

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Held on April 13, 2022

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

Village Administrator Payton stated as you probably know, President Burke is in the hospital in Arizona. He's doing okay. He is still undergoing some tests, at least the last time I talked with him. One of the things we have to do, typically it is the senior Trustee, is nominate somebody to serve as the President Pro Tem in order to run the meeting tonight.

23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

MOTION FOR PRESIDENT PRO TEM:

43
44
45
46
47

Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Blackwell to have Willis Pennington Serve as the President Pro Tem in the Absence of the Village President.

Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustee Pennington did not vote) Motion Carried.

President Pro Tem Pennington stated thank you very much, fellow Trustees. We are now calling this meeting to order at 7:12 in the evening. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pro Tem Pennington stated before we begin, I need to make the following Declaration: "To ensure that we are doing our part as an organization containing the COVID Pandemic, the Village Board has chosen to conduct this Board Meeting remotely.

If you would like to send in questions or comments related to the agenda, please email them to publiccomments@olympia-fields.com. All questions and comments must be received by 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 13th, 2022. All questions and comments received will be read during the Public Comments section of the agenda and responded to within 72 business hours.

Our residents are welcome to join and listen to our meeting remotely by dialing the following number: Toll free: 1-(877) 836-1828, and entering the Passcode: 6712872 followed by the pound sign."

Village Administrator Payton inquired of Ms. Zigras whether or not any Public Comments were received. Ms. Zigras stated I am checking on that right now. I will let you know at a later time. President Pro Tem Pennington stated we can do that later.

Trustee Blackwell inquired as a Point of Order, Mr. Chairman, did you recite the provision regarding the Open Meetings Act, which is typically recited by President Burke? President Pro Tem Pennington stated I was just presented this. And this is what I read off. Trustee Blackwell stated so the answer is no. President Pro Tem Pennington stated the answer is no. But we are operating under the guidelines of the Open Meetings Act. President Pro Tem Pennington asked the Village Clerk, Stephanie Mills to call the roll.

Present: Trustees – Oliver, Finley, Blackwell, and White
President Pro Tem, Willis Pennington
Village Administrator, Milton Payton
Village Clerk, Stephanie Mills

1 Absent: Village President Sterling M. Burke and Trustee Watkins.

2

3 Village Clerk Stephanie Mills proceeded with roll call. Present were: Trustee Blackwell, here.
4 Trustee Finley, here; Trustee Watkins, absent. Trustee Oliver, present; Trustee Pennington, here;
5 Trustee White, here. Also present was: Village Administrator Milton Payton; Chief Blasingame;
6 James Landini Public Works Director; Betty Zigras Finance Director, (Telephonically); Faith
7 Stine Court Reporter; and Stephanie Mills, Village Clerk.

8

9 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

10

11 President Pro Tem Pennington stated in your Board Packet we have the Minutes from our March
12 16th, 2022, Board Meeting. I'm sure everyone has had a chance to review those Minutes. Are
13 there any questions, and/or corrections to be noted?

14

15 Trustee Oliver stated this is really going to mess up Faith, because she has never had anyone
16 question her minutes in the last four or five years. On Page 32, Line 20, did Trustee Finley really
17 mean to say that there is a two-box maximum for how many boxes you can take to Park Forest
18 for the shredding? The minutes said a minimum of two boxes. Trustee Finley stated that should
19 probably be a maximum. Trustee Oliver stated Turo on Page 35, Trustee Pennington indicated
20 the spelling was T-U-R-R-O. It's actually Turo, one r. Trustee Pennington stated right. Thank
21 you. Good catch. Trustee Oliver stated a minor issue.

22 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley to Dispense with the Reading of the**
23 **Minutes of the March 16th, 2022, Board Meeting; and to Approve the Minutes of the March**
24 **16th, 2022, Board Meeting as Amended.**

25 **Roll Call: Ayes (4-0) Motion Carried.**

26

27 Trustee Blackwell stated Point of Order, Chairman Pennington, under the Ordinance you do, in
28 fact, have a right to vote. Just for your information so you can feel comfortable with that
29 recommendation, it is found in our Ordinance, Section 2-19. It says: "In the absence of the
30 President, Acting President, or President Pro Tem, the Board of Trustees may elect a Trustee to
31 act as a temporary Chairman. He shall have only the powers of a presiding officer, and a right to
32 vote in his capacity as Trustee on any Ordinance, Resolution, or Motion."

33

34 President Pro Tem Pennington stated thank you, Trustee Blackwell. I vote yeah.

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

36

37 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

38

39 President Pro Tem Pennington stated next on our agenda is the April Bills for Approval in the
40 amount of \$332,170.78. In your packet you have a Memorandum outlining the more salient
41 expenditures for the month of April. Do you have any questions and/or comments relative to the
42 April Bills for Approval?

43 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee White to Approve the Payment of Bills**
44 **for April 2022, in the Total Amount of \$332,170.78.**

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

46

47

1 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

2
3 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

4
5 President Pro Tem Pennington stated I did speak to Stoney prior to coming to the meeting this
6 evening. He is out of the hospital. He is resting comfortably at home in Arizona. He anticipates
7 returning to the Olympia Fields area later this week. Apparently, it was not as serious as
8 everyone initially thought. But it's best to be safe and go in for the proper treatments and
9 overview to make sure that everything is okay. That's good to know. He is recovering well, and
10 anticipates returning to Olympia Fields later this week.

11
12 President Pro Tem Pennington stated he did not give me any other items to discuss. I will pass it
13 down to our Village Administrator Milton Payment for his remarks.

14
15 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

16
17 Village Administrator Payton stated my report starts out with the letters NKOTB, that's the new
18 style today. That's New Kid on the Block. That's me. I want to go down the list of the things that
19 we have been working on.

20
21 **IRMA – Intergovernmental Risk Management Association** – Village Administrator Payton
22 stated the first item is IRMA, the Intergovernmental Risk Management Association. I've been
23 appointed, as you know, to the Board there as a representative for the Village of Olympia Fields.
24 We were being cited for lack of participation. We are now fully participating with IRMA. In fact,
25 our Public Works Director, Jim Landini, and our Police Chief, Chief Blasingame, both
26 participated in Steering Committees with them, which gets you a lot of points with them also. I
27 have gone through three orientation seminars with them. I will be joining one of the Committees.
28 They asked me to join the IT Committee. I have limited background. I will probably be joining
29 one of the other Committees.

30
31 We have also applied for grants from IRMA. Our police chief mentioned the last time that we are
32 seeking to get certified. They will pay for half of the cost of the grant application. I've been
33 doing a lot of research related to COVID and the resources that they have. I have passed onto our
34 Public Works Director the guidelines that they have for snowplow drivers as well.

35
36 **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association** – Village Administrator Payton stated the
37 South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, we have not been participating in that. Betty
38 Zigras and myself had participated in the Finance Directors Meeting. I will be meeting with the
39 Director tomorrow to go over our participation, and role, and the resources. They are supposed to
40 be sending me some information on salary surveys as well on some work that they've done.

41
42 **South Suburban Land Bank** – Village Administrator Payton stated we are also involved now
43 with the South Suburban Land Bank. Betty Zigras and I participated in a conference call with
44 their relatively new Director. We will be getting together with them on some other issues related
45 to the Land Bank and some of the property that they own.

46

1 **Regional Water Supply** – Village Administrator Payton stated the Regional Water Supply, we
2 discussed this a little bit in our Budget Workshop. Betty Zigras and myself have attended their
3 quarterly meeting. She is really a champion in that area. She really knows her stuff. We are
4 working to renew the contract with them and coordinating our participation with a couple of
5 other communities.

6
7 **School District 227** - Village Administrator Payton stated I met with School District 227. I will
8 be talking to Trustee White about some ideas that I have. I was very impressed with what they
9 are doing there. It exceeded my expectations quite frankly. They were ahead on some of the
10 ideas that I was going to propose to them.

11
12 **Executive Assistant** – Village Administrator Payton stated we are still in the process of hiring
13 an Executive Assistant which has held some things back. We have agreed on how we are going
14 to proceed. We are working with GOV HR on finding someone.

15
16 **HOA Presidents** – Village Administrator Payton stated I have talked to a couple of the
17 Homeowners Association Presidents. As I get a little bit more time here, I hope to get more
18 involved with some of the community in learning the roles, and the desires that the Homeowners
19 Association and their members play.

20
21 **Budget Workshop** – Village Administrator Payton stated as you are aware, we had our Budget
22 Workshop this last Saturday. I thought we had an excellent budget meeting. A lot of good things
23 came out of that.

24
25 **Economic Development** - Village Administrator Payton stated I am also working on pursuing a
26 number of economic development opportunities. We are going to be meeting with somebody on
27 Friday. He stated that Shawn Michelle’s Homemade Ice Cream is getting closer to a realization
28 also. We have another one that’s very interested and in the process of signing a lease.

29
30 **Concentric** – Village Administrator Payton stated we’ve also been working with Concentric to
31 try to straighten out some of our issues related to our computers and our fax machine related to
32 the police department. We are going to try to get a little bit more educated and go to e-fax instead
33 of the traditional fax machine.

34
35 **In-Time** – Village Administrator Payton stated In-Time, which is the module for the police
36 department for scheduling, we have provided them with the data that they needed to help
37 structure the program that they are going to be using. The Chief provided that information.

38
39 **Economic Development Commission** – Village Administrator Payton stated I have been
40 working with the Economic Development Commission. We are going to be meeting again
41 tomorrow on focusing our efforts and priorities. I had an extensive meeting with them
42 beforehand. We are going to be focusing a little bit more on how we are going to approach some
43 things.

44
45 **TIF Joint Review Board** – Village Administrator Payton stated I was a member of the TIF Joint
46 Review Board. I was volunteered to be President of that. We met last week. We will be meeting
47 again on April 29th to approve the TIF. They are going to go back to their boards to discuss the

1 information that they were provided for the Vollmer Governors TIF, and review it with their
2 boards. We have scheduled the follow-up meeting with that.

3
4 President Pro Tem Pennington inquired of Village Administrator Payton who is involved in that?
5 Village Administrator Payton stated all the taxing bodies. We elected Drella Savage as the public
6 member representing the Village. Charles Durley from Arcadia sat in on that meeting as well.

7
8 **Water Billing** – Village Administrator Payton stated I am in the process of reviewing the
9 processes that relate to our water billing. We had some issues. We are making some transition.
10 We want to make sure when we go to the new ERP Module for water billing that it is pristine.
11 We are talking about rewriting the process to make sure that we have a little bit more accuracy
12 there.

13
14 **Union Negotiations** - Village Administrator Payton stated I am also in the process of preparing
15 for Union Negotiations with the police department for the Police Clerks Union.

16
17 **Meetings with Employees** - Village Administrator Payton stated probably the most important
18 meetings I have been having are with our most precious resource which is our employees. I have
19 met with about half of the employees on a pretty much one-on-one basis, except for maybe
20 Public Works. I'm going to be going to the police department side of the building and talking to
21 each one of them on an individual basis. I don't want to have just a casual meeting. So, I have a
22 sit down, half hour to an hour with the employees, so I can ask questions and they can share with
23 me their concerns and any questions that they may have as well.

24
25 Trustee Oliver stated you've been busy. Trustee Blackwell stated good job.

26
27 President Pro Tem Pennington inquired of Village Administrator Payton with regard to the
28 economic development meetings that you are having this week, are you going to also include
29 members of the Commission like Michael? Village Administrator Payton stated the meeting is
30 with Michael and Trinette. They requested the meeting. I met with them over three hours before.
31 They had to cancel the last EDC Meeting. Now, we are moving to focus. A lot of things in the
32 hopper.

33
34 Trustee Oliver inquired of Village Administrator Payton who rolled out the red carpet for you
35 when you visited Rich 227? Village Administrator Payton stated Joe Thomas himself came and
36 took me around personally. He and his Business Manager. I was pretty impressed. They've
37 started the International Baccalaureate Program and are paying for the International
38 Baccalaureate Program for the feeder schools. The more I looked at it, I'm saying, if you want to
39 have a good meal, you need to have good ingredients. While we place all the blame on the high
40 school for the problems they're having, they're just a representative of what came into the
41 school. That had to be addressed also. I was very impressed that they had demonstrated that
42 initiative. They are actually paying for the International Baccalaureate Program, and hope to be
43 certified at one of the schools sometime later this year.

44
45 The International Baccalaureate Program for your information, is a system where you can get
46 certified. It's what they call a "Pre-Socratic Method of Teaching," which asks a lot of questions.
47 It's multi-grade level also. There are some principles that you have to abide by. The school in

1 University Park, Deer Creek Elementary School, which is now “Coretta Scott King Magnet
2 School,” was the first elementary school that was certified in the State of Illinois as an
3 International Baccalaureate Grade School. They went from being the worst school in the district,
4 to one of the top elementary schools in the whole State of Illinois. Trustee Blackwell stated that’s
5 great. Village Administrator Payton stated I spoke about this in some of the interviews when I
6 was interviewing for the job, was that the International Baccalaureate Program was one of the
7 methods that can be used to improve the high school. But we have another school here also. And
8 the other feeder schools need to be all in line. They have a preschool daycare right there in the
9 building that the students can use. The faculty can use. And more importantly, the community
10 can use. The thing that we found in University Park when we initiated what is called “Lincoln
11 Baldrige Initiative” which is a total quality management approach to education, was that the
12 kids coming into the school district were so far behind that they would never catch up if you
13 didn’t get them up to speed by the second or third grade. If you are wondering why the high
14 school is having so many problems, that’s because they are trying to deal with what they have
15 been dealt. We have to do more to try to help that effort.

16

17 President Pro Tem Pennington stated that’s excellent. That’s viable information that you
18 presented to us.

19

20 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

21

22 **Betty Zigras – Finance Director**

23

24 **Resolution #2022-05** – A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and
25 Approving the Eighth Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District/Wal-
26 Mart Economic Incentive Agreement) – Ms. Zigras stated before you we have Resolution #2022-
27 05. It is a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and Approving the Eighth
28 Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District for the Wal-Mart Economic
29 Incentive Agreement.

30

31 Ms. Zigras stated in your Board Packet, the title page of the Resolution is incorrectly titled as the
32 “Sixth Distribution.” We will change that. It is the “Eighth Distribution.” This Resolution is
33 required per the agreement that we have to reimburse Wal-Mart with 90% of the taxes paid to the
34 TIF District. This eighth payment represents 90% of the taxes received in the TIF District from
35 Wal-Mart for the first installment of the 2021 tax year. Wal-Mart paid their first installment in
36 March of 2022. They paid \$816,840.00 with their tax bill, their first installment. Of those funds,
37 \$607,483.00 went into the TIF District, the Lincoln and Western TIF. From that \$607,483.00, the
38 TIF is required to distribute 90% of that back to Wal-Mart, which is \$546,735.51. This
39 Resolution is to make that payment to Wal-Mart of \$546,735.51.

40

41 President Pro Tem Pennington stated this is something that we have done yearly since the
42 inauguration of Wal-Mart here in the Village of Olympia Fields.

43

44 Trustee Blackwell stated I am trying to better understand the terms of this particular TIF. I think
45 it is fairly certain that under the original agreement we are required to reimburse Wal-Mart at the
46 rate of 90% of their real estate taxes that they would otherwise be liable to pay. It is my
47 understanding that they pay that in and we receive that, and we reimburse them.

1 Ms. Zigras stated they paid their first installment for tax year 2021. We know the tax year first
2 installment is really 55% of your total tax bill. That 55% equated to \$816,840.00. That's what
3 Wal-Mart paid. Of that \$816,840.00, \$607,483.00 went into the TIF District. The difference,
4 approximately \$200,000.00 went to the other taxing bodies. That's what we call the "Base." That
5 was their base. The difference between the \$816,840.00 and the \$607,483.00, a portion of that
6 went to Olympia Fields, the School Districts, et cetera. From that \$607,483.00, the TIF has to
7 give back to Wal-Mart 90% of that, which equates to \$546,735.00. Twice a year Wal-Mart
8 makes a tax payment which everyone does. We reimburse them back 90% of what goes into the
9 TIF. Their portion of the TIF. We have other businesses that also pay for the TIF. We reimburse
10 Wal-Mart their portion that goes into the TIF.

11

12 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Ms. Zigras whether or not this amount is for half of the tax year?
13 Ms. Zigras stated correct. It is only the first installment. Trustee Blackwell stated that is normally
14 prorated at 55%. Over the course of an entire year, how much goes into the TIF, about twice as
15 much as we see here? Ms. Zigras stated their property tax bill last year was \$1.4 million, of
16 which, \$1,104,000.00 went into the TIF. We reimbursed them 90% of that. Last year,
17 \$994,000.00 was reimbursed back to Wal-Mart.

18

19 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Ms. Zigras, the part that doesn't go into the TIF, and that we don't
20 give back to them, where does that other money go? Where is this money going that is left? Ms.
21 Zigras stated I'm sorry, I didn't hear you. Trustee Blackwell stated we are reimbursing Wal-Mart
22 at 90% of what goes into the TIF. Ms. Zigras stated what they pay into the TIF, correct. Trustee
23 Blackwell stated what I am trying to understand is, within the taxable amount that they pay in, x
24 amount goes into the TIF. What happens to the other portion? Do we keep a certain portion?
25 There's some money out there that I don't know where it is going. Ms. Zigras stated last year we
26 received \$42,000.00. The School Districts received \$286,000.00. Our Park District received
27 \$18,000.00. There are other taxing bodies on their tax bill. When the TIF was created there was a
28 base. Before Wal-Mart was built, there was a EAV let's say, on this property. That's what's
29 considered the base. Those taxing bodies still received their funds as if Wal-Mart wasn't built.
30 So, what it was before Wal-Mart they are still getting. Any increase, what we call "increment" is
31 going to the TIF District.

32

33 Trustee Blackwell stated we get approximately \$42,000.00 a year. Ms. Zigras stated for the 2020
34 tax year the Village itself received \$42,000.00. Village Administrator Payton stated plus the sales
35 tax.

36

37 Trustee White inquired of Ms. Zigras whether or not she has a number, or a general number. You
38 said that \$42,000.00 was for 2020. Do you have a rough number for what the attributed sales tax
39 was from Wal-Mart for that same period? Ms. Zigras stated under the State of Illinois Reciprocal
40 Agreement, we are not allowed to disclose that information. I do receive that information, but I
41 am not allowed to disclose. So, what I always refer to, to give an indication is where was our
42 property tax revenue back in 2016 before Wal-Mart opened and where is it now. Other than Wal-
43 Mart, we haven't seen any other big changes since 2016. We had some small restaurants or
44 eateries open, but nothing as significant as a Wal-Mart. So, we can see that the difference
45 between what we were generating in sales tax revenue in 2016 to what we are generating now,
46 that difference can be attributed you can say it could be Wal-Mart. That's different. We just saw
47 our sales tax revenue projected at \$1.4 million. If I pull up the budget document, I can see in

1 2016, I believe sales tax revenue was roughly \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00. Trustee White stated
2 duly noted.

3
4 Ms. Zigras stated that's your sales tax revenue. Then we have what is called "Non-Home Rule
5 Sales Tax, which is about \$800,000.00 a year budgeted for in 2023. Again, the majority of that
6 we can estimate how much of that would be Wal-Mart. Food and drug do not generate Non-
7 Home Rule Sales Tax. It is only on prepared food and other goods outside of groceries and
8 drugs.

9
10 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Ms. Zigras what is the term of this TIF? Is this in perpetuity? Ms.
11 Zigras stated the TIF was created in December of 2014. Our TIF has 23 years. It would expire in
12 2037. My calculations of when we would have this paid back, because there is interest that is
13 generated and calculated on this, I estimate 23 years from 2014 would be a 2037 expiration date.
14 We should have this paid roughly by 2030, 2031. President Pro Tem Pennington stated that's
15 good. Trustee Blackwell stated thank you.

16
17 President Pro Tem Pennington stated it's important to note that these figures do not touch our
18 General Fund. It's all held within the body of the TIF. Ms. Zigras stated even with the
19 reimbursement, the TIF Fund still has over \$1,000,000.00 in it, which are funds that can be used
20 for economic development for the South side of Lincoln Highway and what we call "Olympia
21 Corners."

22
23 Trustee Finley stated you say that this arrangement sunsets in 23 years. However, can Wal-Mart
24 leave before then without owing? Ms. Zigras stated yes. Wal-Mart could leave before 2037. The
25 Economic Incentive Agreement is that we only pay on taxes that we receive. Obviously, if they
26 leave, they are not paying any taxes and we won't be receiving any property taxes, so we don't
27 have that obligation to pay. Trustee Finley stated thank you.

28
29 President Pro Tem Pennington stated I will now read the Resolution for vote. Resolution No.
30 2022-06, A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and Approving the Eighth
31 Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District/Wal-Mart Economic
32 Incentive Agreement). Trustee Oliver stated I so move, but it is Resolution No. 2022-05. Trustee
33 Pennington stated I thought it was 06. Trustee Oliver stated our agenda says "05." Trustee
34 Blackwell stated it's the eighth payment, but it's incorrectly headed in the Resolution itself as the
35 Sixth Distribution. She indicated that she would, in fact, change it to the Eighth. But the
36 particular Resolution, I believe, is still 2022-05. President Pro Tem Pennington stated very good.
37 Very good. I stand corrected.

38 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley to Accept Resolution No. 2022-05 - A**
39 **Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and Approving the Eighth**
40 **Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District/Wal-Mart Economic**
41 **Incentive Agreement) as Amended.**

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

43
44 **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police**

45
46 **New Axon Enterprise Updated Body Cameras and Tasers -** Chief Blasingame stated I have
47 three things. The new tasers and the new cameras that we ordered they are in completely. We are

1 looking to deploy those after each officer is trained. We got the last of those in today. We expect
2 to have the training done by the middle of May. The new tasers and cameras will be deployed by
3 the middle of May.

4
5 **Flock Cameras** – Chief Blasingame stated that two of our Flock Cameras are already installed
6 and already functioning and working. We are already getting hits on stolen license plates and
7 missing persons. The other two cameras, we are still waiting for permits from the County and
8 from the State. Once we get those permits, those cameras will be installed right away.

9
10 **Officers Graduation from Police Academy** – Chief Blasingame stated our new officers
11 graduated from the Police Academy Friday. They are already on the street being trained by their
12 FTOs. We expect them to be fully trained and on the streets on their own by the first of August.
13 Depending on how they progress in their training, they could be on the street sooner. We are
14 looking at the first of August.

15
16 The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, I was able to get information from
17 them. They will be paying half of the costs for sending those officers to the Police Academy.
18 They also pay approximately \$15.60 an hour of the pay that the officers were receiving up to 560
19 hours, which was how many hours they spent in the Police Academy. I submitted that
20 paperwork. We should be getting that reimbursement. It comes to a little bit over \$18,000.00. We
21 will get that reimbursement back from The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards
22 Board.

23
24 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame what does Flock stand for? Chief Blasingame
25 stated I have no idea what Flock stands for. It's just the name of the company. Trustee Blackwell
26 stated that's a company name? Chief Blasingame stated it's just the company name. Trustee
27 Blackwell stated I thought it was an acronym for something. Chief Blasingame stated no.

28
29 Trustee Finley asked Chief Blasingame for an update on the status of the order for our new
30 hybrid police cars. Chief Blasingame stated we did receive two of our hybrid police cars. They
31 are in the process of being striped and having all the equipment added to them so we can place
32 them on the street. The others we have, we are starting to see a huge savings in the amount that
33 we are spending on gas, even with the higher gas prices. As we deploy more of those on the
34 street you will see more of a savings when it comes to the gasoline that we use on a day-to-day
35 basis.

36
37 **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

38
39 **Sign Request from Shiree Bush-Giblin - All White Stepping in the Fields Dinner Party**
40 **From May 1, 2022 to June 1, 2022** – President Pro Tem Pennington stated next, we have John
41 McDonnell Building Commissioner. Although, he is not here, we only have one voting item on
42 tonight's agenda. That is the sign request from Mrs. Shiree Bush-Giblin regarding the All White
43 Stepping in the Fields Dinner Party to be held at the Olympia Fields Country Club. The signage
44 is for 30 days from May 1st through June 1st of 2022.

45
46 In your packet you have a copy of her Sign Application, as well as the locations where the signs
47 will be put up. This is something that we have been doing for her group for the last three years,

1 four years. It's up for discussion this evening. Coming out of COVID-19 for the past two years, I
2 think a lot of people are looking forward to this event here in the Village of Olympia Fields.
3 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee White to Approve Mrs. Shiree Bush-**
4 **Giblin's Sign Request.**

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

6
7 Trustee Oliver stated my only slight problem with the signage, the first line says, "Join Us for the
8 Celebration." Who is "us?" It can be misleading. That has always been my bone of contention.
9 But I'm all for it and sisterhood. President Pro Tem Pennington stated I understand. Trustee
10 Oliver stated I already voted. I said "yes."

11
12 Trustee Finley stated that whoever "us" is, I've been to it. It's a splendid event. It promotes
13 community engagement. It's at the country club. It's one of the few opportunities for our
14 residents whether they belong to the country club or not to come together. And you do wear
15 white. And you step as best you can.

16
17 Village Administrator Payton stated for the two left-footed people in the room, I am a step
18 instructor. I may volunteer to give some free lessons if we get enough space to do this. I've been
19 teaching for over 15 years. You can't do it on carpeting. You have to have a little slide. Maybe in
20 the vestibule.

21
22 President Pro Tem Pennington stated that's something we can entertain. Village Administrator
23 Payton stated I am looking at restarting. I use to teach in Olympia Fields at the Park District.
24 They changed their rules and it just didn't make sense for me to get all geared up and didn't have
25 enough students because of policy.

26
27 Trustee White stated we will see what we can do about those rules. Village Administrator Payton
28 stated the last couple of years before the pandemic, I was teaching for Homewood-Flossmoor at
29 the Irwin Center. I've taught at Matteson. I've also taught at University Park.

30
31 President Pro Tem Pennington stated that's something we will look forward to. Village
32 Administrator Payton stated get your shoes ready buddies. Come out and support your
33 community. There are the contenders and the pretenders.

34
35 **Shell Gas Station** – Village Administrator Payton stated John wanted me to give you a little
36 update on these three items. The Shell Gas Station is moving forward. They are reviewing the
37 engineering requests that we gave them. Their engineers are reviewing that and making
38 adjustments.

39
40 **VCA Hospital Update** – Village Administrator Payton stated I found out the acronym is for the
41 Veterinary Clinic of America Hospital. Their engineers are going through another review of their
42 plans. Hopefully, we'll have something more on that.

43
44 **Shawn Michelle's Homemade Ice Cream Store** – Village Administrator Payton stated Shawn
45 Michelle's Homemade Ice Cream they have finally submitted their final sign plans. We have not
46 received their renovation plans yet. Their objective was to open their doors May 1st. We're ready,
47 willing, and able to expedite things once we get the plans for the renovation. Their plan was not

1 to do much renovation simply because they can use what was in place. It's my understanding
2 that some of the coolers are not in very good shape.

3
4 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Village Administrator Payton are they taking the Dunkin' Donuts
5 site? Village Administrator Payton stated right. There's a sign in the window already. We have
6 another one for Bebo's in the wings. Trustee Oliver stated so Bebo's closed down. Village
7 Administrator Payton stated yes. You are going to love what's coming. I'm not going to say
8 anymore.

9
10 **Jim Landini – Director of Public Works**

11
12 **Update on Post Office Lift Station** – Mr. Landini stated I just have a quick update. If you
13 remember from our last Board Meeting on March 16th, I brought to everybody's attention the
14 need for the emergency lift station at the post office. That meeting was on the 16th. On March
15 20th, the pumps failed right after that meeting. We spent 72 hours straight with a contractor. We
16 were able to get both pumps running. They're not running ideally, but they are definitely doing
17 the job and keeping up with everything. So, we have bought ourselves some more time. We did
18 not have any backups in the homes. We were able to get on it immediately because we do check
19 those lift stations every day, even on the weekend. When my staff member notified me that it
20 wasn't running, we acted immediately with our contingency plan. Had to get pretty creative
21 down there to get these pumps running. We are still on borrowed time because the problem is we
22 cannot put in new pumps in that lift station, or pull those pumps. Since the 23rd they have been
23 running and keeping up with everything. The ball is rolling on the replacement project. They're
24 in the design and build phase right now.

25
26 The excavating contractor, he is going to come out about three weeks prior to the build being
27 finished so there is no lag time in excavation and delivery. Once that build is finished and it's
28 ready for delivery, the site will be ready to take it and get online within a couple days of
29 delivery.

30
31 Trustee Blackwell asked Mr. Landini to refresh his recollection as to the timeframe once they
32 start until time of completion. Mr. Landini stated we are looking for delivery, it will be online in
33 August. Roughly, around the first week of August. That is just due to the lag time that it takes to
34 build a custom lift station. Everything is running as of today. We do have our plan in place if it
35 fails again. We will protect the homes at all costs to make sure that nothing affects our residents.
36 I just wanted to update you guys on the severity of that issue. I didn't expect that to happen four
37 days after.

38
39 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Landini did we incur any contractual or vendor outside costs
40 to get the pumps back up when they failed, or was that something that we internally were able to
41 do? Mr. Landini stated we did have some vendor costs. It was in the Bills for Approval. It was
42 about \$22,000.00 to get that back up. It was 72 hours straight of being down in that place. It
43 wasn't fun, but it was necessary.

44
45 President Pro Tem Pennington inquired of Mr. Landini do you anticipate, or do you foresee any
46 possible problems with the heavy rains that we're getting or anticipating? Mr. Landini stated
47 right after we got those pumps up and running, we did get two inches of rain within hours of

1 getting that up. It kept up with that beautifully. I don't anticipate any problems caused because of
2 the increased flows. The only problems that I would anticipate is just failure of the pumps, but
3 not because the rains are causing it. He stated with the amount of rain we had and the flow,
4 because that area is so big that that lift station takes, that flow is constant. It does definitely
5 increase. We are monitoring it three times a day as opposed to once with all our other lift
6 stations, because we do have to react fast on that if it goes down because of the flow that goes in
7 there.

8
9 Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. Landini that is our oldest lift station, right? Mr. Landini stated we
10 have three of them that are about that old. Trustee Finley stated it's actually functioning on life
11 support. Mr. Landini stated basically. Trustee Finley stated and it's \$22,000.00 this time in order
12 to breathe the breath of life back into it. We don't get relief from that until August which is what
13 we're hearing. So, you've got \$22,000.00 again, and again, and again, or however long you have
14 to do it? Its within your budget? Mr. Landini stated we have it, if need be, but at all cost avoid it.
15 That's basically the plan right now. He stated because we have been fiscally sound with our
16 reserves, it is there and that is part of what reserves are there for is these emergency situations.
17 I'm confident that this fix has bought us a good amount of time. It could lead us all the way up to
18 installation. I feel good about that. There have been no indicators that the pumps have been
19 slowing down since they got it up and running. It's an open plan. We're ready for anything.

20
21 Village Administrator Payton stated another way to look at it is it is a cost of \$7,000.00 a day
22 when those fail. Trustee Finley stated so what I'm hearing is you feel confident that the reserves
23 that you have will carry us through. Mr. Landini stated, if need be, yes. Trustee Finley stated and
24 of course, you'll come to us if that exceeds or looks like it. Mr. Landini stated absolutely. One of
25 the benefits of having an emergency situation in the sewer system is that it's an Enterprise Fund
26 that generates its own revenue. When it gets depleted, it builds up quickly and we are prepared
27 for that. Trustee Finley stated thank you.

28 29 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

30 31 **Planning & Zoning Commission/Human Resources – Trustee Blackwell**

32
33 **Planning & Zoning Commission** - Trustee Blackwell stated for Planning and Zoning we did not
34 meet because we don't have any Petitions before us to consider.

35
36 **Human Resources** – Trustee Blackwell stated for Human Resources we have gone back and
37 forth struggling to meet a second time. Our first meeting was virtual, of course. We have a
38 meeting scheduled for the 27th but the issue with that is we have the budget approval at the same
39 time. We will work around that. I think we are okay now. Our main objective after talking to
40 Chair Chambers was to redo the Employee Handbook. It has been done. It was finally done. I
41 know you all were able to witness the long haul to get it done. We are looking to update it.

42
43 President Pro Tem Pennington stated try four years. Trustee Blackwell stated I heard it was a
44 long, extreme time. It has been done. That's the good part about it. The downside is that it needs
45 updating on COVID stuff and other things, particularly as it may pertain to the unions, rights,
46 and different types of things of that nature. It needs some tweaking. Monica Chambers has gone

1 through and identified stuff that needs to be modified. We're in pretty good shape. We will be
2 meeting on a regular basis after this month gets through.

3
4 **Public Works/Beautification – Trustee Finley**

5
6 **Beautification Committee** – Trustee Finley stated I just have one item for Beautification. I
7 reported on the Spring Cleanup at the last meeting. We had a Beautification Committee Meeting
8 since then. The Chair, Arlene Burke, wants to energize volunteering for the Spring Cleanup. All
9 of you who have relationships with HOA Presidents, please rouse them out and tell them we
10 need people.

11
12 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Trustee Finley is that going in the newsletter? Trustee Finley
13 stated I don't know the answer to that. Village Administrator Payton stated we can send out an
14 alert at any time. I'm working on something a little bit more comprehensive right now in terms
15 of the newsletter. Trustee Blackwell stated yes, and later your development will come into play
16 maybe for the next round. But for now, when Chairman Burke put that through, we had a good
17 little crew. Trustee Oliver was out there. We had quite a few people out there, but it should have
18 been better published and broadcasted. I think a lot of people are interested in cleaning up and
19 getting involved at that level, but they didn't know. It rained the one day we were suppose to go.
20 We got washed out. I mean, really heavy rain. She moved it to the next week. We need to get
21 more people out, because the paper that is floating around and the garbage and stuff is a real
22 concern for most of our residents. We shouldn't leave everything to Jim's crew to do. They do a
23 whole lot already. They have lift stations to take care of. We have a lot of people that are retired,
24 or younger people, or middle-aged people, or whatever who are willing and able to get out there
25 and do some stuff. We need to put it in the newsletter. President Pro Tem Pennington stated good
26 point. Trustee Blackwell stated and if we can, Milton, maybe you can consider doing a blast to
27 the residents but check with Chairman Burke before you do that.

28
29 Village Administrator Payton stated it would meet my suggestion if we go with a mailer, an
30 oversize postcard with all the information on there. It would be my recommendation also that we
31 have free T-shirts, nice color, nice phrase on it, that will be part of that opportunity to work for
32 your own Village.

33
34 Trustee White stated Trustee Finley, if you guys can shoot me the details, especially if I am
35 interested in volunteering who do I contact? What do I need to do? I have a little bit of
36 background in getting people out. Trustee Finley stated I think you do. Trustee White stated I
37 would love to help.

38
39 Village Administrator Payton stated a mailer in a Village this size to every household, it's like a
40 political campaign. Trustee White stated it would be about \$1,200.00. If you want, I will even
41 design it.

42
43 Trustee Blackwell stated it is well worth it on a couple of levels. One, to get people involved is
44 the big thing. Two, it's a positive thing because they are doing something to cleanup their own
45 community. I know we are not taking a vote on it. But it is well worth it to do those kinds of
46 things. Just like you were saying with the steppers, just to get people involved. Instead of this
47 just being a highway run where you run it through the city and you drive into the city for your

1 church or you run to the grocery store. We need to start to develop a community. These are the
2 types of things that would help to promote that.

3
4 Trustee Finley stated I know for a fact that Jim Landini knows something about T-shirts. Mr.
5 Landini stated not as much as you do. If I can make a quick comment too about the Spring
6 Cleanup, especially if Trustee White is going to be involved. I've seen how you've gotten people
7 together. Being that the supplies get picked up at Public Works, however this gets disbursed, if
8 we can put on there to give advance notice of how many people you expect to have in your group
9 so I can plan for the supplies. Last year was the first year that we did it. I have enough for 30
10 people. Like I said, if Trustee White is involved, that's not going to be enough, which is a good
11 thing. But I do want to be prepared. He stated for safety reasons, I have the orange vests for
12 everybody to wear on the side of the road. And we have the pickers and the garbage bags for
13 everybody involved. I just need to know what materials I am going to need ahead of time.

14
15 Village Administrator Payton inquired of Mr. Landini do they have to be vests? Mr. Landini
16 stated anything bright colored. Village Administrator Payton inquired of Mr. Landini if the T-
17 shirts could be that design? Mr. Landini stated this is going to be at the end of this month.
18 Trustee Finley stated April 30th. Mr. Landini stated I don't know if we will have enough time for
19 T-shirts this year. We do have vests for safety purposes. Next year if we plan on having Spring
20 Cleanup, have a specific T-shirt we can definitely do that. I just don't know if it is feasible for
21 this year.

22
23 Trustee Finley stated Chairwoman Burke told me that they had at least 30 people last year. We
24 are looking for that and more. Mr. Landini stated it was a huge impact. It allowed us to be able to
25 keep pace for a while with the garbage in town. That was a great head start for my department.
26 Trustee White stated we parked over there by the post office. There were cars all the way from
27 the post office almost all the way down to Kedzie.

28
29 Trustee Oliver stated I worked on Western Avenue. That's probably one of the nastiest places
30 around the Village. It felt nice when cars were going by honking their horns like, "Great job."
31 Like, "Come on out."

32
33 Village Administrator Payton stated I put the Public Safety Workshop YouTube video up there
34 for a purpose. That's the direction we need to move to. We have a gentleman that we are going
35 to be voting on this evening, Ron Vasser, who was a Director for CBS. He stated with some of
36 the work that your guy did, we should be putting together a video of that event and then posting
37 it to YouTube, and then have the results of it broadcast later on in our newsletter, and alerts, and
38 so forth to show people really what community is all about.

39
40 Trustee Oliver stated it is going to be nice when you look at the video and see your own friends
41 and neighbors on it. Village Administrator Payton stated it could be professionally done and then
42 put out there.

43
44 **Public Works** – Trustee Finley stated the Public Works Department has started its Seasonal
45 Branch Pick Up Program. As a reminder, Public Works will pick up the East side of town on the
46 first and third Tuesday of every month. The West side of town will be picked up on the second
47 and fourth Tuesday of every month. The department asks that you place your branches on the

1 road's edge at least the night before your scheduled pick up. Spring restorations will begin next
2 week weather dependent, to address any and all damage created by watermain breaks and plow
3 damage. If any residents have damage to their yards, Public Works encourages you to call in and
4 verify that your address is on the Restoration List.

5
6 Trustee White inquired of Trustee Finley what you just read, is that information currently
7 publicly available? And if so, where is it?

8
9 Mr. Landini stated the Branch Pick Up Program is on the website. I don't think that went out in
10 our last newsletter. Trustee Oliver stated I thought it did. Mr. Landini stated it may have. It is on
11 the website under Public Works. The restorations are not publicly posted because it is ongoing.
12 We've just been waiting for the weather to break. It looks like next week will be good. We can
13 send out an e-blast or something like that just to get that communication out. Not all residents
14 call in when we've done some work. And some of those addresses will fall through the cracks.
15 We just want to verify that we have everything when we go out there to take care of it. Maybe
16 I'll send something to you to send out to our email list. Village Administrator Payton stated
17 that's what he does. Trustee Finley stated I will email this to you this evening.

18 19 **Public Safety/Police Pension – Trustee Oliver**

20
21 **Public Safety** – Trustee Oliver stated the Public Safety Committee met on April 6th. We
22 wrapped up a couple of things. One of the things that was presented, and I'm not sure Chief how
23 this is disseminated which is the Homeowners Association Presidents List. That HOA list has the
24 name of each of the Halo Officers associated with that subdivision. Chief Blasingame stated it is
25 on the website. Trustee Oliver stated then you should take a look at it. We have a lot of new
26 officers. They've all been assigned to an HOA. There is no reason for folks to not know who
27 their Halo Officer is.

28
29 The Public Safety Committee in conjunction with the police is now looking at the new next big
30 idea. What do we do? What are the activities and the events that we can do to continuously shape
31 the Village where there is more engagement between the Village police and the residents? We
32 are going to be rolling out fresh ideas. A lot have already been emerging from the new police
33 that we have. You will be hearing more about that down the road, so that you can see what we
34 are doing, and how this merger is shaping.

35
36 We did talk about the workshop that was held on March 6th. We finally have the video ready for
37 posting on the Village's website. A YouTube version of that was made. As it gets cued up, it's
38 not so much what Public Safety did that I want to bring up, but to piggyback off of what Village
39 Administrator Payton said, there are so many opportunities out there now that you can record our
40 residents and the events that you're doing so that now we bring people in a variety of ways to
41 say, "Wow, there's something happening here in Olympia Fields." I think that was one of the
42 glaring concerns that a number of residents raised. They don't hear enough about what's going
43 on. There was no communication, even though we know that there had been some
44 communication. I think we have now rolled out a number of events and stories, if you will, to
45 now broadcast in a variety of different ways including this. I guess, Milton, if you don't mind,
46 you can roll out snippets of the Public Safety Workshop, two minutes or less. (At this time the
47 Board saw a snippet from the Public Safety Workshop).

1 Village Administrator Payton stated we will be sending this link to everybody. It is an hour and
2 44 minutes long. There are some sound issues. In the future, we are going to be better prepared.
3 Even now, with just the little snippet you looked at where the Chief is talking about the conceal
4 carry, how that might be of interest to a lot of our residents. It gives them the ability to watch this
5 in the privacy of their own home.

6
7 Trustee Blackwell stated I think it will allay a great degree of fear and trepidation that some of
8 our residents have about people coming into the community and different things happening.
9 There has been a lot of fear stoked, particularly in the last four or five years. We had the whole
10 incident about the car jackings. We are really creatures of the propaganda and the fear too that is
11 out there. He stated by the Chief getting up in front of residents and others, that to me gives
12 many of our residents a level of comfort, a level of security, that we have somebody on the case
13 who understands the law, who is approachable. You come off very approachable and open to
14 questions, and different things like that. My experience has been just out talking to people, is we
15 have a lot of seniors. We have a lot of older people. There are a lot of crazy things happening all
16 around us, particularly in Chicago. Many people moved out here for the security that Olympia
17 Fields provides, and it still does. But you stepping up to do what you do, and Kelvin, and
18 everybody working to get these kinds of programs out there is greatly relieving and significant
19 for people to see. Maybe that will allay some of the fear that is driven by news, by all the crazy
20 stuff that people believe in their own head, because some people start to look at the news all day
21 and they think the next car jacking is going to be them. It could be, but don't scare yourself to
22 death because we have security. We have competent police officers on the job who are calm,
23 know what they're doing, and will support you. This is very important for us to do. It is by no
24 means insignificant.

25
26 Village Administrator Payton suggested that we break the video into three sections: Police, Fire,
27 and the Fraud with all the scams that are going on with senior citizens and so forth. The CEO
28 from the Better Business Bureau addressed all of that kind of thing. An hour and 44 minutes is a
29 little bit intimidating. If you take it in segments, you can watch what you want that you feel most
30 applies to you. Trustee Blackwell stated exactly. Trustee Oliver stated that's a good idea.

31
32 Trustee White inquired of Trustee Oliver do you have somebody that is doing that? Trustee
33 Oliver stated Eric Lites is a guy who does a lot of School District 162 stuff with Bloudean Davis.

34
35 Village Administrator Payton stated you can hit it with some CG also. That's "Character
36 Generation." You can put phone numbers or who the individuals are that are speaking. This
37 afternoon I had a chance to watch a little of it. One of the things that dawned on me was that the
38 Chief before this introduced the police officers in a wonderful way to get to know the police
39 officers when you are not in a hostile situation.

40
41 Trustee Oliver stated they each did like a profile, a brief résumé, who are they and how long they
42 have been on the force, where they come from, et cetera, et cetera.

43
44 President Pro Tem Pennington stated this is so important because for years we never had
45 anything like this in the Village. I know Chief can attest to this. Trustee Oliver can attest to this.
46 When we were dealing with the police back in the day, we longed for something like this to
47 occur. And at last, it's happening. Trustee Blackwell's comments are right on point. We need to

1 show the residents here at the Village of Olympia Fields how safe this place really is. This is an
2 excellent way to do it. I commend everyone that was involved in this project. Thank you, Chief.

3
4 Trustee Blackwell stated this should be ongoing. President Pro Tem Pennington stated
5 absolutely, without question. Trustee Blackwell stated even if you do a 30-minute segment every
6 three months about whatever. Like Village Administrator Payton indicated, people can pick up
7 and look at what they want. You have to understand that all this other stuff is out there. We have
8 to put positive stuff out there that we want people to see.

9
10 Trustee Oliver stated my last point for my report is this, Chief Blasingame has spent quite a bit
11 of time talking about car jacking in the Village. Just last week, the Village of Tinley Park had a
12 car jacking seminar for all of their residents. You can get a link to watch it from home. I suspect
13 that they saw our advertisement. It is probably going to catch on in other Villages as well. This is
14 long overdue. And someone else is going to start telling other folks in these towns. Some will be
15 able to do it pretty well. Some, it depends on the apathy in the town. You are right, this is the
16 kind of thing especially in our town that is needed.

17
18 **Police Pension Fund** – Trustee Oliver stated I have nothing to report on the pension.

19
20 Village Administrator Payton stated when I come to you for the budget, you just keep all of this
21 discussion in mind to get this done.

22
23 **Finance/Building Department – Trustee Pennington**

24
25 **Finance** – President Pro Tem Pennington stated I'm up next. I do not have a formal report this
26 evening. As Village Administrator Payton indicated earlier, we had, I thought an excellent
27 workshop on Saturday. I want to thank everyone for participating and contributing to the
28 goodness of that particular review. We have a solid financial position in this community, in this
29 region. We're the strongest. We need to keep it that way.

30
31 **Park District/Library Board – Trustee Watkins**

32
33 President Pro Tem Pennington stated that Trustee Watkins is not here. I call on the eminent
34 Trustee White for his report.

35
36 **Educational Commission/Community Relations Commission – Trustee White**

37
38 **Educational Commission** – Trustee White stated the Educational Commission did not have a
39 meeting. Mr. Payton, I actually look forward to having those discussions with you that you
40 alluded to earlier. Please keep me in mind if there is room for one more in any of those meetings
41 moving forward.

42
43 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee White stated the second thing that I'd like to
44 follow-up on deals with the CRC. Our team is small right now. There is myself and two active
45 members. We have had a hard time trying to connect over the last month. I would like, in lieu of
46 some of what has been said here tonight, to formally extend the resources of the CRC for all of
47 your endeavors that should involve getting the message in front of the public. For me, that is

1 somewhat of a personal challenge I have for the CRC. I want to ensure that anything that we
2 need to share with the public, that the message is not lost on our residents. I no longer want to
3 hear, "I did not know." In this day and age there is no excuse for "I did not know," unless you
4 just don't want to know. To that point, Mr. Payton, I know we have often deferred to relying on
5 the email newsletter. I was wondering if you have had any chance to find out what the delivery
6 rates are, the open rates on those.

7
8 Village Administrator Payton stated yes, I did. That's why I'm looking at a much more
9 comprehensive approach to communicating with our community. It was like 50%, 51%. It only
10 goes out to I want to say, 1300 people, 50%. That's not much of the community. We need a
11 much more comprehensive approach. If we are going to bother with this, we need to do it right.
12 That's where I am.

13
14 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Village Administrator Payton, so far as acquiring emails, I picked
15 up a lot at your budget seminar Saturday about how the Village knows how many people are for
16 instance leasing, renting versus owning. Can we set up some systems where we can acquire
17 emails for everybody that lives in the Village on a voluntary basis? Trustee Oliver stated yes.
18 Trustee Blackwell stated it would be up to them to do that. He stated with electronic
19 communication now, we need to step out of the 20th century and jump into the 21st century. It's a
20 paradigm shift for not just us, but all these municipalities, State government, the city, the County,
21 everybody is trying to make that conversion and transformation over to where we are now. He
22 stated to communicate with people nowadays, if you aren't texting them or emailing them,
23 nobody is calling anybody because half the folks don't even have a home phone anymore. We
24 have to figure out a way and say, "Okay, let's send something out to all the residents" and say,
25 "We are interested and heavily concerned with you being fully advised about all activities that
26 occur in the Village that would be of interest to you. Consequently, we are asking if you would
27 be interested in submitting an email for your household residents that could be used to
28 communicate directly with you regarding any activities, events, et cetera, or even in emergencies
29 within the Village. We have a small and unique group of residents here. And most are greatly
30 interested in being fully advised about activities within the Village. Please forward this
31 information into us with your water bill."

32
33 President Pro Tem Pennington stated I think we have a way of capturing emails already. That's
34 something we need to check with the front office folks. I think they are capturing emails already.
35 I don't know how many we've got. I think we can check.

36
37 Village Administrator Payton stated there's your expert right there. That's what he does for a
38 living. Trustee White stated your idea, it's really valiant. You never just ask somebody, "Why
39 don't you just give me your email?" I understand where you are coming from. We have a great
40 Administrator who I'm confident that I can work with to make this happen. I'd like to see us
41 hitting well North of 70% of our households on a regular basis.

42
43 Trustee Oliver stated one way you can do that is what I did here on a very small level. If you are
44 conducting events and you put it on YouTube or whatever, you have to register. In order to
45 register you have to give them your email address.

46

1 Trustee White stated there's a number of different ways. Trustee Blackwell stated so you are
2 saying you guys have plans to do it. Trustee White stated we are going to work on those plans.
3 Village Administrator Payton stated I have some ideas that would be included as part of the
4 newsletter and using QR codes and so forth. There are different approaches. There are different
5 things that appeal to different people. The person who bought an Oldsmobile is the one that is
6 most likely to look at an ad. You can take a multi-faceted approach whether its senior citizens
7 that are afraid, they want some enhanced security, you have something on that. Provide your
8 phone for text purposes, disclaimers. Somebody with kids, with the schools, for Homeowners
9 Associations, we need a multi-faceted approach.

10
11 Trustee White stated you cannot ignore the demographics. As much as I make my living in
12 digital, the reality is probably 40% to 50% of our residents barely know how to hit the backspace
13 key. It's about having a good mix, understanding who your audience is, and how you are able to
14 reach them. Following up on what I mentioned earlier in terms of trying to offer up support for
15 all of your individual efforts from the CRC, I think the other thing that will benefit all of us is, I
16 think overall we're a little late in terms of trying to garner support. I've done events from a very
17 young age. I got to tell you, you've got to build enthusiasm, excitement, and interest. You need
18 more than two or three weeks when you are really trying to garner some interest in what you are
19 doing. You can do it. You've heard of "Pop-Up Parties," where people find out an hour before.
20 Trustee Oliver stated and they work. They work well. Trustee White stated I will challenge
21 everyone, anything that's dealing with trying to get the message and engagement with the
22 community, from my standpoint, that's part of what CRC is for. Please know that you can
23 depend on us to help you with whatever it is you are doing. Let's try to start planning a few
24 weeks ahead so we can really maximize what we are able to do.

25
26 Trustee White stated in lieu of what you were talking about earlier in terms of developing some
27 activities with Chief Blasingame, one of the things that I'd like to talk to you guys about is
28 having a formal "Meet Our New Police Department" event sometime late spring. I think trying to
29 figure out how to put something like that together might be a great opportunity for us to
30 collaborate on something. Trustee Oliver inquired of Chief Blasingame, graduation and all of
31 that will be over with all of our officers? Chief Blasingame stated yes. Trustee White stated I will
32 follow-up with both of you so we can start trying to coordinate that.

33

34 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

35

36 **Park District Garden Plots** - Trustee Oliver stated I want to follow-up on something that
37 Trustee Watkins mentioned at our last Board Meeting. She indicated that the Park District was
38 advertising for the garden plot. President Burke indicated a desire to get one of these. I went in
39 and got one of these. It is \$30.00 for a garden plot of about 12 x 12 or something like that. It
40 dawned on me because of a conversation that this Board and I had about this Group Home that is
41 across the street from me. This is more of the higher functioning Group Home, of the Group
42 Homes that are in our Village. These people are out walking around, trying to find something to
43 do. Often getting into trouble and maybe leaving and having to be brought back to the Group
44 Home. I told you about this one gentleman who I bought a vest for and having him water the
45 strip along 207th, and you all told me "Stop that," spanking my hand.

46

1 My wife and I have sponsored a garden plot for that Group Home. They are excited about it.
2 They won't get started until May. These are the kinds of things that kind of help to bring in
3 people who are really not part of the community, but to make them feel like they are part of the
4 community. I just wanted to throw that out there. This guy still has something to do and he will
5 be able to participate.

6
7 President Pro Tem Pennington inquired could you please keep us informed as to how that
8 develops? Give us updates from time to time on the progress of those that are working the plot.
9 Trustee Oliver stated we will take photos. We'll take videos.

10
11 Village Administrator Payton inquired are there any benches or anything out there? Trustee
12 Oliver stated yes, it's the park. It's a beautiful area actually. They have a playground for the kids.
13 There's an open area where you can do a lot of different things, basketball courts. President Pro
14 Tem Pennington stated you are talking about Tolentine. Trustee Oliver stated yes. It has always
15 been an issue, at least at the beginning of this park was an issue because the people that wanted
16 to walk East of Governors Highway to the park had no way of getting there unless they were
17 navigating and taking their life at their own risk because Governors Highway is no joke. People
18 driving at 50, 55, 60, 65 down that route. Once you get in there, it is just really pretty. In the
19 summer they have the water park and all of that kind of stuff too.

20
21 **Blood Drive at Sergeant Means Park** - Trustee Oliver stated my wife and I have started a
22 Blood Drive. The Blood Drive is extremely important because there is such a significant
23 shortage of blood at this particular time, and there has been all during COVID. There is a great
24 need. I know that in a lot of communities there is just not a whole lot of participation. Last year
25 we conducted one at the Park District. It was pretty successful for our first venture. This year on
26 Saturday, April 23rd and Sunday, April 24th, we re having this Blood Drive again. This time it is
27 being sponsored by NBC, Channel 5, the Olympia Fields Park District, the Black Employees
28 Network of NBC, and Versiti Blood Centers. This will be held at the Sergeant Means Park from
29 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. on Saturday, and 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday.

30
31 This is really in memory of my daughter who really needed blood transfusions during her
32 treatments. She hated it. But she knew the importance of having this blood. So, for any of you
33 that will be interested in providing your pint of blood, this would be a nice way to help others in
34 the community.

35
36 Village Administrator Payton stated let me have that information and we can send out an alert on
37 that also, and send it out to all of the Homeowners Associations and let them spread the word.

38
39 Trustee Finley stated it has been in my heart to say this for a while now. When we talk about our
40 school, we talk about it from the prospective of what this Board must do, Public Safety issues,
41 that sort of thing. I would like to ask us to be careful and caring in how we talk about our school
42 to preserve its larger intent, it's larger accomplishment. So many kids, and so many new
43 teachers, and so many people are working with and against all sorts of forces. They are doing.
44 Kids are learning. People are graduating. To talk about a problem, it's not to accidentally
45 characterize the entire population of being less than what it actually is. I grew up in a
46 neighborhood on the West side of Chicago. And when people talked about the West side, they
47 never saw us, you know, the families, the kids, thriving. They only talked about "the problem."

1 We grew up pretty much invisible without the support. Even now, as a grown, grown adult, when
2 I say, “I’m from the West side of Chicago,” some people want to know what gang was I with, or
3 some other sign of badness. I don’ think anybody ever intentionally means harm, but a body like
4 this is important, and that is our school. I think we need to be careful and caring.

5
6 President Pro Tem Pennington stated especially with regard to what that school is doing. It is
7 now a STEM School. It’s an academic center and we should focus on that, I believe, even more
8 so than we have in the past. That’s my comment. Trustee Finley stated thank you.

9

10 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

11

12 President Pro Tem Pennington inquired of Ms. Zigras whether or not she is aware of any Public
13 Comments. Ms. Zigras stated we did look for Public Comments and there were none.

14

15 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

16

17 **Appointment – Ron Vasser – Public Safety Committee** - President Pro Tem Pennington stated
18 Resignations and Appointments. I have no Resignations noted. I do have an Appointment. As
19 Village Administrator Payton announced earlier, we have Mr. Ron Vasser who has asked to be
20 appointed to the Public Safety Committee. This man’s résumé is stellar. CBS Emmy Award
21 Winning Producer. He’s quite an individual and a cowboy too, I might add, which is unusual but
22 not surprising.

23

24 You all had a chance to read over his curricula vitae, as well as his application.

25 **Motion by President Pro Tem Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Accept the**
26 **Appointment of Mr. Ron Vasser to the Public Safety Committee.**

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

28

29 **ADJOURNMENT:**

30

31 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee White to Adjourn the Board Meeting of**
32 **April 13th, 2022, at 8:55 P.M.**

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

34

35 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43