to the Public Safety Committee. Garland is a  
8 retired, 32-year Chicago Fireman, Lieutenant. He is living here in the Village. He has expressed  
9 interest to be on the Public Safety Committee. The Public Safety Committee is not only the  
10 police department, but it is also working with the Chicago Heights Fire Department. He believes  
11 that Mr. Garland would be a great addition to that. He has like 18 years as a Lieutenant on the  
12 Chicago Fire Department.

13 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Appointment of**  
14 **Garland Jones to the Public Safety Committee for a Two-Year Term Ending in the**  
15 **Year 2023.**

16 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) (Trustee Watkins Abstained) Motion Carried.**

17  
18 **Appointment – Leon Francisco to the Economic Development Commission** – Village  
19 President Burke stated last is the Appointment of Leon Francisco to the Economic Development  
20 Commission. He stated that Leon is the former President of Graymoor Homeowners Association.  
21 He has 23 years in the Village. He has a long history of working for companies like IBM,  
22 Microsoft. He has been an entrepreneur on his own. He has a Master’s Degree from  
23 Northwestern in Science Communication. Marketing Management at IBM and undergraduate  
24 from Grambling State University.

25 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Candidacy of**  
26 **Leon Francisco to the Economic Development Commission for a Two-Year Term Ending**  
27 **in the Year 2023.**

28 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) (Trustee Watkins Abstained) Motion Carried.**

29  
30 Trustee Oliver stated before you move to close, can he go back to New Business.

31  
32 Village President Burke stated yes, go ahead. Trustee Oliver stated since there has been  
33 discussion, there was a reading of something that an anonymous resident had to say about my  
34 letter which appears, or to sound as if I was doing some mudslinging. I’d like to ask for a full  
35 investigation by police and ethics officer surrounding this issue regarding the latest carjacking,  
36 anything that I had written was false so we can put this out to the public, not from me, but from  
37 our police or our ethics office.

38  
39 Trustee Watkins inquired and who will be doing that investigation. Do we have Detectives?  
40 Trustee Oliver stated we have Detectives and we have police.

41  
42 Trustee Thomas stated Murphey is not on the phone. She doesn’t know if it is ethical or protocol  
43 to bring political issues into a Board Meeting. What was written, was written as a result of a  
44 campaign that’s going on. If there is a request, or the police feel that they received what I guess  
45 appears as a False Police Report, that should be handled separate and apart from this Board  
46 Meeting. That was a political issue. And it should not be a subject that is brought to the Board to  
47 vote on or to discuss. It should be handled separately from this Board Meeting.

1 Trustee Oliver stated that I vehemently disagree. Trustee Thomas stated that you can vehemently  
2 disagree, but I'm stating that we are now entering politics, a campaign issue into our Board  
3 Meeting where it should not be addressed.

4  
5 Village President Burke stated well, look. Here's what we are going to do. What we can do,  
6 we're going to table this at the moment. There's some going back and forth on this. He will agree  
7 with Trustee Thomas. What we will do is after the election, after the election when all this is all  
8 over, we can get an independent whatever to look into this. But for right now, we're going to just  
9 table this and we won't have any more discussion about this because it is so close to the election.  
10 After the election, we will have a meeting to discuss whether or not we want to move forward on  
11 any kind of independent investigation. That should probably be separate from our police  
12 department. It could be somebody from outside altogether.

13

14 Trustee Watkins inquired can I ask a question. I'm trying to understand what are you  
15 investigating. What is the investigation that you're stating?

16

17 Village President Burke stated well, you just introduced a letter to the Board. Trustee Watkins  
18 stated no, an email. I've got an email from a neighbor that I read. But you said your  
19 investigating. When Trustee Oliver sent out the -- I don't know what this is, but when he sent  
20 this out, he said in the letter that he was going to investigate also. So, what my question is,  
21 investigate what?

22

23 Village President Burke stated well, you introduced a letter during Public Comment, and we had  
24 a Public Comment section. And we had no Public Comment from anybody else. There was no  
25 discussion about this event before you brought it up under "Miscellaneous Report."

26

27 Trustee Watkins stated no, what I'm referring to President Burke, is this mailer came out before  
28 this meeting tonight. In this mailer, it also says we're going to do due diligence in investigating.  
29 And now you're repeating the same thing in this meeting, "investigating." So, my question again  
30 is, what are we investigating?

31

32 Village President Burke stated that you said that you had -- Village Clerk Drella Savage stated  
33 Mr. President, I'm sorry. This is the Clerk. I'm just asking for a point of order. I think under New  
34 Business and under Miscellaneous Report, all we're doing is repeating the same thing. As a point  
35 of order, it's just that everything is being repeated. I think Trustee Thomas already asked for a  
36 legal opinion from the attorney of what can be done based upon everything that has transpired.  
37 So, until you get that legal opinion, all we're doing now is repeating the same thing over and  
38 over, and over and over again.

39

40 Village President Burke stated that I would agree with you on that. Trustee Watkins stated that I  
41 sent the information to Attorney Murphey as well. To me, you're trying to defame my character  
42 and that's not fair to me at all based on a lot.

43

44 Village President Burke stated okay, okay. Well, right now, we're going to suspend this. As I  
45 said earlier, anything has to be talked, we can look at this at another time. But right now, it's not  
46 on the agenda. There was no Public Comment from anybody. He is going to ask for a Motion to  
47 Adjourn.

1 **ADJOURNMENT:**

2

3 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Adjourn the Board Meeting at**  
4 **8:05 P.M.**

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

6

7 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

8