

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**  
2 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **Held on April 17, 2023**  
4

5 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The  
6 meeting was called to order by Village President Sterling M. Burke at 7:00 P.M. The assembly  
7 recited the Pledge of Allegiance.  
8

9 Present: Trustees – Oliver, Pennington, (Via Telephonically), Blackwell, Finley and White  
10 Village President Sterling M. Burke  
11 Village Administrator/Chief of Staff, Drella Savage  
12 Executive Administrative Assistant/Director of Communications/Deputy  
13 Village Clerk, Jessica Washington in for Village Clerk Stephanie Mills  
14 Village Attorney, John Murphey  
15 Department Heads: Chief of Police Derrick Blasingame; Assistant Finance Director Lisa Fifer-  
16 Smith; Building Commissioner John McDonnell; Public Works Director  
17 Terry Lusby, Jr.  
18

19 Absent: Village Clerk Stephanie Mills and Trustee Watkins  
20

21 Village President Burke stated Bill Pennington is in the hospital. He very much wanted to attend  
22 the meeting tonight. We made arrangements for a police officer to be at the hospital with him, so  
23 that he could vote for this historical event.  
24

25 Officer Jonathan Pennington stated that Trustee Pennington is able to hear and understand the  
26 meeting. He just gave a verbal that he is present. Village President Burke stated we have a  
27 quorum.  
28

29 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
30

31 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Minutes of the**  
32 **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting, as presented.**

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

35 **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION AND REDEVELOPMENT**  
36 **AGREEMENT WITH THE OLYMPIA FIELDS, COUNTRY CLUB**  
37

38 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Blackwell to Open the Public Hearing at 7:05**  
39 **P.M.**

40 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**  
41

42 Village President Burke stated I want to say that I really appreciate the Olympia Fields Country  
43 Club and all their action. We have several members from the Country Club here. I'm sure they  
44 all would have something to say. He stated to start off, I would like to have Mr. Murphey, the  
45 Village Attorney, come forward and introduce this process.  
46

1 Mr. Murphey stated tonight the Board will be asked to consider three separate Ordinances, but  
2 they are interrelated. The first Ordinance is an Ordinance authorizing an Annexation and  
3 Development Agreement that lays out the terms of the conditions and promises going back and  
4 forth, which will result in the annexation of the Olympia Fields Country Club property to the  
5 Village of Olympia Fields. Assuming the Board passes the Ordinance authorizing the  
6 Annexation Agreement, there will be two implementation Ordinances which follow. That's why  
7 I say, "They are separate, but all interrelated."  
8

9 The second Ordinance is an Ordinance annexing the property. When a municipality brings  
10 property into its corporate limits it passes an Annexation Ordinance. And under the terms of the  
11 Ordinance, that property comes in to the Village, and ultimately a map or a plat of annexation is  
12 then recorded in the office of what use to be the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, now the  
13 County Clerk. Let me mention, that one of the things we discovered during the course of the  
14 negotiations and why the agreement is called "Annexation and Development Agreement," is that  
15 there are three large parcels. He stated what we think of as the two golf courses are the parcels  
16 being annexed to the Village. What would be the far, southwest portion of the property, which is  
17 all essentially vacant, is in Olympia Fields. Don't know why. Don't know how long it has been  
18 there. It has been verified that that one aspect of the property, not really part of the active golf  
19 course is in Olympia Fields. The agreement calls for the annexation of the two unincorporated  
20 parcels. The agreement will apply to both, what's coming in and what's already in.  
21

22 The third Ordinance is an Ordinance zoning the property newly annexed to the Village. That has  
23 gone through Public Hearing and received a favorable recommendation from our Commission.  
24 The Ordinance, in terms of the zoning of the Olympia Fields Country Club property is what I'm  
25 going to call "Status quo." The Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Annexation  
26 Agreement allow for the continuation of the existing uses. And allows them to have certain  
27 additions to their property. The Club has certain residences for members. That will be  
28 incorporated into the Village. There are plans on the books for additional type of housing for  
29 either members or for guests of members who would come to play golf at Olympia Fields. That  
30 is the essential zoning aspect.  
31

32 In terms of the business terms, Olympia Fields Country Club from a code enforcement  
33 standpoint, from a building code enforcement or compliance, is treated the same as any other  
34 individual or corporate citizen of the Village. The essential business terms are that the Village  
35 will now have the enforcement authority in terms of things like code compliance, looking at new  
36 plans, and make sure they comply. One of the benefits to the Village from this agreement in  
37 tangible terms is the fact that this business generates sales. Sales generate sales taxes, which will  
38 now go to our Village. That's an important economic aspect of the agreement.  
39

40 The other aspects of the agreement are pretty normal. Turnaround time on permit applications,  
41 things of that nature. Nothing out of the ordinary. As an outsider, let me just wrap up. I'll take  
42 any questions and then you can open the floor to the public. In spite of this youthful appearance,  
43 I've been working on this matter for 20 plus years. I am very, very, very proud to be part of a  
44 wonderful agreement where a recognized, prestigious golf course/country club like Olympia  
45 Fields Country Club has recognized the value of joining and becoming part of an extremely  
46 prestigious, well-run, professionally managed municipality which is an example to not only this  
47 area, but all metropolitan areas. And I am very, very proud to be a small part of that. I will take

1 any questions from the Board members and then you can accept public comment. The law  
2 relating to the Annexation Agreement requires this Public Hearing.

3

4 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Murphey, Part 2 where we have the Ordinance annexing the  
5 property and the plat. It sounds like there is some combination of the PIN Numbers that will take  
6 place possibly downtown, or how does that work?

7

8 Mr. Murphey stated no. Ordinarily, if this were farmland that we were going to annex and then  
9 subdivide, new PIN Numbers would be created, tax divisions. We don't anticipate that because  
10 these properties already have three very large single PINS. I don't anticipate there being any  
11 need to create new PINS because Olympia Fields Country Club is not subdividing ownership.

12

13 Trustee Oliver stated John, you know that I am the Liaison for Public Safety. The question that I  
14 would have relates to that. Trustee Oliver inquired of Mr. Murphey, the contract that we have  
15 with the Chicago Heights Fire Department, how does that relate to this annexation? And what  
16 costs would that have to the Village?

17

18 Mr. Murphey stated let's talk about Public Safety generally. Once the property is annexed that  
19 becomes within our police department's jurisdiction. In terms of fire service, for many years  
20 Olympia Fields Country Club has had an agreement with Matteson. That agreement is still in  
21 effect. We've met with Chicago Heights. We expect that this property will be absorbed. It should  
22 not be a cost factor. When we were going through the negotiations, the Village is part of  
23 SouthCom, as is Matteson. I asked SouthCom for a run of all calls to the Olympia Fields Country  
24 Club for the past two-years. The call volume is very small. Our expectation is that we will get  
25 recognition from Chicago Heights that this will be part of the responsibility of the Chicago  
26 Heights Fire Department. The Olympia Fields Country Club has a termination clause in their  
27 agreement with Matteson. They won't exercise that until we've got Chicago Heights locked in.  
28 The good thing is that we get our service with Chicago Heights through SouthCom, and  
29 Matteson is part of SouthCom. In terms of the calls, it will be seamless. Ultimately, it will be  
30 absorbed into our Intergovernmental Agreement with Chicago Heights.

31

32 Village President Burke stated as you guys know, we just recently renegotiated the contract for  
33 fire with Chicago Heights. I hinted at that time that we were looking at possibly doing this, and  
34 with Mayor Gonzalez it didn't seem to be a problem. Legally, John has been talking to T.J.  
35 Somer their corporation counsel. I don't think it should be any problem. And considering the  
36 number of calls that they have, there should be no issues whatsoever. Mr. Murphey stated they  
37 will not be naked. They won't terminate Matteson until we have Chicago Heights locked in.

38

39 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Murphey, so far as the streets are concerned with the  
40 maintenance of their particular footprint, it has been explained that the Country Club will still be  
41 responsible for snow removal for instance, cleaning streets, paper pickup, et cetera. We aren't  
42 really getting involved in that level.

43

44 Mr. Murphey stated that's correct, because we would not have any responsibility unless there  
45 were a dedication of right-of-way. There is no dedication called for here. So, those remain  
46 private streets, a private operating cost for the property owner.

47

1 Village President Burke stated anything inside the gate is their responsibility. Everything outside  
2 of the gate as already setup is our responsibility. Trustee Blackwell stated thanks.

3

4 Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. Murphey, as I understand it, the public safety force, the Country  
5 Club employees will stay in place. Mr. Murphey stated whatever private security they have will  
6 remain in place to coordinate with our police department. Trustee Finley stated so when someone  
7 with real authority is needed to arrest someone, then our police will be called. Mr. Murphey  
8 stated that would be us. Trustee Finley stated that is great.

9

10 Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. Murphey do you know exactly how big our footprint is going to  
11 be expanded with this proposed annexation? Mr. Murphey stated it is kind of funny, because  
12 when you look at the map Sandra, the course kind of bisects our Village. So, in affect an  
13 elliptical shape donut hole is going to be filled. That's the best way I can describe it.

14

15 Village President Burke stated we are 2.94, and we will go to 4. Trustee Finley stated we get  
16 more tree canopy. Mr. Murphey stated that's right. Trustee Finley stated that's a good thing. I  
17 just came from the Beautification Committee meeting. We are excited about that.

18

19 Mr. Murphey stated the Club President and Manager are both here. We've met on any number of  
20 occasions the last four or five-years. The negotiations have always been cordial. Naturally, the  
21 Olympia Fields Country Club is interested in Cost Benefit Analysis, as we were. We reached the  
22 point where everything meshed. Trustee Blackwell stated nice job. Good job.

23

24 Village President Burke opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment at 7:18 P.M. He stated  
25 the first person I'm going to call on is Mike Lewis. As the Chairperson of our Economic  
26 Development Commission, as well as a long-time member of the club, I just thought you would  
27 have an opportunity to say just a few words, and to introduce the members of your club who are  
28 physically here. And as a long-time resident of the Village of Olympia Fields, very active  
29 member of our Economic Development Commission, and this is an economic development  
30 opportunity, I just thought you might want the opportunity to say something and introduce your  
31 fellow club members.

32

33 Mr. Lewis stated I can't tell you how happy I am that you chose me to do this. We have with us  
34 Bill McErlean who is the President of the Olympia Fields Country Club. Adam Nickerson who is  
35 the General Manager of the Country Club, and Mike Green who is also a long-time member. He  
36 is a long-time south suburban resident and both of them are residents of the Village of Olympia  
37 Fields. They live on the grounds. They are here to represent the club and basically give you more  
38 insight and perspective. I will try to be brief so they have time to do that.

39

40 I have kind of a unique position as Stoney said. I have been a resident of the Village of Olympia  
41 Fields since 1984. I also have been a member of the Olympia Fields Country Club. I joined in  
42 2004. I also have the unique responsibility of being on the Board of Directors of the RTA. I was  
43 appointed by Toni Preckwinkle. I've been in that role since 2013. The last point that Stoney  
44 raised, I've been a member of the Economic Development Commission since 2013 as well. That  
45 is probably most germane to what is happening tonight.

46

1 We have worked at the Economic Development Commission and it started about six-years ago,  
2 but it ramped up over the last five-years for a long-term economic development strategy, which  
3 Trustee Howard White is very familiar with. We talked about sustainable, economic growth and  
4 really capitalizing on some of the key elements of what our community has to offer. We talked  
5 about the beauty and the sustainability of what our community has to offer to the broader  
6 Chicagoland area. We talked about the strength of Franciscan Healthcare Systems which has  
7 invested mightily in our community. We talked about Olympia Fields Country Club which is a  
8 magnet that draws much attention, positive attention, to our community. Attention we couldn't  
9 buy for a million bucks when tournaments and other major events come to the club. We talked  
10 about it in terms of how can it benefit the Village of Olympia Fields and its residents. And it was  
11 all positive.

12  
13 In fact, when you think about this, this is one of the few things I would call a "Triple header." It  
14 benefits our community, the Village of Olympia Fields. It benefits the Olympia Fields Country  
15 Club. And it benefits the County of Cook, because President Preckwinkle has long had a  
16 philosophy where the local municipality should be responsible for services for any imbedded  
17 entity like the Olympia Fields Country Club because it is just more efficient. If you think about  
18 it, she has to have resources spread all over Cook County to try and cover various entities which  
19 may be located north, or south, or east, or west.

20  
21 Olympia Fields Country Club was established in 1915. The Village was established in 1927. We  
22 have both been here for the last 100-years together side by side, and now we are coming  
23 together. This is a triple win for everybody. I'm proud as John was to be a small part in this  
24 process. I appreciate Stoney giving me a chance to come up and express these words to you all.

25  
26 Mr. William McErlean stated I'm also proud to have been involved in this negotiation. I haven't  
27 spent as much time as John has, but it has been over two-years. And finally, after 108-years, I'm  
28 hopeful at the end of the night we'll be neighbors and members of the Village of Olympia Fields.

29  
30 From our point of view, Cook County is an enormous geographical scope. As Mike mentioned,  
31 President Preckwinkle has encouraged entities like us to explore annexation. I don't mean to be  
32 critical of Cook County because they have such a huge geographic area to service, and we're not  
33 a major construction project, though our construction projects are important to us. We were  
34 looking to unite with a Village that is well-managed, and very efficient which this Village is. We  
35 wouldn't be interested in a Village that wasn't well-managed. Olympia Fields is a natural fit for  
36 us to have a more personal relationship with an entity that's a mile away from us, where we  
37 know the people. We can call them and they can call us. It would be much more efficient for our  
38 construction and for our future development of the project.

39  
40 I think I mentioned the last time I was here, being in unincorporated Cook County, what's our  
41 community outreach? Who is our neighbor? Now, we have neighbors. And we intend to be a  
42 good, corporate neighbor. We're looking forward to that relationship. I agree with John and with  
43 Mike, I think this is a win-win situation for all involved. I think from the club's point of view, we  
44 get a certainty in managing our construction projects with an efficient, well-managed Village that  
45 we can count on. And that we are able to develop our property in a reasonable way according to  
46 your Codes and your building statutes. I think it's a good day after 108-years of being in

1 unincorporated Cook County that we would join the Village of Olympia Fields. And we're proud  
2 and anxious to do so.

3

4 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. McErlean what's the frequency of your major golf outings? I  
5 know you don't get one every year. Is that like a three-year cycle? Four-year, five-year cycle?

6

7 Mr. McErlean stated it depends. Mike Bruni is a Senior Executive with the Western Golf  
8 Association. We have a partnership with them. We did the 2020 BMW. We're doing the 2023  
9 BMW. We hope, and expect that we will have another BMW, whether it's three-years, four-  
10 years, or five-years that remains to be seen. But we have that expectation. We also have a good  
11 relationship with the PGA. There are other tournaments that we host. We host the University of  
12 Illinois Invitational which attracts several hundred people. It's also pretty nationally well-known.  
13 I'm sure there will be other occasions for us to support amateur events, as well as major  
14 professional tournaments. We're hopeful to have another BMW. But whether it's four-years,  
15 three-years, five-years, it has not yet been decided.

16

17 Trustee Blackwell stated I have one other question. I think you had talked about this before. So  
18 far as security, I think there were questions from the public and from all of us about safety,  
19 security issues with the major outings. So, you have your own inner security. I think you had said  
20 when the PGA comes in, they bring additional security. Is that correct?

21

22 Mr. McErlean stated that is absolutely correct. Athletes are very expensive talent. They want to  
23 protect their product and their athletes. We keep our security onsite to deal with what is going on  
24 in the clubhouse and to help them. But they have their own private security that's fairly  
25 extensive. They will cover the tournament starting even before the tournament begins. Trustee  
26 Blackwell stated thanks.

27

28 Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. McErlean regarding security, are there any other government  
29 agencies involved? FBI, or anybody else with the tournaments?

30

31 Mr. McErlean stated with the tournaments, no. Mr. Bruni stated no, the FBI. Mr. McErlean  
32 stated oh, the FBI is, okay.

33

34 Village President Burke stated when there is a major tournament, and we've already worked on a  
35 plan for this one and for the LPGA, and for the last BMW. We met eight-months ahead of time  
36 to sit down and lay out a plan for parking. We talked about exactly what all the communities  
37 around us, what responsibilities they will have. That has already been laid out and planned on  
38 how that is going to happen. The Western Golf Association people have been here. We have a  
39 meeting in the next couple of weeks again. But we go through this. And we have gone through  
40 this at least three times that I've been here to make sure that all the agencies are in place to do  
41 what needs to be done.

42

43 Trustee White stated I just want to extend an invitation because you mentioned in terms of you  
44 guys being a part of the community. Under President Burke over the last couple of years we've  
45 really taken some aggressive efforts involving our community relations and communications  
46 with residents. I just want to extend an open invitation, that if there are any objectives or any

1 plans that you guys have that you would see a benefit in coordinating with us, please do reach  
2 out to President Burke. I'm sure he will relay the information to us to engage with you guys.  
3  
4 Mr. McErlean stated I'd be glad to do so. I've seen your Village communications, which goes  
5 back to my conclusion that this is a well-managed Village.  
6  
7 Village President Burke inquired whether or not there were any other comments from the  
8 audience.  
9  
10 Mr. Christopher Watts stated many of you, some of you know me. I've been a resident about 30-  
11 years or so. I've heard quite a few things here tonight. Mr. McDonnell asked Mr. Watts to speak  
12 into the mic. Village President Burke stated you are really addressing us, not them. Mr. Watts  
13 stated I have some questions. Maybe I can just ask you and then you can ask them. Village  
14 President Burke stated certainly.  
15  
16 Mr. Watts stated Bill mentioned community outreach that he's thinking of having. Could Bill  
17 perhaps give us a sense as to what kind of community outreach he has in mind?  
18  
19 Village President Burke stated community outreach is not their responsibility anymore than any  
20 other citizen in the Village. They are like the Walgreens. They are going to be like Batter &  
21 Berries. They don't have a responsibility. There is nothing in this agreement that talks about any  
22 responsibility for them to do any outreach. That's our responsibility to do what we can to help all  
23 of the citizens of the Village of Olympia Fields. This agreement, and the way this is set up, is all  
24 about how we would welcome them to be part of our Village, and at the same time do those  
25 kinds of things that is going to be beneficial for the town. Our brand, their brand, that's how we  
26 are kind of looking at it. There is no obligation on their behalf to outreach to any special  
27 programs or anything like that. That's not part of their agreement.  
28  
29 Mr. Watts stated I was not intimating that there was an obligation on their part. I can have the  
30 court reporter, the reporter here, clerk, read back his comment with respect to "we plan on  
31 initiating community outreach." That's what he said. So, I'm not imposing that. I just heard that.  
32 I was wondering if perhaps Bill could inform us as to what kind of community outreach he had  
33 in mind.  
34  
35 Village President Burke stated if you want to do that, or do you want to have Mike Bruni  
36 comment on those? Do you have anything specific that you had in mind?  
37  
38 Mr. McErlean stated one is, once we're in the Village that we need to know what type of  
39 community needs are out there that we could possibly be involved in. But off the top of my head,  
40 such as sponsoring youth athletic teams. Participating in drives the Village may have. For  
41 example, blood drives and things like that. Food Banks. If there is a Food Bank that the Village  
42 wants to promote, or there is a church or a school in the Village that's promoting a Food Bank,  
43 those would all be something that we would want to participate in.  
44  
45 Mr. Watts stated so there is nothing on the hopper now. But perhaps in the future. Mr. McErlean  
46 stated correct. Mr. Watts stated that Attorney Murphey mentioned that he has been working on  
47 this for 20-years. That's a long-time. Obviously, it hasn't been 20 continuous years. But he has

1 been in the mix on this for 20-years. He indicated that the agreement had conditions and  
2 promises. I have a question. Board members, how long have you seen this agreement? How long  
3 have you had to study the agreement?  
4

5 Village President Burke stated I've been working on it with two previous Presidents. I think half  
6 the people in the Village of Olympia Fields think that the Olympia Fields Country Club was part  
7 of the Village. I can think of one letter that I received from somebody that said, "I've lived here  
8 for a couple of years and I'm not sure why no one from the club has asked me to join." I said,  
9 "Well, it doesn't quite work that way."  
10

11 Village President Burke stated as I understand it, you live right down the street from the club.  
12 I'm sure you know, and recognize, since your wife was a former clerk for the Village, that it is  
13 not part of Olympia Fields. It has been a long-time expectation or wish that we would join. Our  
14 histories go back that we all started at the same place. The Country Club has been in existence  
15 for 108-years. They did not necessarily set out to set up a town around the Country Club. That  
16 came a little bit afterwards.  
17

18 Mr. Watts stated I am not asking that question. I appreciate your history. What I'm asking is, this  
19 contract, this agreement, the one that exists now that you are going to vote for, how long have  
20 you looked at it? How long have we had this agreement in our hands as a Village?  
21

22 Village President Burke stated it has gone back and forth for a couple of years. Mr. Watts  
23 inquired and there have been no changes? Village President Burke stated oh, yes. We negotiated  
24 back and forth about things. Mr. Watts stated but you have a final agreement now. Village  
25 President Burke stated yes. Mr. Watts inquired how long have you had that agreement? Village  
26 President Burke stated maybe a couple of months. What's your concern? You get two minutes  
27 and you are way past that time. Mr. Watts stated oh, really. Village President Burke stated I am  
28 trying to find out what is it that you are concerned about? Mr. Watts stated let me just speed  
29 through some of these other questions then. I just want to make the record that I'm not sure, and  
30 the citizens aren't sure how long you've had to review this. Village President Burke stated what  
31 I'm trying to find out is what is your objective? Mr. Watts stated I'm not finished with my  
32 statement. How long you've had to consider the conditions and promises that are in this  
33 particular agreement. Village President Burke stated there are no promises. The way the  
34 agreement is set up, it is set up that they are responsible for doing basically the same thing that  
35 everyone else in the Village of Olympia Fields is responsible for.  
36

37 Mr. Watts stated so when Attorney Murphey said that the three Ordinances have certain  
38 conditions and promises, they don't. Village President Burke inquired of Mr. Murphey whether  
39 or not he wanted to address that.  
40

41 Mr. Murphey stated why don't we get all the citizens comments, and maybe we can answer them  
42 all at the same time. This is Public Comment. This is not a Q & A between the resident and the  
43 Chair. Mr. Watts stated oh, okay. A comment that I would make is, I would hope that this  
44 annexation, that there have been some studies that you are going to annex property that's  
45 unincorporated perhaps. Have there been any studies done on the land, the EPA, that type of  
46 thing? Have you done any studies?  
47

1 Village President Burke stated have any studies been done? I'm going to say, no. Mr. Watts  
2 stated no. Village President Burke stated the agreement is based on the fact that they're here. The  
3 agreement is based on the Rules and Regulations that we have that exist in the Village already.  
4 They've had an opportunity to look at those Rules and Regulations. We've looked at the  
5 Ordinances that we have in place. As we went through some of the Ordinances, we said, "Okay,  
6 here are the things that we want to make sure that we do."  
7

8 Mr. Watts stated I don't want to take much more time. Your answers have been much longer  
9 than my questions. I do have one final point here. I know annexation is kind of like a gift that  
10 keeps on giving. There are short-term costs. There are long-term costs associated with bringing  
11 in another property. I have so many questions here. I assume that we've already determined that  
12 there are no liabilities associated with bringing the Village together. Village President Burke  
13 stated no. Mr. Watts stated I figured that. I guess that's about it. Oh, one last thing. I know what  
14 we're getting. I've read the documents about taxes, and sales tax and stuff. We've kind of been  
15 together, side by side for over 100-years. What do they get? Have they told you what they get?  
16 Village President Burke stated here's a write-up. Mr. Watts stated yeah, I saw that. Village  
17 President Burke stated that write-up pretty much explains. And what Bill McErlean explained is  
18 that they're looking for local permitting capability for things that they would like to do, where it  
19 may take as much as a year to get some things done if they go down to Cook County. There are  
20 some things they may want to do. They had a fire. It took them almost a year to address all the  
21 things they needed to address with that fire. And since we are right here, it's very easy to walk  
22 right around the corner like the other 1178 people in the last year or so that needed to get a  
23 permit from John McDonnell.  
24

25 Mr. Watts inquired so an organization that can work with a PGA Tournament, US Open, Ladies  
26 Open, whatever, they're having a problem getting repair orders done? Village President Burke  
27 stated yep. Mr. Watts inquired would it be fair to say that perhaps they could have maybe just  
28 hired a Project Manager to get that stuff done? Let me finish. Project Managers just go down to  
29 the County Building, 118 North Court and they just sit there and they just get the job done. I just  
30 think that annexation, it certainly can't be just for that. Annexation is a pretty bold step to get  
31 your shingles fixed.  
32

33 Village President Burke stated we've heard your comments and we appreciate your comments.  
34 Mr. Watts stated I just want it to be on the record some of the concerns that other people have  
35 also. I'm trying to channel a handful of people's concerns. Village President Burke stated okay,  
36 fine. Mr. Watts stated thank you very much for your time. Village President Burke inquired  
37 whether or not there were any other comments.

38 **Motion by Trustee White, Second by Trustee Blackwell to Close the Public Hearing at 7:40**  
39 **P.M.**

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

41  
42 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

43  
44 **Report of the Village President – Sterling M. Burke** – Village President Burke stated next, we  
45 are going to go through and vote on the three Ordinances that we need to approve.  
46

1 **Ordinance #2023-10:** An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Annexation and  
2 Development Agreement (Olympia Fields Country Club) [First & Second Reading]

3  
4 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee White to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-**  
5 **10, An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Annexation and Development**  
6 **Agreement for the (Olympia Fields Country Club) on First and Second Reading.**

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

8  
9 **Ordinance #2023-11:** An Ordinance Annexing Certain Property to the Village of Olympia  
10 Fields (Olympia Fields Country Club/PIN 31-13-303-043-0000 and PIN 31-13-200-001-0000)  
11 [First & Second Reading]

12  
13 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-**  
14 **11, An Ordinance Annexing Certain Property to the Village of Olympia Fields the**  
15 **(Olympia Fields Country Club/PIN NUMBER 31-13-303-043-0000 and PIN NUMBER 31-**  
16 **13-200-001-0000).**

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

18  
19 **Ordinance #2023-12:** An Ordinance Zoning Property in Accordance with an Annexation  
20 Agreement (Olympia Fields Country Club/PIN Nos. 31-13-200-001-0000, 31-13-303-043-0000  
21 and 31-24-100-004-0000) [First & Second Reading]

22  
23 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee White to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-**  
24 **12, An Ordinance Zoning Property in Accordance with the Annexation Agreement for the**  
25 **(Olympia Fields Country Club/PIN Number 31-13-200-001-0000, and PIN Number 31-13-**  
26 **303-043-0000, and PIN Number 31-24-100-004-0000).**

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

28  
29 Trustee Oliver inquired what is the difference between Ordinance No. 2023-11 and Ordinance  
30 No. 2023-12? Those series of PIN Numbers, what's the difference? I know John talked about it.

31  
32 Mr. Murphey stated the Ordinance annexing includes the two big pieces. You see the two big  
33 pieces there? Trustee Oliver stated yes. Mr. Murphey stated I mentioned that the piece down  
34 lower, which would be actually south of 207<sup>th</sup> I think, is already in Olympia Fields. The  
35 annexation Ordinance only brought in the two unincorporated parcels PIN Number. But the  
36 Zoning Ordinance zones all three, because now all three pieces are in the Village.

37  
38 Village President Burke stated the piece that is kind of around Maynegaite, that's already part of  
39 Olympia Fields. There is a piece down there. Welcome to the Village. (There was a round of  
40 applause).

41  
42 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

43 **April 2023 Bills for Approval - \$612,469.36**

44  
45 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee White to Approve the Payment of the Bills**  
46 **for April 2023, in the Amount of \$612,469.36.**

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

1 **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET**

2  
3 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Blackwell to Enter into the Public Hearing**  
4 **on the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget at 7:46 P.M.**

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

6  
7 Village President Burke stated we are at the end of a three-month process to go through and  
8 figure out, and plan for what the Budget for 2024 is going to look like. You have all had an  
9 opportunity to sit through the process. The staff has gone through and met on numerous times  
10 starting back in January on what our budgetary needs are. We've debated it. We have a staff  
11 meeting every other week. We talk about what those things are that we need to do. We review  
12 the expenses and the Budget that we've had in the past.

13  
14 The next part of the process was to have a meeting with the Finance Committee. And the Finance  
15 Committee and the Board met in a workshop to debate and discuss the Budget. After that, it was  
16 posted for the public to see what that Budget looks like. We are at the point now that we are  
17 going to discuss the actual codifying of that particular Budget. Before we get into that, I want to  
18 go over the three guiding principles that we have been managing the Village with over the last  
19 three-years. The first principle is to maintain the nature of the Village of Olympia Fields,  
20 greenery, safety. We have one of the safest communities there is in the southern suburbs. We  
21 have beautiful landscape. Property values are up. That was our number one thing that we wanted  
22 to try to do.

23  
24 The number two thing that we wanted to do was improve the efficiencies of our government.  
25 This year we put in a new ERP System. We put in new electronic water meters. We put in a new  
26 tower to be able to read the water meters every five-minutes to make sure that there is no  
27 leakage. We are in the process of going through having monthly billing. We have improved the  
28 police department in terms of the scales. We have three women now working for the Village that  
29 are police officers. They are doing an outstanding job. The police department gets "Thank you"  
30 lunches from the Homeowners Associations. That's pretty good that they have a lot of  
31 confidence in our police department.

32  
33 We've had multiple events all over the Village on projects where we worked with the police for  
34 National Night Out. We've had concerts. There is a lot of activities that has been going on in the  
35 Village. Everybody is very happy about that. Even though all the things that we've done, our  
36 expenses are down for Fiscal Year 2023, 9% from what they were the year before. That's  
37 phenomenal. Our revenues are up 3%. So, a 3% increase in revenue without raising taxes. I guess  
38 now it has been three months, we've held the levy that we passed that we did not increase the  
39 levy for the Village of Olympia Fields. We are the only taxing municipality in all of southern  
40 Cook County that did not raise the levy in light of all of the increases and inflation that has been  
41 going on. We did not raise the levy. Our rainy-day fund if you want to call it, instead of being  
42 40% that is set aside by our policy, it is 104%. That means, if we don't get any more money, we  
43 have enough money to go for a whole year to take care of all of the business that we need to take  
44 care of in the Village of Olympia Fields.

45  
46 We've done a wonderful job. My hat is off to all of the team members that have participated  
47 from the staff. Drella, Mr. McDonnell, the police department, Betty Zigras, Lisa, everybody has

1 done a great job. Where we are right now is at a crossroads to say, “What is next year’s Budget  
2 going to look like?” We may come in almost as much as \$900,000.00 under Budget this year.  
3 That’s going to give us extra money to do a lot of other things. Our new Public Works Director is  
4 clambering to spend some of that money for new trucks and things like that. I just said, “Cool  
5 down just a little bit. We need to do more things for the Village.” Instead of \$1,000.00 for every  
6 Homeowners Associations, we are going to give them \$3,000.00 to help each Homeowners  
7 Association to have more money to help beautify their neighborhood. We are going to put \$1.4  
8 million into doing new street paving and new swales. We have a whole list of things in our  
9 Capital Project list that “we” the Board, “we” the team have put together things that we want to  
10 do. What we have before us is the actual Budget for next year. All of you had an opportunity to  
11 participate and look at it. Village President Burke inquired of Lisa whether or not she wanted to  
12 add a few comments or highlights on that Budget.

13  
14 Ms. Fifer-Smith stated it sounds like you touched on a lot of things. Village President Burke  
15 stated that Lisa is the Assistant Finance Director. Betty Zigras, as most of you know, has been  
16 out having two knee surgeries, one on each knee. Lisa being a CPA, an Auditor, and a bunch of  
17 other things, she has 20-years of experience, is our Assistant Finance Director. She has been  
18 very, very valuable with Betty being out recently.

19  
20 Ms. Fifer-Smith stated you touched on a lot of the highlights. A couple things that I will add is  
21 because of previous years surpluses, we had surpluses from 2021 and 2022. This is the packet  
22 that we come up with after we go through all of the process that our President talked about. It is a  
23 pretty extensive process. This is our product. The first page that I’ll talk about is our General  
24 Fund Summary. It has Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 actuals, as well as the Fiscal Year 2023  
25 Budget and Projections, and then our 2024 Budget is at the end of it. That is what we are  
26 working towards is putting together this 2024 Budget. I will mention that Fiscal Year 2023, we  
27 project to have an operating surplus of \$1.1 million. That is before our transfers. She stated for  
28 Fiscal Year 2024 we are proposing a \$369,000.00 surplus. She stated with Fiscal Year 2021 and  
29 2022 operating surpluses being \$1.7 million, we’re looking at total operating surplus over the last  
30 three-years to be expected to be over \$2.8 million. I think that is very good. Trustee Blackwell  
31 stated fantastic.

32  
33 Ms. Fifer-Smith stated to get into a little bit of the specifics about the 2024 Budget, from the  
34 General Fund standpoint, we had some sales tax. We are looking to increase that by \$108,000.00  
35 this year because we have some new businesses in the Village, Batter & Berries, the new gas  
36 station, as well as the animal hospital coming. We also had the second part of our ARPA Grant  
37 come through for 2024.

38  
39 Village President Burke stated if you remember we had a Lift Station over by the post office that  
40 was in very bad shape. Some people asked the question, “What about Grants?” Because our  
41 finances are in such great shape, we don’t always qualify for Grants. However, we do get Grants.  
42 That Lift Station cost over \$660,000.00 to replace. Half of it was paid with a Grant we got last  
43 year. The other half of the money will be paid for out of the Grant money that we expect to get  
44 from ARPA this year. We do get Grants. We do pay for those things that we need to do. In the  
45 Capital Project Plan, in that Plan itself it has additional monies to do other projects above and  
46 beyond that. I wanted to make sure that people hear about the Grants. We do get Grants.

47

1 Ms. Fifer-Smith stated in the Budget document you will find a summary for all funds. The first  
2 one that I discussed was the General Fund. There is also a summary for all funds. This report  
3 shows the operating surplus before transfers for all the Village Funds in addition to any budgeted  
4 transfers. It's a priority for our Administration that the Village self-fund projects without issuing  
5 any debt. It's important to know that the surpluses in the proprietary funds are also needed to  
6 help fund, identify future projects for the Water and Sewer Fund.

7  
8 Some of the things that we are looking to use some of these surpluses for that we've accumulated  
9 are road resurfacing. That's one of our big-ticket items for our Capital Projects Fund. Also, we  
10 have other Lift Stations, and fixing the swales. There are a lot of things on the list. I know that  
11 one of the things that Stoney talked about was keeping our Village looking nice and beautiful. I  
12 think one of the things that we had talked about also was beautification. I think we've increased  
13 the Budget for that as well. If you want to look at the Budget, we have copies at the front  
14 window. And we have it posted on the website.

15  
16 Trustee Blackwell stated Lisa, thank you so much. You and Betty did an outstanding job. I've sat  
17 through quite a few Budget Workshops. I've never seen one done as professional, as tight, and  
18 consistent as you guys have put together. I want to put out a special thanks to Trustee  
19 Pennington, our Finance Liaison who kept everything rolling in the right direction to get us to  
20 where we are. Our President is fairly modest, but a lot of kudos goes to President Burke who is  
21 really a financial wizard. He won't tell you he is, but he is. He not only put together many of the  
22 things that have saved us money, because we're talking about money and funds here. He cut a lot  
23 of waste. He brought in smart people to handle our Budget. He also pinpointed the types of  
24 things that were priorities that this Village in many, many years had never really, really done. So,  
25 kudos to him, to the Trustees as well who participated. All of the Department Heads who  
26 weighed in and gave their input about the types of things that were needed. So, we really went  
27 down to the level where they have their employees talking to them about what's important to get  
28 done. So, the team was working very efficiently and very well.

29  
30 Trustee Blackwell stated special thanks to Drella Savage who steered a lot of the Committee and  
31 workshop meeting, and kept everything moving forward. as well as she and Bill both. Stan King  
32 did an excellent job. He worked with you guys and Betty to crunch all these numbers down.  
33 They made perfectly good sense. You guys were able to actually answer all the questions that  
34 everybody had, including my crazy questions. I appreciate that. I think the Village is in the best  
35 shape it has been in probably a long-time. As President Burke pointed out, relative to many of  
36 the other municipalities we are really in good position with our Bond Rating, et cetera, and  
37 we're not borrowing money and we're not running heavy debts. That's the only thing I have to  
38 say about the work that you guys did, very good.

39  
40 Trustee Finley stated the other Department Heads, Building and Police, Public Works, have  
41 worked with a lot of passionate energy to not only figure out how to get things done, but how to  
42 not only fix things, but how to put us in a position where we were ahead given what it is that we  
43 have in the way of our ambitious intent to continue to build the resources of the Village. I've  
44 seen that. I believe, this is the first time you have been before us. Ms. Fifer-Smith stated I think  
45 so. Trustee Finley stated I just want to say, "Betty rocks for real. We know that. But it's so good  
46 to see you. So good to see you." So, thank you.

47

1 Village President Burke inquired whether or not there were any comments from the public.  
2 There were no comments from the public.

3 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley to Close the Public Hearing on the**  
4 **Budget at 8:00 P.M.**

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

6

7 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

8

9 **Betty Zigras – Finance Director**

10

11 **Ordinance #2023-13:** An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget of the Village of Olympia  
12 Fields for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year [First & Second Reading]

13

14 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-13,**  
15 **An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget of the Village of Olympia Fields for the 2023-**  
16 **2024 Fiscal Year.**

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

18

19 **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police**

20

21 Chief Blasingame stated that he did not have a report this evening.

22

23 **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

24

25 **Sign Permit Application:** Approval of the Sign Permit Application of Shiree Bush-Giblin – Mr.  
26 McDonnell stated before you tonight, I have a request from Shiree Giblin who is a resident of the  
27 Maynegaitte Subdivision. She’s requesting to put signs up throughout the community at several  
28 places to advertise their “Join Us for An All White Stepping in the Fields Dinner Party” at the  
29 Olympia Fields Country Club on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It has the ticket prices on the signs and so forth.  
30 They’ve had these signs up before in the community for this same event before. They also  
31 operate another event not associated with Olympia Fields. Village President Burke stated the  
32 Christmas Party.

33

34 Mr. McDonnell stated the signs will be up for one-month from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are  
35 several locations. There are about eight locations in the Village. Certainly, at the entrances, and  
36 only at entrances where the subdivisions’ locations are approved by them also.

37 **Motion by Trustee White, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Sign Permit for Shiree**  
38 **Bush-Giblin for her “All White Stepping in the Fields Dinner Party.”**

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

40

41 Village President Burke stated everybody is aware that Batter & Berries is officially open. The  
42 wait is an hour plus. The food is just fabulous. Hopefully, when we meet in May, the new Quick  
43 Run Gas Station will be open. The only thing holding them up right now is the electricity. Any  
44 idea when the Little Caesars will be open?

45

46 **Update on Little Caesars -** Mr. McDonnell stated no. They have a similar situation with the  
47 power as the Quick Run Gas Station did. That will be Shell Gasoline at the Quick Run Station.

1 Little Caesars also has a problem with ComEd power there. ComEd just received the IDOT  
2 Permit to put power underneath Governors Highway to feed those two areas. The process is  
3 moving rather quickly. A lot of the ComEd contractors were pulled off because of the latest  
4 storms and flooding that have been surrounding us throughout the United States. The actual  
5 engineers that usually just drive around in cars were pulled off of their projects to go to different  
6 areas throughout the country and help with those other citizens that were having problems with  
7 flooding and no power in their areas to help out to assist. I believe most of them are now back in  
8 this area working. It should be going pretty well. Last week they were doing the horizontal  
9 boring under Governors Highway for that line. It should be pretty soon.

10  
11 **Update on VCA Animal Hospital** - Village President Burke stated we talked about the new  
12 animal hospital going behind CVS. I think we're pretty close to getting ready to start doing some  
13 boring and digging holes. Mr. McDonnell stated that's right. We should have our complete  
14 MWRD approval within the next couple of weeks. We already have IDOT approval to do the  
15 work that has to go on underneath Lincoln Highway. You may see a lane closure here or there  
16 for a day. It should be a pretty quick and swift project.

17  
18 **Terry Lusby, Jr. – Public Works Director**

19  
20 **Update on the Lead Service Line Inventory Report** - Director Lusby stated that DPW  
21 submitted our initial Lead Service Line Inventory Report to the IEPA last week per the State  
22 Law that passed January, 2017. Under The Lead Service Line Replacement Notification Act  
23 102-0613 we are required to provide this inventory. We did our initial one. Our complete  
24 inventory will be due April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2024.

25  
26 Village President Burke inquired whether or not everybody knew what Director Lusby was  
27 speaking about. Trustee White stated he was going to ask him to translate. Village President  
28 Burke stated you go ahead and explain to them what this lead pipe thing is all about. Basically,  
29 we don't want to get caught in the EPA and have another Flint. Explain what the step process is.

30  
31 Director Lusby stated that the Lead Service Line Replacement Act was put into place to prevent  
32 incidents like Flint happening. There are a lot of service lines that have lead in it in our drinking  
33 lines for water. We are required to do an inventory on all of the lines individually within the  
34 Village. All municipalities are required to do this. The initial inventory was due this past April  
35 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated with that being said, all individualized residents have to be identified and  
36 submitted to the IEPA. The next complete inventory is due on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. On that report,  
37 we have to identify the condition and the material of each service line within the Village of  
38 Olympia Fields.

39  
40 Trustee Oliver inquired of Director Lusby, how often are these tests conducted? Director Lusby  
41 stated they're conducted according to the municipality schedule. Trustee Oliver inquired of  
42 Director Lusby before this one that you are doing now, when was the last test we had? Is this the  
43 first one? Village President Burke stated this is the first time. Director Lusby stated this is the  
44 first. Village President Burke stated the IEPA said, "You will do this." Trustee Oliver inquired of  
45 Director Lusby, and you've identified some that have lead in it? Director Lusby stated currently,  
46 the best way to identify it right now is based on the year the home was constructed. The year that  
47 they are using as a baseline is 1986. Anything older than 1986 is considered lead. Anything

1 newer is considered copper. The Federal Government issued a decree in 1986 that all service  
2 lines had to be copper. You couldn't use lead anymore. Trustee Oliver stated I see.

3

4 Village Administrator Savage stated and just so that you know, under the Clean Air, all of the  
5 different Acts that have come out across the United States for infrastructure, and energy, and the  
6 economy, and just making our environment safer, have now trickled down to the states, and the  
7 states are trickling down to the municipality. They give us I think it is until about 2032 to start  
8 coming up with our plan, our Budget, and how we go about doing this. It is very intricate.

9 Director Lusby has already started working being very proactive in getting that plan completed  
10 by working with the residents. As you know, the water is treated every day by the responsible  
11 officer in charge. That's why your water is good. So many places all around the country, just like  
12 asbestos, asbestos was in houses and tile for years, so was lead and water. But because of the  
13 treatment that we have to go through, and what the Water Reclamation does in terms of cleaning  
14 the water, you get good drinking water. But now they want to get that out of the pipes. Every  
15 year they also send random samples to the IEPA to make sure that we are at the correct quality  
16 that we need to be at. This is something new, which is the replacement of lead lines. Director  
17 Lusby was very proactive in making sure we got our first report in on time. That's a more  
18 general report. And as he said, next year he has to do a very specific report, house by house, pipe  
19 by pipe.

20

21 Director Lusby stated given our size, we're in the bracket where we get approximately 17-years  
22 to replace all of our lines.

23

24 Trustee White stated Director Lusby, just so I'm clear, in terms of what you guys are inspecting,  
25 it is just the service lines up to the house not including the pipes inside? Director Lusby stated it  
26 is the full-service line. Village President Burke stated to the house, but not inside the house.

27 Director Lusby stated right. Trustee White stated I don't know if you would know the answer to  
28 this question. I know in certain areas within the Village, like where I'm at in the Original  
29 Village, you have homes that have been here well before most of us were born. Is there any  
30 guidance regarding residents, how they should go about checking? I know in our house we still  
31 have galvanized pipe within our house, as much as I cannot stand it. I'm sure that's the case for  
32 most of the housing stock at least in our area. Is there any guidance that you're able to provide,  
33 or where we should look for guidance in terms of advising homeowners in terms of how to at  
34 least, assess what their potential vulnerability might be based on the age of their home?

35

36 Director Lusby stated yes. We are working on a plan right now to layout an Assessment Program  
37 so homeowners can identify the service line in their homes. I'm pretty sure it's going to be web  
38 based. We are going to try to see about possibly utilizing some QR Codes, and possibly even  
39 some postcards. We are definitely going to need the help of our residents to assist us in assessing  
40 all of the homes in the Village.

41

42 Trustee White stated I think just to follow-up on this, I think one reason why it might be really  
43 important for us as a community to look at is as our average age starts to decrease and you start  
44 having younger families coming in, that is definitely going to be something that young families  
45 would be potentially concerned about in terms of moving into the area.

46

1 Village President Burke stated and we ought to make them aware of it. There has been a lot of  
2 discussion among the staff about it is always going to get back to who is going to pay for this.  
3 When the Feds come along and say you got this unfunded mandate, this is another reason why  
4 we had to control our expenses and grow our economic base so if they don't pay for this, then we  
5 will be in a better position to pay for it ourselves if we have to do that. We want to do everything  
6 we can to make sure that we get the money that they say to do this. There are going to be a lot of  
7 communities that just aren't going to be able to fund to do this. Isn't that funding meeting like  
8 the 26<sup>th</sup>? Village Administrator Savage stated it is next week. Village President Burke stated we  
9 are going to meet with the Feds next week to see, "Okay, you want us to do this. We want to do  
10 this. But where's the money? Show us the money and how you are going to get the money."  
11 Otherwise, if you have to go and replace maybe half of the lead lines underground going to  
12 peoples' houses, that's like \$30,000,000.00, \$40,000,000.00. This could be, talking about  
13 \$30,000,000.00.

14  
15 Director Lusby stated it will cost somewhere in the neighborhood, just a brief estimate to throw  
16 it out, somewhere between probably \$12,000,000.00 to \$22,000,000.00. It's something that we  
17 definitely have to plan for.

18  
19 **Consumer Confidence Report** - Director Lusby stated the next thing that I wanted to mention is  
20 our Consumer Confidence Report. This is our Water Quality Report that's due annually. It is  
21 going to be due on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I just wanted to let everybody know that we are getting started on  
22 this. We've received high marks in the past, and looking forward to receiving high marks in the  
23 future.

24  
25 Trustee Blackwell stated just a brief question regarding the lead issue. I know you got some  
26 figures that are kind of estimated figures you are throwing out there. Has anyone completed a  
27 comprehensive assessment to have, at minimum, a ballpark figure as to the number, or length, or  
28 diameter of lead pipes that are currently in the Village? Are we making a presumption based on  
29 the year? I know you mentioned a year that everything that was built before that is that  
30 automatically presumed to be lead, or could some of that be copper?

31  
32 Director Lusby stated some of it could be copper. That's just a baseline based on the law. Like I  
33 said, the report that we just recently submitted, we have approximately 1800 accounts. We  
34 submitted all of them as unknown. But we did submit each address. That was the important part.  
35 They are trying to get the exact address of all the homes so they can identify what's what.

36  
37 Trustee Blackwell stated and these are the homes that were built before 1986. Director Lusby  
38 stated the date that they are using is 1986. Trustee Blackwell stated that would be a considerable  
39 number of homes in Olympia Fields. Director Lusby stated absolutely.

40  
41 Trustee Oliver inquired of Director Lusby does that only pertain to residential homes? What  
42 about businesses, annexations? Director Lusby stated that pertains to everything. Something else  
43 that we have to highlight in the report is high risk facilities. We have approximately 23 high risk  
44 facilities. Those are like child care, hospitals, dialysis centers. Those are areas that they consider  
45 high risk and we need to identify and replace the lines there first.

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**TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

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

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Trustee Blackwell stated that John McDonnell covered everything that I was thinking. Nice job, John.

**Human Resources** – Trustee Blackwell stated for Human Resources, I think Human Resources has done some interaction with staff through our Chairman, Monica.

**Public Works/Beautification – Trustee Finley**

**Public Works** – Trustee Finley stated the Public Works staff recently attended a Water Pumping Station Control Training Class, and Utility Locating Training Class. All of the staff fully participated in both hands-on training classes to gain a better understanding of our applications, new and developing skills to increase productivity in performance, which is Terry’s way of saying, “We did good with that.”

**Vollmer Viaduct Clean-up Days** - Public Works had a meeting with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, and the Flossmoor Department of Public Works. We all agreed to perform our joint Vollmer viaduct clean-up day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, and August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. During these dates and times, Vollmer Road will be closed off between Kedzie and Western Avenue. The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways will post signage to notify the public of this project three to five-days before the road closures. She stated for the record, you will see signs and more information about it as we get closer to those dates.

**Beautification Committee** – Mrs. Burke, Chairperson of the Beautification Committee, stated that April is a busy time for beautification. We have Earth Week, Arbor Day, and Clean-up Day. We have invited all of the subdivisions to participate anytime during the month for a clean-up in their own individual communities. That will be coordinated by our member, Edward Davis. They will work with Public Works to get the pickers, and the vests, and so forth.

**Village Clean-Up Day** – Mrs. Burke stated our Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We need lots and lots of volunteers to help us clean-up the Village. We will be meeting at the post office like we usually do. And then we will go out from there depending on the locations that we’ve identified to be cleaned up that day.

**Arbor Day** – Mrs. Burke stated for Arbor Day we are planning to plant a tree on 203<sup>rd</sup> and Arcadian Drive in Arcadia.

Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mrs. Burke how do you sign-up? I can’t remember how we did it the last time. Mrs. Burke stated your HOA President is the coordinating person for your community. Edward Davis is in charge of everything. So, you can call Edward Davis directly too. The number for Edward Davis is: (708)-408-5394.

1 Trustee Finley stated I just wanted to point out that the first value of this Administration is  
2 protect the nature and the beauty of the Village. And the Beautification Committee is the most  
3 integral part of what it is that culls all of our Village resources together, specifically for that point  
4 and for that reason.

5  
6 Mrs. Burke stated we are so excited to have \$3,000.00 for our Beautification Grants this year.  
7 Thank you, thank you, thank you. Trustee Finley stated thank you so much, Arlene.

8  
9 **Public Safety/Police Pension – Trustee Oliver**

10  
11 **Public Safety Committee** – Trustee Oliver stated the Public Safety Committee met on April  
12 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We had three guests. One of the primary guest’s that was at our meeting and spoke  
13 was Darren Yarborough who is the Public Safety Director of the Franciscan Health Hospital. I  
14 want to give Chief Blasingame kudos, because he also arranged for the CEO, Ray Grady, to be  
15 present as well. When I wrote the agenda and sent it out, I just knew Ray was not going to come  
16 to this Public Safety meeting. I put it down anyway. He stated to my surprise he did attend.

17  
18 Ray Grady is the CEO of the Franciscan Hospital. I think he is on a mission. He is on a mission  
19 to do several things, to talk about the vision that he has as a CEO of the hospital. The challenges  
20 that he has within the hospital, including the emergency room. Many of you here in the audience  
21 probably know some of those challenges at the hospital. He spoke about all of those and what he  
22 is doing to remediate most of those. He spent a great deal of time talking about that. He is not  
23 only going to Olympia Fields, but he is going to have to go to all of the towns in the footprint  
24 that the Franciscan Hospital services. It was a really nice, good meeting and presentation that he  
25 provided.

26  
27 The crux of the matter was also having to do with Public Safety at the hospital. I will let Chief  
28 Blasingame talk about that portion of it.

29  
30 Chief Blasingame stated I met with the new Director of Public Safety at the hospital. We talked  
31 about some of the things that we could do to improve public safety at the hospital. One of the  
32 main things was investing in the FLOCK Cameras that the Village has invested in, and Wysteria  
33 has invested in those cameras. They wanted to know how could they pay for these cameras. We  
34 got together. We looked at some different Grants. There was a Public Safety Grant that the  
35 hospital could apply for. We applied for that Grant for the hospital to get the Grant. As a result,  
36 they are going to add four FLOCK Cameras to their property.

37  
38 We also have the clubs that you put on your steering wheel to avoid your cars being stolen. As  
39 everybody may know, or may not know, Hyundai’s and Kia’s are being stolen at a very high  
40 level because of a deficiency they have in their ignition system. We have those clubs. We offered  
41 some to the hospital because they had a vehicle stolen out of their lot. We agreed to give our  
42 extra ones to their employees so that they wouldn’t have the issue of having their cars stolen  
43 while they are at work. Those are just some of the things that we partnered with them to do in  
44 order to improve some of the public safety, and of course, support them in any way we can when  
45 they call us for assistance.

46

1 Village President Burke inquired of Chief Blasingame, when they get the FLOCK Cameras and  
2 they put those in, how many will we totally have? Chief Blasingame stated we will have 12 in  
3 the Village at that point. Village President Burke inquired whether or not everybody understands  
4 how the FLOCK Cameras work. Trustee Oliver asked Chief Blasingame to explain how they  
5 work.

6  
7 Chief Blasingame stated the FLOCK Cameras are cameras that are plate readers. If a car comes  
8 on to your property, if that vehicle is stolen, it will alert our police officers on their cell phones  
9 and on their laptops in their squad cars right away that a stolen car has entered the Village or the  
10 property. We know these kids are stealing these cars, going to another property right away with a  
11 stolen car, and stealing another car.

12  
13 As a matter of fact, because of the FLOCK Cameras, we had a hit at Vollmer and Crawford. One  
14 of our officers went to the hospital right away. The stolen car that was at Vollmer and Crawford  
15 was actually in the lot driving around. We didn't catch the car. It took off on us. We were able to  
16 avoid another car being stolen at the hospital. All of the FLOCK Cameras in the country, are  
17 connected to each other. If we just know the color of a car, we can put that color in and we can  
18 get all the black Toyotas that came through Olympia Fields in the past 60-days. We could track  
19 that car from Olympia Fields, to Matteson, Chicago Heights, Frankfort, wherever that car goes  
20 we can track it. That's how we end up solving a lot of our cases.

21  
22 Trustee Blackwell stated I have a question about this camera because I thought I understood it,  
23 but the more I hear, the more I see I don't quite understand all of it. I know I am not going to be  
24 able to be intricately interwoven into the scientific intricacies of how it all works, but my generic  
25 question is, who is monitoring this FLOCK Camera? It's a video that is ongoing, running and  
26 you can go back it sounds like and look at certain dates or times to identify. My second question  
27 is, so far as a stolen car, so a stolen car comes in. How would you know it was a stolen car? Do  
28 you get some sort of notice to look for license plate number ZP212 whatever? How does that  
29 work?

30  
31 Chief Blasingame stated the company that you purchased the FLOCK Cameras from, they store  
32 all the data. All of that data is connected to our LEADS which is our system that we use to run  
33 stolen vehicles if somebody had a warrant. If a car is stolen out of Chicago, the moment they put  
34 it into LEADS, when it hits one of those FLOCK Cameras, if it is in our town it will come up on  
35 our cell phones or our laptops. Anytime a car is in the system we all know it. If you have a  
36 warrant, and that vehicle is registered to you and you drive into our town, it will come up that  
37 you have a warrant and you are possibly driving that vehicle in our town.

38  
39 Trustee Blackwell stated so one other question. He stated say you are looking for a specific car  
40 that you thought might have been in an accident, so cars that enter into the quadrant of Olympia  
41 Fields from the four or six corners, are all those cars license plates captured in some sort of  
42 picture, or video, or something that can be traced back? How does that work?

43  
44 Chief Blasingame stated we had a vehicle homicide where a person left the hospital. It was late  
45 at night, walked out into the street and got hit by a car. The only thing we had from that vehicle  
46 was a paint chip about this big. Our Detectives took that paint chip, called Ford, Toyota, different  
47 companies. They were able to narrow it down to Toyota used that paint. Then they were able to

1 go back and look at the FLOCK Cameras at Route 30 and Crawford, because we knew the car  
2 came northbound from that area based on the accident and how they diagramed the accident.  
3 Once they looked at those cameras, they found a car that was that color in that timeframe. They  
4 were able to get that plate and we were able to make an arrest and get charges approved by the  
5 State’s Attorney. That’s how it works within 24-hours. Trustee Blackwell stated that was a  
6 homicide. Chief Blasingame stated yes.

7  
8 Village President Burke stated we got it solved in two-days. A lady just walked out of the  
9 emergency room. I won’t go into all of the issues. They were able to figure out what it was.  
10 Color, plates, car type, it is all in the database and they can start narrowing it down. He stated  
11 having a network around the Village, and then being in a network with all of the other towns  
12 around us, it gives us a pretty broad net to be able to see anybody coming within that. They have  
13 a radar all around us so we know.

14  
15 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame it takes pictures of the plate. Chief Blasingame  
16 stated yes. Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame does that tie into these Red Light  
17 deals we have? Chief Blasingame stated no. It’s another system.

18  
19 Trustee Oliver stated one of the other guest’s that we had at the meeting was Carl Hill. Carl came  
20 in to talk to us about a project that he had been assigned to as part of CRC, which is to increase  
21 the number of Code Red participants. Public Safety and CRC are going to be collaborating to  
22 increase those numbers. You will hear more about it later.

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

25  
26 **Financial Report: February 2023 Financial Statements** – Village President Burke stated that  
27 Trustee Pennington does not have a report this evening.

28  
29 **Park District/Library Board – Trustee Watkins**

30  
31 Village President Burke stated Trustee Watkins is not here. There was no report in Trustee  
32 Watkins absence.

33  
34 **Educational Commission/Community Relations Commission – Trustee White**

35  
36 **Community Relations Commission** - Trustee White stated he brought up the Code Red. I have  
37 the responsibility of reaching out to Trustee Oliver, as well as Chief Blasingame. I should have  
38 asked you today. One of the things I wanted to do with CRC is, I want to establish a benchmark  
39 so when we say we want to increase engagement, I was wondering if you guys would have any  
40 approximate or exact number in terms of what our current subscriber rate is, so I can set a goal  
41 for us to achieve.

42  
43 Village President Burke stated we can provide that. I’ll say it’s around 45%. It’s not where it  
44 needs to be. Trustee White stated 45% is better than what I would have thought. Who can I reach  
45 out to get the exact number? Ms. Washington stated I can get that for you.

46  
47

1 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

2

3 Trustee Oliver stated let me take the opportunity since Bill Pennington is on the phone and he is  
4 suppose to be here, to just say a couple of remarks. Bill Pennington has been a Trustee for 16-  
5 years. This would have probably been his last meeting. I'm heartbroken that he is not here  
6 because I wanted to look him in the eye and congratulate him for a job well-done. He has had  
7 such a remarkable time spent trying to have the best interest of the Village at heart. And for 16-  
8 years he probably has been doing finances.

9

10 His role is going to be very hard to fill as the Finance Chair in the manner in which he did it. I'm  
11 going to miss sitting next to you and chatting with you. I wish you well.

12

13 Officer Pennington stated he says, "Thank you for that, Trustee Oliver."

14

15 Village President Burke stated we will have the changing of the guard at the May meeting. And  
16 we plan on having a reception for all the new people that have been elected. We will plan on  
17 doing something special for Bill at that meeting.

18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

20

21 Village President Burke opened up Public Comment at 8:40 P.M. Although, there were members  
22 of the public in the audience, no one wished to address the Board. Village President Burke  
23 Closed Public Comment at 8:41 P.M.

24

25 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

26

27 The Board did not have any Resignations nor Appointments this evening.

28

29 **ADJOURNMENT:**

30

31 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Oliver to Adjourn the Board Meeting at**  
32 **8:41 P.M.**

33

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

35

36 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.