

**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Held on August 10, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was cancelled, due to the fact the Board was in summer recess. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Village President Sterling M. Burke at 7:00 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Trustees – Oliver, Pennington, Blackwell, Finley and White  
Village President Sterling M. Burke  
Village Administrator/Chief of Staff, Drella Savage  
Village Clerk, Stephanie Mills

Absent: Trustee Watkins.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Dispense with the Reading of the Minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board Meeting and Executive Session; and to Approve the Minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board Meeting and Executive Session as Presented.**

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

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

**July Bills for Approval - \$392,918.63**

**Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Payment of Bills for July 2022, in the Total Amount of \$392,918.63.**

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

Village President Burke stated point of order, those were the July Bills which we approved via telephone and email. That was to rectify that vote.

**August Bills for Approval - \$329,605.97**

**Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the Payment of Bills for August 2022, in the Total Amount of \$329,605.97.**

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

Village President Burke stated I just want to make a comment for the audience. All these bills are circulated to all of the Trustees before we get to the meeting. Then they have the opportunity to go over those bills and look at them. Each one of the Liaisons has the responsibility to look at each one of those sets of bills for their department. It's not that we're just spending money. This is after a long process that we go through. We have to formally approve them as a group. That's what this is all about, what we just did.

1 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

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

4  
5 **Swearing in of Officer Nicholas Burris - Swearing-In of Promoted Officers - Village**  
6 President Burke stated the first thing that I want to do, since we have our finest police officers  
7 here, we have a new officer that we just hired. I want to swear him in. That is Officer Nicholas  
8 Burris.

9  
10 Village President Burke administered the oath to Officer Nicholas R. Burris as follows: “I,  
11 Nicholas R. Burris, having been appointed to the position of Police Officer, in the Village of  
12 Olympia Fields, in the County of Cook, the State of Illinois, do solemnly swear, that I will  
13 support the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of the State of Illinois,  
14 and all Ordinances of the Village of Olympia Fields, and that I will faithfully discharge the  
15 duties of the position of police officer to the best of my ability.” Village President Burke stated  
16 congratulations. Welcome aboard. (There was a round of applause).

17  
18 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

19  
20 **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police**

21  
22 **Special Commendation for Officers Rhonda Chatman and Chivon Dugan – Village**  
23 President Burke stated next, we have a Special Police Department Commendation for two of our  
24 finest officers. Village President Burke asked Chief Blasingame to give people the background  
25 on this.

26  
27 Chief Blasingame stated Officer Chatman and Officer Dugan were tagged to plan our National  
28 Night Out for police officers. They did an outstanding job. It was well-attended. We had between  
29 250 and 300 people attend the event. It was without a doubt the best National Night Out that we  
30 had so far. I thought it was only fair that we give them an award for the great work that they did.  
31 That’s what this is all about. Trustee Pennington stated Hear, hear. (There was a round of  
32 applause).

33  
34 Village President Burke stated those of you who had the opportunity to attend, you name it, there  
35 were bloodhounds. I never had really seen a bloodhound in person. They put on demonstrations  
36 of how they can actually find things. They had bumper cars for the kids and free pizza. They had  
37 other cars they could drive around. They had free ice cream from Shawn Michelle’s, our latest  
38 new business that just opened up. There were all kinds of things. This was truly an outstanding  
39 event.

40  
41 In the last 30-days, we had the Grand Opening for the Ice Cream Shop. We had like a thousand  
42 people. And then this National Night Out. As the Chief said, it was an outstanding event. They  
43 went out around personally and got donations. They knocked on people’s doors. They got all the  
44 businesses to contribute. I can honestly say, from everything I’ve heard, and what I see in the  
45 press, this was the best one of these things in the whole Southern Suburbs.

1 Village President Burke stated without further ado, an Olympia Fields Police Department  
2 Commendation is presented to Rhonda Chatman and to Chivon Dugan. Congratulations. (There  
3 was a round of applause and a standing ovation).  
4

5 The other thing that was really great about this, they've been here nine-months. They came in  
6 here like they were running the place. They took over. They just did an outstanding job. We are  
7 all very, very, very proud of them. All of the officers as a whole were participants in this. These  
8 two are the ones that were out raising the money and making sure that the public really, really  
9 understands how the relationship between the police and the Village of Olympia Fields is really,  
10 really important. Thanks again. (There was a round of applause).  
11

## 12 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

### 13 14 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT (Continued):**

15  
16 **Proposed Hotel Project Presentation – Mark Meyers** – Village President Burke stated next on  
17 the agenda, is a presentation about a project that we have been working on. Trinette is the  
18 Chairperson of our Economic Development Committee. He stated for about three, three and a  
19 half years, we have been working on trying to get a hotel developed in the Village of Olympia  
20 Fields. It's getting closer, and closer, and closer.  
21

22 Mrs. Trinette Britt-Johnson stated we are just excited. The Economic Development Commission  
23 has been working as the President said, for the last few years entertaining bringing a hotel to the  
24 community. We have a great presentation that we would like to introduce to you, Mark Meyer  
25 and his daughter, Emily Meyer from E&M Strategic Development.  
26

27 Mr. Meyer and his daughter Emily Meyer presented a PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. Meyer  
28 stated that you may have been looking for three-years, but I only found out about the opportunity  
29 several months ago. It's really a lot about timing. Thank you for having us here. We are excited  
30 about being here. This opportunity presented to us here in Olympia Fields is exactly what we  
31 seek out. We believe that hospitality exists. We believe there are opportunities and a lot of  
32 markets have been overlooked.  
33

34 Mr. Meyer stated I founded E&M after investing in hotels. E&M stands for Emily and Maggie,  
35 my two daughters. This is truly a family business. What we do is not unique. As you travel down  
36 the interstates you see hotels at more exits than not, and you wonder why one isn't in your  
37 community. We are going to do our best and bring it together so we can be here.  
38

39 I founded this in 2016. We look for opportunities for limited-service branded hotels. There are  
40 really three brands that have truly understood how to bring hospitality nationwide: Hilton,  
41 Marriott, and IHG. I would be willing to wager that everybody here has at least seen, if not  
42 stayed in a Hampton Inn, a Fairfield Inn, or a Holiday Inn Express. Those are three brands that  
43 when you stay in those hotels you earn points. It depends what you are going to that location for.  
44 If you are going for an overnight stay and it is going to be quick, and it is economical, you will  
45 stay at a Hampton Inn. It's the Hilton. Fairfield is the Marriott. IHG is the Holiday Inn Express.  
46 Those are all hotels on the same level. If you are going on a business trip you may stay at a  
47 Courtyard or a Garden Inn. Those are Marriott, and IHG. If you are going to be there for more

1 than one night, it's going to be maybe a Residence Inn which is Marriott. You might be looking  
2 at Homewood Suites which is Hilton. Staybridge is IHG. When you stay at enough hotels in the  
3 same family, you earn enough points that you can stay in a resort, or stay in downtown Chicago  
4 and not pay anything for that night. That's really what happens, especially if your company is  
5 paying for your night. The most valuable brand out there is a Hilton. That has the highest level of  
6 brand loyalty followed by Marriott, and then followed by IHG. In my world they are all  
7 somewhat similar. In each one, the trick is finding out what property we think will do the best in  
8 a given market. We look at experts.

9  
10 What is different about hotels than any other industry out there, is there is a Star Report that is  
11 published. We willingly support and provide information on our hotel performance. We own a  
12 Holiday Inn Express in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Every night we can go back over the last three-  
13 years, and we share what our occupancy level was and what our average daily rate was. So,  
14 competitors can see how our hotel is performing. I can tell you how the Holiday Inn is doing in  
15 Matteson. I can tell you how the Hampton is doing in Matteson. We can go back to the last 10-  
16 years, and we can see how that has happened. It gives us an opportunity to look into the future,  
17 and as I call it "Voodoo Math," and try to determine what hotel in a given market would  
18 potentially do. That's when we create the strategy. The strategy utilizing that Voodoo Math,  
19 looking into the future is difficult when there aren't hotels here to compare to. That's where we  
20 come in and use our expertise and call upon our partners. We get the opportunities through  
21 relationships. I found out about the opportunity in Olympia Fields. We don't advertise for our  
22 services. It's just word of mouth. The mayor has been doing a significant amount of outreach. He  
23 met with Bob Habeeb in the past, and met with other community members that have been part of  
24 hotel experiences. That's how I got the lead here in Olympia Fields.

25  
26 We look for the opportunities that exist. Here in Olympia Fields, it is kind of interesting. There  
27 are hotels. We had a Feasibility Study done which identified what the market is, and who would  
28 use the hotel. A lot is healthcare driven. There is a number of hospitals in the immediate area.  
29 The community as a whole, the golf course would be a draw. There is overflow from Tinley  
30 Park. I think we need to do something a little bit different. I just don't think a regular hotel like a  
31 Hampton Inn or a Holiday Inn is going to be what we would want to target for this market. I  
32 think we would want to target something a little bit higher end. Something that focuses on more  
33 than one night. So, something that has a small kitchenette and a full-size refrigerator. That's the  
34 reason that we are targeting an extended stay product. It's likely somebody is going to spend the  
35 night. They can spend one night. If they are going to be here for more than one night, have more  
36 than just one room, or have a spot where they can cook their meals in their room instead of going  
37 out to eat every night. What we are thinking of is the contract nurses. That would be a very big  
38 market here. Travelling families as they come to the area. Generally speaking, if they are visiting  
39 your home, I know my in-laws are welcome in my house for one night, but two or three nights,  
40 we kind of like to put them somewhere else for a little while. That's what they prefer as well.  
41 That's what we look for. In this market, since we are far enough off the interstate, that's kind of  
42 what my thought is. We are validating that now by having conversations with Hilton and with  
43 Marriott determining what our target is. I know we have our selected ideas. We also have to get  
44 their buy-in. We are franchisees.

45  
46 Our intent is to build the hotel and then operate the hotel. We would hire third-party management  
47 to operate the hotel. We do not want to open a hotel and then walk away from it. This is more

1 than an investment for us. This is a way that we are able to build something that I can be proud  
2 of. My kids' names are on this. I want to make sure it is something that we can feel good about,  
3 not just having a hotel that is making money for us, we want to have a hotel that is good for the  
4 community. We want to have a hotel that is good for the employees. We want to have a hotel  
5 that is good for the guests. We prove that my looking at our Guest Service Scores and Guest  
6 Loves. Everybody at Google has a wonderful time of telling you how wonderful business is by  
7 the Google rating or how bad it is. I would welcome you to take a look at our Google rating on  
8 our Holiday Inn Express in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. We also hire the best third-party management  
9 companies. We're looking at this being the same team. I mentioned Bob Habeeb earlier. He is a  
10 guru in the hotel industry. If anybody has been on Navy Pier, he did Offshore and the Sable  
11 Hotel. That was his vision. Bob has 28 hotels, six restaurants, and 1500 employees. If you are an  
12 employee of our hotel, you will actually be an employee of Bob's, which means that you don't  
13 work for me, you work for Bob, but you join a team of 1500 people. That means that you have  
14 healthcare. That means that you have a retirement plan. That means that you have vacation. That  
15 means that you have career advancement. We don't bring jobs to a community, we bring careers.  
16 I don't care what you did in the past. I want to know what you are going to do in the future. My  
17 GM presently doesn't have a high school degree. He makes six digits. He works his tail off. He  
18 earns every penny he makes. There's nowhere else I know that he could do this, unless he started  
19 his own business and hustled. This is what we do and what I feel good about.

20

21 However, this project would not happen but for the community's assistance. Hotels are very  
22 expensive to build. We interview communities as much as we look for opportunities. If we think  
23 a community will not help support the hotel, then we move on to a different location. We live in  
24 Evanston. I will never develop anything in Evanston. That's a foregone conclusion. They just  
25 don't want us there. It's not only that they don't want us there, they don't need to give the  
26 incentives that are required. He stated without TIF, and without coming up with a good financial  
27 structure for us to get through the first three-years and become profitable, it's just not financially  
28 feasible.

29

30 After meeting with the mayor and meeting with the team here, I think we've come to a good  
31 understanding that this is a process, not an event. It means that we have to practice open book.  
32 We have to go through; we have to show exactly where our numbers are. We will be happy to  
33 share them with you in the future. The trick is finding those opportunities.

34

35 What we do that is a little bit different than other developers, is we identify what the strategies  
36 are that close the gap. Subdivision for a Greater Good, Urban Revitalization, and Stakeholder  
37 Incentive. All different ways for us to get enough cash to offset the cost of development so that  
38 we can become profitable. I won't spend a great deal of time going into these strategies. He  
39 stated to give you an example, "Subdivision for a Greater Good," is what we did in Elkhorn,  
40 Wisconsin. The community made a \$5,000,000.00 investment. They purchased land. They put in  
41 infrastructure. We were given a 40-acre tract to bring real estate tax increment into the  
42 community. Now, with that \$5,000,000.00 investment, they took a piece of property that was  
43 bringing in \$7,500.00 a year in real estate taxes. Through our developments right now, they are  
44 \$425,000.00 and we still have 10-acres to develop. Due to State Statute, Wisconsin is different  
45 than Illinois. Urban Revitalization is a project that we are having groundbreaking on tomorrow in  
46 Skokie. It's under shovel and it is being built. We're doing a Homewood Suites in Skokie,  
47 Illinois. There, the community gave a \$13.5 TIF Note to us. Helped us offset part of the land cost

1 in addition to that going through the Development Agreement. All told, the community is  
2 supporting the project about 25% of a \$50,000,000.00 bill. It's a big partnership that we go for  
3 and that we utilize to bring a project to fruition. The next few slides go into that in a little bit  
4 more detail. This is Public Record so feel free to review it. We are here to stick around a little  
5 bit.

6  
7 We finally get to our process where we identify about how long this takes. I've been told by  
8 Mayor Burke that we need to throw our process out the window, and we need to expediate it a  
9 little bit. Nothing would make me happier than to break ground this year yet. I don't know if  
10 that's going to happen. In fact, I would be willing to wager it will not. Our goal is to try to come  
11 to an agreement, work through the Development Agreement, identify the brand, bring a project  
12 to the community that we can bring in front of the public body again that has the real meat to it.  
13 And quickly go through the process so that we can break ground come next spring.

14  
15 Again, I can't do this alone. We've identified a team here that would be working on the Olympia  
16 Fields Project. Obviously, myself and my daughter. Jacob Lee is a good friend of mine, and also  
17 our Chief Operating Officer. Bob Habeeb again. Claude Powers from Powers & Sons the  
18 General Contractor, he has expressed significant interest doing the project. Angelo Roncone  
19 would be our owners rep. Gregory Williams and John Benoit would split the architectural work.  
20 There's a lot that has to be done. We want to do it right. This is a big investment for us, and a big  
21 investment for the community. We look at this as a partnership. We look forward to doing the  
22 next steps.

23  
24 Village President Burke stated let's talk a little numbers here. Olympia Place over here in the  
25 Office Park where we've shown people before what we want to do with that, the hotel is like the  
26 anchor. Bob Habeeb as Mark said before, is in the restaurant business. We are looking at them  
27 helping to bring in a very upscale restaurant that is going to be adjacent to the hotel. This hotel is  
28 going to be somewhere around \$18,000,000.00. What we'll get out of this over a 20-year life for  
29 the taxing bodies is somewhere around \$23,000,000.00 in taxes. He stated with that  
30 \$23,000,000.00 in taxes, we will be able to help mitigate, keep down the taxes for the people  
31 who live in the Village of Olympia Fields. No other governmental agency actually does  
32 economic development. It's not the County. It's not the Township. It's the Village. We have a lot  
33 of things going. Some of you know about some of the things, and some you may not know about  
34 yet. He stated to get a revenue stream over a 20-year period, like \$22,000,000.00,  
35 \$23,000,000.00 to help mitigate taxes is a big deal, as well as being a cornerstone for what we  
36 want to do in this park over here.

37  
38 Village President Burke stated we have been looking at this for three or four years, like I said  
39 before. We've gotten kind of close. We've justified the hotel. Mark and Hans, who is his guy  
40 who puts together the Feasibility Study, they've gone through and justified the hotel. We know  
41 that this will work. We want to have an inbound/outbound hotel that has exclusively Olympia  
42 Fields name on it. You have to have some other things around it. The brands that Mark is talking  
43 about, these are all very quality organizations. They have great reservation systems. We have the  
44 utmost confidence that this is going to work. Our next step, this was just an introduction to the  
45 Board formally of what we are looking at trying to do. Our next step from our side is to work  
46 through all the numbers as much as we can, and parallel to developing a Developer Agreement  
47 between the Village and Mark's team. That is going to outline who does what, and when, and

1 what the dollars are going to look like. The Board, of course, will all have a vote on how that  
2 pans out. This is as close as we have ever gotten to having something like this that is going to  
3 really benefit the Village in the long run. This was just an introduction. Does anybody have any  
4 questions?

5

6 Trustee Blackwell stated thank you, Mr. Meyer for your presentation, you and your daughter as  
7 well. I just had a few preliminary questions, particularly about your background. I know you  
8 talked about some of your developments. How long have you been in the business of doing this?

9

10 Mr. Meyer stated in the hotel business. I invested in my first hotel in I believe, 2004. I grew up  
11 on a farm in Nebraska. My mom is still out on the farm. She gave up her saddle two years ago at  
12 82, she stopped riding her horse. What's interesting to me in growing up on the farm, is that it  
13 instilled an entrepreneur spirit. After college I went into banking. After I did stints with some  
14 personal banking, I started a mortgage bank in Peoria, Illinois. Got out of that in 2002. Went  
15 back and got an MBA. Found out what different things were possible. Through that, I had a  
16 series of businesses where I started investing in hotels. Got to know the developers of that. We  
17 started our project in Elkhorn, Wisconsin in 2016. It opened its doors in 2019. So, a three-year  
18 process to bring that into fruition.

19

20 One of the things I want to stress, is that I rely on the expertise of others. I'd be kidding you if I  
21 told you I knew everything about the hospitality industry. I don't. When I look at what has  
22 worked in the past, and I look at what Hilton has been able to accomplish in every major city in  
23 the United States, followed by Marriott, followed by IHG, I know it works. I listen to what they  
24 tell us. That's the reason the brands, they don't want to see a hotel close. They spend a great deal  
25 of time vetting a community, vetting a market, to make sure that they don't over saturate a  
26 market.

27

28 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Meyer, how many of these developments have you done? Mr.  
29 Meyer stated where I was directly in charge, this will be my third. Elkhorn, Wisconsin was a  
30 \$14,000,000.00 project. Skokie, Illinois is a \$52,000,000.00 project. This will be  
31 \$18,000,000.00. We're consulting with three others. Hampton Inn, there's one in Fox Lake and  
32 one in Pullman. I guess we are going to be a partial owner of those. I've invested in four other  
33 properties.

34

35 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Meyer so, what brought your interest to Olympia Fields? Mr.  
36 Meyer stated one, the leadership team here. Two, the lack of existing inventory and my belief  
37 that a market will work. Three, there is something more here too. This is an overlooked  
38 community. I wonder why others have not done this. I can't speak why they haven't. At this  
39 point, I am thankful to have it because it gave me the opportunity.

40

41 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Meyer, what is your expected footprint for the hotel? How  
42 many rooms? How many floors? Mr. Meyer stated one of the keys here is to keep it relatively  
43 small, so want to stay right around that 100-room, 110-room mark. That will employ between 16  
44 and 20 people just for the hotel during operations. There will probably be 70 construction jobs  
45 here created at the same time. We're anticipating it being occupied approximately 70% of the  
46 time. People paying anywhere from \$120.00 to \$160.00 a night room rates. This will be market  
47 driven. If you look online at our Holiday Inn Express, you'll see that on weekends we are getting

1 sometimes \$350.00, \$400.00 a night. That's happens because Jimmy Buffet is performing right  
2 up the street. So, when Tinley Park has a big concert, I imagine that driving room rates up.  
3 Supply and demand are where it comes into play.  
4

5 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. Meyer, amongst the three that you had spoken about, which  
6 company would you lean toward, or would you potentially favor just off the top? Mr. Meyer  
7 stated that's like asking which of your children do you love the most. We look at the market. The  
8 one that has the highest brand recognition is Hilton. So, you are foolish not to look there first.  
9 They also have a heavy footprint. There's a Hampton Inn in Matteson for instance. When we  
10 start looking at that, we look at what the opportunities are. Trustee Blackwell stated thank you.  
11

12 Trustee Oliver inquired of Mr. Meyer, with the way you described the 100-room hotel, how  
13 much land is the minimum you require to build that? Mr. Meyer stated generally speaking, three-  
14 acres is what is required. You want to keep it underneath four-stories. That means that you can  
15 use a wood frame, or a frame construction. That's what we consider probably the most common  
16 sort of construction. It's also the most cost effective. Once you start doing concrete, and you start  
17 bringing things up that way the brick and so on, it brings the cost up. I'd be happy to stick around  
18 after the meeting too. I would like to meet each of you. We'll hang around a little bit after the  
19 meeting. I know that there is going to be a lot of additional questions that come into play. One of  
20 the things that we look at when we do a build, we try to look at what the environment is, and try  
21 to utilize the materials that are recycled. We utilize a program called "C-PACE" as part of our  
22 financial deck. It promotes the building materials and the build to be as environmentally sound as  
23 possible. Higher grade of insulation, and really look at the sustainability of the building, as well  
24 as the practices after the hotel is built.  
25

26 Trustee Pennington stated you mentioned earlier that you look at the other established hotels.  
27 You are a franchisee. Mr. Meyer stated I am a franchisee, correct. Trustee Pennington stated you  
28 will be using your expertise with those franchises that you already have contact with in order to  
29 pick the most suitable facility for the Village of Olympia Fields. Am I correct on that? Mr.  
30 Meyer stated it is kind of like creating a marriage, right. On one side we have the franchises that  
31 would want to come to this market. Then we have what the community expectation is. And then  
32 we have what we think is going to work best.  
33

34 Trustee Pennington stated you would have to first establish contact with those franchisors to see  
35 if they have an interest in coming in here. Mr. Meyer stated correct. The three that I have spoken  
36 to, Cooper Gantt at IHG has significant interest to come into this market. They have consultants  
37 that tell them. We get a list from the three major brands identifying based on their flag, whether  
38 it's a Holiday Inn Express, Avid, Staybridge, Candlewood, those are all IHG brands. They say,  
39 "Yeah, we want to be in these markets." Each state has a representative that tries to push that.  
40 Cooper is the person that is in this area. I like Cooper a great deal. She would love to be in this  
41 market. Then there are others that are a little bit more difficult and they play a little bit harder to  
42 get. Scott Gold at Marriott for instance, he has been contacted. I am waiting to hear from him. I  
43 don't think he's going to be as keen on the market. Maybe he will after he sees all of our  
44 research.  
45

46 Village President Burke stated Mark has a relationship with the three people that he talked about.  
47 We started this whole venture talking, and starting out at a seminar with Hyatt, prior to the



1 pandemic. We justified the hotel. We had a study done, and then the virus hit. Hyatt on one hand,  
2 does not build, and they stand alone by themselves, first time out in untested. They are very, very  
3 conservative. The Hyatt people, after going around and around with them, they introduced us to  
4 Mark. He talked about Cooper. Cooper came down. I can't tell you how many people we have  
5 entertained, taking them around the Village of Olympia Fields, showed them what our plans are  
6 and what we are trying to do. Mark actually said, "Well, you know, we could do this hotel and if  
7 this works right, we could do another hotel." It's a matter of what comes first, the chicken or the  
8 egg. We have plans for the Office Park area. Olympia Fields has long been a destination. We  
9 want to take advantage of all the places and things around our community that serves as a  
10 destination. And they all are going to want to have someplace to stay. If we're going to continue  
11 that concept, a hotel is very important. We're very thankful that we have gotten this far. The  
12 proof is in the pudding. How we are going to bake the rest of the cake, we got all the ingredients  
13 to kind of pull it together, but it is going to take some negotiations to do that.

14  
15 Trustee Pennington stated I am happy to see that you have Claude Powers on your team. His dad  
16 and I, Mamon, are fraternity brothers. I am very familiar with Powers & Sons and what they  
17 have done not only here in the State of Illinois, but also in the State of Indiana, as well as the  
18 more regional developments that they've done.

19  
20 Mr. Meyer stated please understand, we only look at the people that we think can do the best job.  
21 Powers & Sons has a wonderful reputation in this marketplace. They have a significant amount  
22 of experience building hotels. Just because you can build an apartment building doesn't mean  
23 you can build a hotel. There are a lot of additional factors that come into play. Trustee  
24 Pennington stated they also build baseball stadiums too.

25  
26 Village President Burke stated Claude has been down here several times looking at things that  
27 we want to do. Bob Habeeb, who is the founder and manages these hotels, we've had numerous  
28 conversations with him over the years also, going all the way back to Don. He owns and operates  
29 the hotel that was just finished on Navy Pier, which is a big, big, big hotel. Bob really knows  
30 what he does when it comes down to managing these hotels. I personally know, it's a small  
31 world when you get to talk to people how you can talk to other folks who you can test to see if it  
32 is okay. He stated having Claude involved and Bob involved, in addition to the great things that  
33 Mark and Emily have put before you. This is not a fly by night operation.

34  
35 Trustee Finley stated Mark, something that you said in your presentation really resonated with  
36 me. It is that you are focused on providing careers, not just jobs in your organization. Here is  
37 why. We know that women have a hard time getting the full careers that they deserve in this  
38 industry. I know that HBCUs, historically black colleges and universities, I think there's 101, so  
39 we have maybe 12 or so have Hospitality Management Programs. Those students graduate. We  
40 graduate hundreds of students with that degree. Masters Degrees in this field and they can't get  
41 off the front desk. A commitment to being the place where your full career that pushes you into  
42 management, if that is something that you desire to do, can absolutely happen here. We could  
43 probably enjoy a reputation like Babson College enjoys, developing entrepreneurs who are going  
44 to take over family run businesses.

45  
46 Mr. Meyer stated that's what excites me about being part of having Maverick operate this hotel  
47 for us. We utilize First Hospitality Group for our property in Elkhorn. We're looking at Meyer-

1 Jabara for another project. All these folks have multiple hotels under their portfolio. We talk  
2 about the Navy Pier Project, but Bob also runs a Hampton Inn. It's located in Chinatown. He has  
3 the properties out in Rosemont. Nothing makes me happier than having a GM running a 100-  
4 room hotel. If he has the opportunity, he could run a 300-room hotel, and if he wants to go on  
5 that path and have more people underneath him, that opportunity exists. The same thing when  
6 somebody starts in housekeeping. Mindy, our property up in Elkhorn, do you want to tell  
7 Mindy's story?

8

9 Ms. Meyer stated Mindy got married last week to our head engineer in Elkhorn. She started  
10 doing regular housekeeping part-time. Now she is head housekeeper. That happened in three-  
11 years. Prior to that, she doesn't have a high school degree. She has three kids at home. She's  
12 busy, a divorced parent. She is part of the family at the hotel and we value her that way. It's  
13 really the hospitality experts that bring this community to these businesses and make these  
14 properties special. You can go to a Holiday Inn Express in Elkhorn, ours, or you can go to a  
15 Holiday Inn Express somewhere else. There can be a difference. It's the management company  
16 and ownership that makes that difference.

17

18 In general, we do have the experts. Olympia Fields has been identified by hospitality experts for  
19 three, four-years. What makes Mark and E&M different is he has 35-years of mortgage and  
20 finance experience, bringing the puzzle pieces together to make it a reality is what sets us apart, I  
21 think, in that regard.

22

23 Village President Burke stated Robert Habeeb manages Lewis Dobbs Hotels. He's the guy that is  
24 going to run this thing. He's a pretty trusted guy. He's the one that gave the presentation. He had  
25 about 100 minority businesses that Hyatt was trying to entice to get into the hotel business. Bob  
26 was the feature speaker trying to show people where the opportunity is, and the opportunity to  
27 make money.

28

29 Trinette, Mike Lewis, and I have spent time with Governors State University and with Prairie  
30 State in looking at trying to get them to put a program in place for hospitality, independent of  
31 what this is. Something local. The people who live out here, this is all part of the whole plan.

32

33 Mrs. Trinette Britt-Johnson stated I just wanted to reiterate that the brand brought Mark and  
34 Emily to us, a strategic difference, versus while we were out doing outreach looking for a brand  
35 to come in, in our outreach to the brands, the brand brought the developer to us. Somebody that  
36 the brand was comfortable with as a developer. I just wanted to make sure the Board understood  
37 that. Trustee Blackwell stated that is good to know.

38

39 Village President Burke stated thank you so much Mark and Emily for coming. Mr. Meyer stated  
40 I had my daughter say nice things about me. I've got a little bit of a big head right now. (There  
41 was a round of applause).

42

43 **Proclamation – Mrs. Connie Jones: 100 Years Old** – Village President Burke stated next was  
44 going to be a Proclamation. One of our neighbor's, Connie Jones, just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup>  
45 Birthday last week. Mrs. Jones and her family thanked the Village. They have asked that we not  
46 make a formal presentation. I can't pass up the opportunity. This is a momentous time. Anytime

1 somebody in our family hits 100 years old, we want to let people know about that. Trustee  
2 Pennington stated Amen.

3  
4 Village President Burke stated if any of you know the Jones Family, you might want to just send  
5 a note or stop by and wish her a Happy Birthday. Her birthday was last week, I think it was. We  
6 are not doing a formal Proclamation because the family did not want to do that.

7  
8 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER – Drella Savage**

9  
10 **South Suburban Metra Mass Transit District Dissolution Interpleader Litigation**

11 **Updates:** - Village Administrator Drella Savage stated first, I want to say that it is good to see  
12 everyone here tonight. I hope that all is well with everybody. The first report I would like to give  
13 is the South Suburban Metra Mass Transit District Dissolution. It is really called “MMTD.” You  
14 may have heard other information about it in the past, where it was a District that was taking in  
15 funds for several of the different Metra Stations who weren’t doing much work. It was an idea  
16 that it would be dissolved. It was dissolved.

17  
18 Our Village Attorney, Mr. John Murphey, did a litigation because the Village of Olympia Fields  
19 was left out of the original distribution of funds when they decided that they would dissolve, and  
20 these funds would be made available to the different Villages. We were very successful at the  
21 insistence of Trustee Blackwell and Trustee Pennington. It was their idea. They got together with  
22 Attorney Murphey. He filed the action. It all turned out well. All of the different Villages and  
23 municipalities, cities and towns agreed. It was in Chancery Court before Judge Thaddeus Wilson.  
24 There is an Agreed Order that is circulating. I think the Board has packets in their Board  
25 materials that has the Memo from Mr. Murphey that let’s them know that we achieved success in  
26 the litigation effort to obtain a fair share for Olympia Fields. He gave a summary. The bottom  
27 line is that Olympia Fields will receive in excess of \$56,000.00. Our Finance Director Betty  
28 Zigras will be getting the funds in and making the distributions to all of the different units. That  
29 will be our share of the funds. That’s good news. That is funds that will be added to our treasury.

30  
31 **Personnel** – Village Administrator Savage stated the next thing I have is a personnel update. The  
32 good news is that our Executive Administrative Assistant, Miss Jessica Washington, is here with  
33 us tonight. She is doing a wonderful job. She started July 1<sup>st</sup>. She comes to us with years of  
34 experience. She is a licensed attorney. She is also a marketing person who has written a lot of  
35 stuff for the American Bar Association. I hope that those of you who have not yet met Miss  
36 Washington will take the opportunity to do so this evening. (There was a round of applause). She  
37 has really hit the ground running. She has taken on HR responsibilities. She is the FOIA Officer  
38 and also the marketing officer. You have probably seen some excellent leaflets. If you do  
39 represent a Homeowners Association, you have probably received an introduction from her and  
40 materials about what is going on in the community. If you sit on any Commission or Committee,  
41 and you have had a meeting within the last month, you have probably seen her show up at your  
42 meeting as a Committee Liaison. It’s not that she will be at all of the meetings. She is our direct  
43 report back to the Village so we can stay connected, and we can be more aligned with all of our  
44 interests moving forward. The newsletter looks great. You will get an opportunity to see it online  
45 as well. She is a long-time resident of the Village of Olympia Fields.

46

1 Village Administrator Savage stated the not so good news, but it's not really bad news, but it's  
2 good news. I say not so good news because we hate to see him go. Mr. Jim Landini who has  
3 been the Director of Public Works for about seven-years, eight-years, has taken on a new job  
4 which will pay him very well in an industry that is true and dear to his passion. You will hear  
5 more from him when he does his report. We most certainly wish him well and thank him for his  
6 services. Others will be adding on to those comments.

7  
8 In light of that resignation, which is effective next Friday, we are also looking forward to a very  
9 well balanced and thoughtful search, including the Board of Trustees input, and inclusive  
10 interview process as we begin to vet and make recommendations to the Board for a new Director  
11 of Public Works.

12  
13 Village Administrator Savage stated seated with Mr. Landini tonight is Mr. Terence Aquah. I  
14 don't know how many of you know him. Some of you may have seen him. He's doing a fantastic  
15 job. He has been here for two-years. He has been working with Mr. Landini, and also doing a lot  
16 with customer service and getting back to the customers. He sends me reports pretty much daily  
17 on the different things that are going on. Everyone has a high level of confidence in him until  
18 this position is filled, that he will continue to work as he has been working along with the staff  
19 who is over at Public Works who work on the street every day, as well as those who work in the  
20 office. Terence comes with a background in Public Administration. He has worked for several  
21 other municipalities. He is looking forward to taking on the challenge in the interim to keep  
22 everything working, so that our water, sewers, and streets continue to work in the Village of  
23 Olympia Fields.

24  
25 Village Administrator Savage stated that the market in 2022, as many of you know, is one in  
26 which employees have a lot of options. We call it a "Sellers' Market." Sellers can really sell their  
27 property. It is also an employee market. Employees can pretty much come and go and name their  
28 fare. We hope here at the Village of Olympia Fields, that it's not just about dollars, but also  
29 about loyalties and also about being part of a team. You always hear the slogan that said, "It's  
30 teamwork that makes a dream work." I like to say that "It's teamwork that makes the Village of  
31 Olympia Fields work." That being said, one of the newer employees who was working with us  
32 who started off as a Staff Accountant and then became a supervisor, and then a Finance  
33 Manager, left for a Directorship position with another agency. She was able to take the  
34 marketable skills that she learned from our very able and well-talented Finance Director with  
35 her. The upside of the equation is that there is an excellent pool of candidates who have been  
36 waiting as people move from one location to the other in the equation. That person has decided  
37 to come and bring their talent and skills to the Village of Olympia Fields. We made an offer. We  
38 received an acceptance from a dynamic young lady who is also a Certified Public Accountant,  
39 has an audit background, a business background, and a wealth of experience to share with our  
40 teams as we grow as you heard tonight, not only internally, but also externally in the Village of  
41 Olympia Fields. Her name is Lisa Fifer-Smith. She begins with us on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>,  
42 which is this Monday coming up. Director Zigras is glad to see her coming to fill that opening,  
43 and already has a folder of work lined up for her and is ready to put her to work. Those of you  
44 who may not know, Betty is very good at having the files, and we need to do this, this, and this,  
45 and very diplomatic, but also intentional. We are looking forward to her working with this  
46 individual and adding her to the team with the two people that are already there.

47

1 Village Administrator Savage stated we got a letter from Diana Wybourn who is an Attorney-At-  
2 Law who is our Prosecutor. She indicated that she had been making \$85.00 an hour. She sent it  
3 to the Chief and myself because she has worked on a lot of their cases for 13, 14-years.  
4 Typically, attorneys make about \$250.00 an hour for this type of work. The Chief talked to her  
5 and followed up with email correspondence that we were able to talk to her. Her caseload drops  
6 tremendously because many of you may have heard about the change in the law, where each  
7 municipality does their own misdemeanors inside their own enforcement proceedings. She will  
8 still be doing traffic tickets. We did agree, and the Trustees did get notice of it, to increase her  
9 pay per hour to \$150.00 per hour. That way, if she was working four hours and making about  
10 \$300.00, and now she only has to work two, she will still make the same amount. It will be worth  
11 her time to continue to represent us.

12  
13 **Concentric** – Village Administrator Savage stated next on my list is Concentric. Concentric is  
14 the IT Company who installed our laptops, monitors, hardware, upgrade software and new  
15 servers. They’ve been onsite almost every week or every other week since May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Obviously,  
16 there are some hiccups. I brought the Agreed Settlement Order from Mr. Murphey with me  
17 tonight. I don’t know if it is in your packet. I also brought Miss Wybourn’s information and her  
18 letter.

19  
20 The email that Miss Zigras and I got today, because I asked them for an update for today’s  
21 meeting from Concentric, is that everyone is on the new server now. There are a few hiccups.  
22 We had to get everyone on the same server. User shares have been moved and shared document  
23 folders as well. They have back-ended type items such as User Accounts, Group Policies. They  
24 are about 75% completed. They have the remaining 25% of the work to do, which is basically on  
25 the office conversion. They need to move email boxes to Office 365. That has been challenging  
26 because they are trying to work with MSI. They want to do that on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but they are trying to  
27 confirm.

28  
29 We also asked them to look at the two top vendors that they could recommend for cybersecurity.  
30 We will be in the business of increasing our technology security in terms of making sure that  
31 we’re not violated in any way. They have that deliverable for us. They are also going to present  
32 an XO Sheet to us of all of the information of where all of the equipment is. They also do a  
33 training class. That’s in addition to the last three things. We expect within the next month or two,  
34 they should be finished.

35  
36 **Baecore Group/BS&A Conversion** - Director Zigras, Miss Washington, and I met with our  
37 Project Manager, Miss Mary Smith from Baecore to continue discussions on the BS&A ERP  
38 Enterprise Resource Planning Conversion. Based upon our conversations with her, we expect to  
39 go live in 2023. This is something that the Village of Olympia Fields has been talking about for a  
40 long time and moving towards. That year long process begins with a kickoff date. That kickoff  
41 date if I’m not mistaken, the vendor will provide us with a timeline schedule. We will be given  
42 dedicated staff and resources. The Cloud Conversions that we have recently paid for, they will  
43 begin to look at how we integrate these old processes to new ones. We hope that will happen  
44 within the next month or two.

45  
46 Mary Smith of Baecore was also instrumental in the Village of Olympia Fields choosing a  
47 payroll and time work software, as part of the ERP System. It’s not just a major conversion that

1 we're talking about with the Finance, Building Department, and Public Works, but it's pieces  
2 that all go together so that everything is integrated through a suite of products and everything is  
3 read together in streamline processes. The software is used to manage day-to-day business  
4 activities. I wasn't here when this system was chosen. One of the things that it does, it has IOT or  
5 AI, so it can actually anticipate analytical things that may happen along with what's going on.  
6 We are really excited about what Stoney talks about in terms of delivering efficiencies in our  
7 Village, and what the ERP will do is allow us to deliver greater efficiencies. Trustee Oliver  
8 stated great job.

9  
10 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

11  
12 **Betty Zigras – Finance Director**

13  
14 **Update on the Village's Audit** - Ms. Zigras stated that we had an Exit Meeting today with our  
15 Village Auditors for the Fiscal Year 2022 Audit. They were onsite for fieldwork in the beginning  
16 of July for two-weeks. At the Exit Interview, they stated that the Audit went very well. They  
17 should be giving us a draft Audit for me to prepare an MD&A, (Management Discussion and  
18 Analysis) by the end of August. They will be here sometime in October to present the Final  
19 Audit to the Village Board.

20  
21 The good news is, and you will see later in Trustee Pennington's presentation, that we did have a  
22 wonderful year financially. The General Fund had approximately \$800,000.00 in operating  
23 surplus in the General Fund. We moved out \$350,000.00 to the Capital Projects Fund. It was a  
24 very good year.

25  
26 The Water Fund and the Sewer Fund, and all of the other major funds also did very well. We will  
27 be getting that presentation in October.

28  
29 **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police (Continued):**

30  
31 Chief Blasingame stated that he wanted to let Administrative Sergeant Dean come up and give a  
32 demonstration of the scent jars that we have that were given to us at our National Night Out.

33  
34 **Scent Jars** - Administrative Sergeant Dean stated that part of the bloodhound demonstration was  
35 also scent jars, which will be very useful. A few years ago, we did have unfortunately, an elderly  
36 subject with dementia go missing. It took us several hours to find him. He stated what the scent  
37 jar is, it is very simple. It is a glass jar with a gauze wipe. Wipe the gauze wipe underneath your  
38 armpit 10 times. You throw it into the glass jar and seal it up with the name, date of birth, and  
39 any information you want on there as far as maybe favorite clothing or something like that. You  
40 throw it in your refrigerator. Once we call out the bloodhound, you open the jar and give the  
41 scent to the bloodhound and off they go. It can save someone's life, or save us precious hours on  
42 how to find someone.

43  
44 Administrative Sergeant Dean stated they gave us some free jars. If the Trustees approve it, they  
45 said that they will give us some more, free at cost, and then we can make them available to the  
46 residents.

47

1 Trustee Oliver stated I'm sorry, I missed something. The jar is needed for elderly folks, or people  
2 that we know in the community?  
3

4 Administrative Sergeant Dean stated we have a couple transition houses where we've had people  
5 go missing at nighttime. This will help with that. When the bloodhound comes out, we can give  
6 them the jar. The bloodhound smells the jar and goes off. I know someone said, "Why don't you  
7 take a piece of their clothing?" The problem is, how many other people in that house touched  
8 that clothing? And now it disturbs the scent. This is only for that person and could save precious  
9 hours and precious time to help us locate someone.  
10

11 Village President Burke stated I can think of two instances in the last three or four-years where  
12 "we," some of the members of the Board have been out in the street trying to find people who  
13 were missing. They had dementia. We found them after hours, and hours, and hours in ditches.,  
14 where they had fallen down in the ditches. If we had this kind of technology, what you do is, you  
15 take this stuff with the people that you know that have issues. Dementia, they tend to wander.  
16 You get their scent and save it. Once you have their scent, then to find them is a lot easier.  
17

18 Administrative Sergeant Dean stated Cook County and Will County has the bloodhounds.  
19 Village President Burke stated the bloodhounds have the ugliest face, but they are really  
20 beautiful animals. Their ability to go and find things is unbelievable. This is a huge deal to our  
21 town, and especially if we have elderly people who have the propensity to get lost. Doing this  
22 process will help us find them.  
23

24 Trustee Oliver inquired of Administrative Sergeant Dean, the distribution of the scent jar, how  
25 will that be made? Administrative Sergeant Dean stated you would have to let us know. We  
26 could contact the family. Some people say, "I'm not doing it." We can't force them to do that.  
27 We could explain the benefits of it. And who doesn't want to help out their loved ones? Time is  
28 of the essence sometimes when they go missing, especially if it is negative 30 degrees. We all  
29 know that you don't have a lot of time out there. These scent jars would definitely help with that.  
30 The bloodhounds are phenomenal. They are a passive dog as the mayor said, but their tracking is  
31 unbelievable.  
32

33 Trustee Oliver inquired of Administrative Sergeant Dean; how will we get the information to the  
34 community? Administrative Sergeant Dean stated I would work with Miss Washington and get  
35 something out in the newsletter, and then we could identify them. I would like, with Miss  
36 Washington's assistance, maybe get a list so we know too. Heaven forbid maybe the family is  
37 not there, but we know there is a scent jar at this house and where we can locate it at.  
38

39 Trustee Pennington inquired of Administrative Sergeant Dean, once the swab is taken, is there a  
40 shelf life for the scent? Administrative Sergeant Dean stated from my understanding, and talking  
41 to the County, it is actually a pretty thick pad here that you rub underneath your armpit. He stated  
42 from talking to the County, they used one not too long ago that was sitting for two-years and  
43 they still had success on finding the person. I'm sure it just all depends like anything else.  
44

45 Trustee Pennington inquired of Administrative Sergeant Dean do you have to keep it at a certain  
46 temperature? Administrative Sergeant Dean stated they suggest for best results keep it in the

1 back of your refrigerator. As long as it doesn't get too warm. They suggest keep it cool in the  
2 back of the refrigerator for the best results. Trustee Pennington stated interesting.

3

4 Trustee Oliver inquired of Administrative Sergeant Dean whether or not it would work for a  
5 group home resident that we have in mind who is always running away? Administrative Sergeant  
6 Dean stated I was thinking of that also. There are a couple Group Home residents that run away.  
7 That would be very helpful, especially at 2, 3 o'clock in the morning.

8

9 Village President Burke stated this is another benefit, tool that we can offer for the residents of  
10 the Village of Olympia Fields. We worked very, very hard to get these guys to come here to this  
11 event. Don was successful in getting them to include us in the program. I can't think of anything  
12 but positive things can come out of this. There's nothing intrusive about this. People can  
13 volunteer to have this. It's a good deal.

14

15 Chief Blasingame stated with the swearing-in of Nicholas tonight, we are now up to the allocated  
16 full staff that we are allowed. The morale in the Police Department is extremely high right now. I  
17 appreciate everything that the Trustees are doing to help me keep the guys happy.

18

19 **Approval of Purchase of New Patrol Car** – Chief Blasingame stated at a certain point, squad  
20 cars become inoperable. It is cost effective to replace that car versus continue to put money into  
21 it and fix it. One of our squad cars went down. It was going to cost quite a bit of money to fix it.  
22 We had to go out and get a squad car in an emergency. We were able to secure a squad car from  
23 Sutton Ford. We were able to get a better deal on it than we had gotten on squad cars in the past.  
24 We were able to save money. We had to go out and purchase that squad car. It's in the process of  
25 being outfitted so we can put it on the street. The Administrative Sergeant talked to PDS today.  
26 They said we would probably be able to have that car on the street tomorrow or Friday at the  
27 latest. Administrative Sergeant Dean stated Friday at the latest. Chief Blasingame stated that's  
28 where we are with that vehicle.

29

30 Village President Burke stated you guys saw in your packet, there's an approval to purchase this  
31 car. In the Budget it was \$52,000.00. And you were able to get this car for \$39,000.00. Trustee  
32 Pennington stated that's quite a savings. Chief Blasingame stated and it's a Hybrid.

33 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Purchase of a**  
34 **New Patrol Car in the Amount of \$39,192.00.**

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

36

37 **Approval of RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc., Photo Enforcement Agreement** – Chief  
38 Blasingame stated the RedFlex Contract. The company has submitted a contract to the Village.  
39 We are just waiting on the approval from the Board, and then we can have that contract signed  
40 and we will be locked in.

41

42 Trustee Pennington inquired of Chief Blasingame, is that a year contract, or is it a multi-year  
43 contract? Chief Blasingame stated I'm pretty sure it is a multi-year contract.

44

45 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame, what is this contract for? What are they doing?  
46 Chief Blasingame stated this is the company that does the maintenance and monitors our redlight



1 cameras. Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame; how many do we have? Chief  
2 Blasingame stated we have four.  
3  
4 Village President Burke stated it's an extension of the existing contract. Trustee Blackwell  
5 inquired we currently have a contract with them. Trustee Pennington stated we had it for years.  
6 Village President Burke stated six, seven, eight-years. The contract expired. A German company  
7 bought them. It was supposed to have been renewed back in April. Because of the new company  
8 taking over, it took this long. So, they kept extending it. This is the formal acceptance of an  
9 extension of the existing contract. Trustee Blackwell stated okay.  
10  
11 Trustee Pennington stated that's why I raised the question with regard to the time limit, because  
12 if you recall, during that extension period, it was basically year-to-year. That's why I asked  
13 whether or not this is going to be year-to-year continued, or a multi-year contract. Chief  
14 Blasingame stated multi-year, the actual contract. Trustee Pennington inquired of Chief  
15 Blasingame; do you know how many years? Chief Blasingame stated I would have to look.  
16 Trustee Pennington stated okay, we can talk about it.  
17  
18 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame what's our revenue from that? What do we  
19 make? Village President Burke stated I don't think we want to get into that kind of conversation  
20 right now. Trustee Blackwell stated why not? Trustee Pennington stated it is in the detail.  
21 Trustee Blackwell stated I am just asking if anybody has that readily available what our revenue  
22 is per annum from the lights. I can reserve that and deal with you later on to find out what we  
23 make. Trustee Pennington stated we can get that to you Trustee. Trustee Blackwell stated that's  
24 fine.  
25  
26 **Flock Cameras** - Trustee Oliver inquired of Chief Blasingame whether or not he was going to  
27 say anything about the Flock Cameras.  
28  
29 Village Administrator Savage stated 2027 is the term. Chief Blasingame stated 2027 is the term  
30 for the RedFlex.  
31  
32 Chief Blasingame stated Flock Cameras, we now have three of the four cameras installed. The  
33 third one got installed today by the new gas station that's going in at Crawford and Governors  
34 Highway. We're working on the final one to be installed.  
35  
36 Trustee Oliver stated for the members of the audience, would you explain what the Flock  
37 Camera is? Chief Blasingame stated the Flock Cameras are basically plate readers. They read the  
38 vehicles that are coming into town, and some of them read vehicles going out of town. If that's a  
39 stolen vehicle, it notifies the police officers on our cellphone and on their laptops in their car that  
40 a stolen vehicle just entered town, or a stolen plate, or a missing person. All of those different  
41 things, sex offender. Also, if we have a crime committed and somebody doesn't get the full plate,  
42 we can put a vehicle cover or a vehicle make, and it will search for that vehicle and find that  
43 vehicle. It just makes it a lot easier if we are investigating a crime to track down those vehicles.  
44 Also, if we have a vehicle that comes in town that is stolen, it alerts the officers that that vehicle  
45 is here. We can go to that area. Probably 98% of the time when a stolen vehicle comes into your  
46 town, they are coming into your town to steal something else. That's how these carjackings

1 happen. People come in; they steal a car so they can go carjack a car. It's really good technology  
2 and it works really well.

3  
4 I took the Superintendent to a presentation. The School District is installing cameras at the  
5 school. Rich Central will have three cameras. They will be able to monitor cars coming on and  
6 off the property.

7  
8 Village President Burke stated we left out one very important piece of business here.  
9 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve the RedFlex Traffic**  
10 **Systems, Inc., Photo Enforcement Agreement.**

11 **Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustee Pennington stated I Pass) Motion Carried.**

12  
13 Village President Burke inquired of Chief Blasingame did we ever fill the Board in on the tasers  
14 and gun holsters? Chief Blasingame stated we filled them in. Now, the new tasers and the  
15 holsters are fully operating. The trigger device has been installed on all of the holsters. Anytime  
16 an officer removes his weapon from his holster it triggers the camera. Not only does it turn on  
17 that officer's camera, it turns on every officer's camera in the area. In fact, when we were testing  
18 it, we were in the station and we had an officer's camera go off that was on 203<sup>rd</sup> and Governors  
19 Highway.

20  
21 Also, the same thing with the taser. You pull the taser out the camera gets activated. The reason  
22 that is so important is because in a high stress situation, the officer might forget to activate his  
23 camera. Also, as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, a law was passed that it's a felony if an officer turns  
24 his camera off before the end of a call. Now, that we don't have anything to do with activating  
25 our cameras, we shouldn't be turning our cameras off until that call is completed. So, what that  
26 does, it provides liability protection for the Village both ways. If an officer is doing something  
27 that he shouldn't be doing, there's a video and audio of it. If a citizen is doing something they  
28 shouldn't be doing, there is video and audio of it. So, there's no discrepancy when somebody  
29 says, "That officer lied on me, or that officer used excessive force." It has to be on camera. There  
30 has to be an audio. It protects both the citizens of the Village and the officer.

31  
32 Village President Burke stated I wasn't sure if everybody was aware of that. This is a really,  
33 really good deal.

34  
35 Chief Blasingame stated Sergeant Dean just reminded me, PDS is also installing the system in  
36 the squad cars, so that when we activate our lights in the squad car, it will also activate  
37 everybody's camera.

38  
39 Village President Burke stated again, there's not going to be any oops in Olympia Fields. We  
40 know everything that is going on anytime. If somebody pulls a gun out, or the taser out, we will  
41 know what is going on.

42  
43 Trustee Blackwell stated I think the Chief had given a preliminary report about this equipment  
44 coming in which offers transparency. So, as everyone is keenly aware, in these days and times  
45 with the issues that have, in fact, occurred across the country, it's key for us to protect ourself,  
46 liability issues, but also transparency. So, everybody will know what's going on. And then the

1 Chief and the Administrators can manage whatever situations that may arise, and its fully  
2 transparent.

3

4 Trustee Finley inquired of Chief Blasingame where is the video stored, and how long do we keep  
5 it? Chief Blasingame stated the video is stored in the Cloud. If there's no crime or misdemeanor  
6 related to the video, I think it's 90-days. If there is a crime, or if we go in and create a video for  
7 evidence, it's never destroyed.

8

9 The way we have our system setup is nobody can tamper with the video, not even me. If  
10 somebody says we tampered with the video, it is not possible, because we have it setup that we  
11 can't change the video. All we can do is save the video. We can't change what happened on the  
12 video.

13

14 Trustee Blackwell inquired are your neighboring community officers in different municipalities,  
15 do they have the similar equipment? Chief Blasingame stated they do. When we are on a call and  
16 we activate our camera that activates their cameras as well. Trustee Blackwell stated so Park  
17 Forest next to you. Chief Blasingame stated Park Forest, Chicago Heights, Matteson, Richton  
18 Park. Anybody with the same technology, it is going to activate their camera when we activate  
19 our camera.

20

21 **In-Time Timekeeping System** – Chief Blasingame stated in keeping with the principles of  
22 being efficient, the police department has completely activated our In-Time Timekeeping  
23 System. Officers punching in and out with their phones, all their time for payroll is done in the  
24 In-Time System. Time, vacation, sick time. All the officer has to do is pick up his phone, hit a  
25 button, he knows how much sick time, vacation time, time due he has. When it's time to do  
26 payroll, Sergeant Dean hits a button, Betty hits a button, and payroll is done. Payroll use to be a  
27 ton of paperwork and take a couple of hours to do. That's over. If there's any discrepancy and an  
28 officer say, "I didn't get paid," that's kind of your fault because you are responsible for entering  
29 your own time. We don't enter your time anymore. You enter your own time. We have what we  
30 call a "GEO Fence." As soon as they come into the parking lot, they can punch in. Before they  
31 leave the parking lot, they have to punch in. It's another way of tracking too what time people  
32 are getting to work, what time people are leaving work. It's not that we're being big brother, but  
33 we are trying to be efficient. They have a window to punch in.

34

35 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Blasingame what is your full staff now? How many  
36 officers? Chief Blasingame stated 19 including myself. (There was a round of applause).

37

38 **Police Department Wins Award** - Chief Blasingame stated we won this award. We entered the  
39 Lemont Police Cruise Night with our Hummer. Took it up to Lemont. He stated 30, 40 police  
40 departments entered their vehicles. Olympia Fields brought home First Place. (There was a round  
41 of applause).

42

#### 43 **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

44

45 **Approval of VCA Final Plat** – Mr. McDonnell stated in front of you I have approval for not a  
46 Final Plat, but a Proposed Plat. I thought we had already approved the Proposed Plat, but we did  
47 not. We did that at the Planning and Zoning Commission level. They did not give us the proper

1 documents to bring it to the Board level. We have it at the Board level now. It is their Final Plat.  
2 According to our Code of Ordinances, we need to pass the Proposed Plat of Survey before we  
3 pass the Final Survey.  
4

5 On August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing the Final Plat of Survey  
6 for its final approval to pass it onto the Board at the next meeting for final approval if they so  
7 choose to. It is pretty straight forward. This is for the VCA Animal Hospital. They've done  
8 everything that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended, which really was not much.  
9 They setup the boundary. There's a plat of land between CVS and their property that they are  
10 actually turning over that land to CVS. The owner of all that property there is the same owner  
11 that owns the property that the CVS is on. This is just kind of a shell game for them. We also  
12 have Baxter & Woodman's final approval on the final plat as well. I will bring that before you at  
13 the next Board of Trustees Meeting.  
14

15 Trustee Blackwell stated so, let me understand. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the Planning and Zoning  
16 Commission will review the final plat. Mr. McDonnell stated yes. Trustee Blackwell stated it's  
17 necessary now for the Trustees to vote on the preliminary approval of the plat. Mr. McDonnell  
18 stated yes.

19 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve the VCA Olympia  
20 Fields Animal Hospital Proposed Plat.**

21 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**  
22

23 Trustee Oliver inquired of Mr. McDonnell, along with the Plat of Survey for the next meeting,  
24 could you also have a rendering of the drawing? I don't believe I ever saw what the drawing or  
25 the building is suppose to look like.  
26

27 Mr. McDonnell stated absolutely. We will have that as well. We will have that for the August  
28 30<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting as well. Trustee Oliver stated thank you.  
29

30 **Approval of Event Permit – Gloria J. Taylor Foundation: Back-to-School Bash – Mr.**  
31 McDonnell stated we also have tonight an Event Application. This is a Back-to-School-Bash put  
32 on by the Gloria J. Taylor Foundation which is directly behind Village Hall. They put up a big  
33 tent on their property that they have there, their grassy area. They have their students come and  
34 they get items that they need to go back to school: Backpacks, pens, pencils, computers if they  
35 have them to pass out. They are requesting a one-day Event Permit to have that Back-to-School-  
36 Bash.  
37

38 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Mr. McDonnell they did that last year didn't they? Mr. McDonnell  
39 stated yes, they did do it last year.

40 **Motion by Trustee Finley, Second by Trustee Blackwell to Approve the Event Permit  
41 Application of the Gloria J. Taylor Foundation Back-to-School Bash.**

42 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**  
43

44 **New Shell Station -** Mr. McDonnell stated he will touch base on a couple of projects that are  
45 going on. Everybody has seen the construction fence up on the corner of Crawford and Lincoln  
46 Highway for the new Shell Station. That's moving forward at a fast pace. Hopefully, they will  
47 get everything done before the snow flies. I'm sure they're hoping too as well.

1 **Lawrence’s Fish and Shrimp** – Mr. McDonnell stated Lawrence’s Fish and Shrimp next to the  
2 new ice cream shop, they want to open the doors on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month. I just talked to them  
3 this afternoon. I talked to the CEO and the construction manager. They both said the same thing.  
4 Looks like they are ready to open. They did say they did actually put together some employees to  
5 open the place with. As with everybody else in that type of industry, they are having difficulty  
6 getting employees. They said they did it so far.

7  
8 **James Landini – Public Works Director**

9  
10 **Update: Sensus** – Village President Burke stated Mr. Landini, this is your last opportunity in  
11 front of this group. Mr. Landini stated update on the Sensus Fix Point Tower. Everything is up  
12 and running in a Beta version right now. We can see every meter. We can read every meter. We  
13 have an Integration Meeting pending. That’s with Core & Main, Sensus, and MSI. Once we have  
14 that meeting, we will be able to put in all the data that pairs the meters and radios with the  
15 individual addresses and owners. And then we can start fully seeing how that system is operating  
16 and get to use all the fun tools that will allow us to do. Then we can go whatever way the Village  
17 decides to go as far as reading the meters and billing. That is right around the corner.

18  
19 Mr. Landini stated we have 43 water meters left to install. Terence and Monique have been  
20 pretty aggressive with trying to get a hold of these people. These are the hard-to-reach residents  
21 that we have. We are getting responses. We have five scheduled currently. We are reaching out.  
22 We are at around 1% left that need to go in. That won’t hamper anything with the tower. That  
23 would just be a manual process of whatever those remaining meters are.

24  
25 Another update to be on the lookout for, we are doing valve and hydrant testing on the east side  
26 of town. That is just exercising our water valves to make sure they are in good working  
27 condition, in case of an emergency where we can shut down. The hydrant testing has not started  
28 yet. We will send out notification to all the residents of the areas that we are going to be doing  
29 hydrant flushing. It won’t interrupt your service. You may have some cloudy water for a few  
30 minutes that you just have to run after they do the hydrant flushing. That is just so we can ensure  
31 that we have fire protection throughout the system, and it will expose any weaknesses in our  
32 water mains or any fire hydrants that need to be repaired.

33  
34 Trustee Oliver inquired of Mr. Landini does that also include those on Western Avenue? Mr.  
35 Landini stated yes, it does. Trustee Oliver stated that means you have to go in there and trim.  
36 You can’t see them. Mr. Landini stated yeah, that’s what part of this is too. All the hydrants are  
37 mapped out. Every hydrant has to be accessible. They will be cleared in every spot that they do  
38 the testing.

39  
40 Mr. Landini stated personally, I do want to thank the Village President and the Board. My time  
41 here has been the best part of my career. I’ve enjoyed my time. You guys have given me the  
42 freedom to do what I thought was best with the Village. Working with you guys has been an  
43 absolute joy. Getting to know the residents, and there’s a handful here, but that has been my  
44 favorite part. I’ve never once felt at any moment in my career here unaccepted. I was welcomed  
45 with open arms into this community. I’m grateful for that. I wouldn’t be as comfortable leaving  
46 if what I’m most proud of hiring Terence wasn’t in place. Because of his knowledge and the type

1 of person that he is, I am confident that I am leaving with you guys in a good place. So, thank  
2 you for everything.  
3  
4 Village President Burke stated you need to tell people what you are going to do.  
5 Mr. Landini stated I am going into the Health and Fitness Industry as an Executive Director of  
6 Operations for a relatively large group. It is something that I am passionate about in my life. It's  
7 an opportunity that works out best for my family.  
8  
9 Mr. Landini stated also, to the Directors, John, Chief, Betty, we've all worked closely together  
10 and spent a lot of time together. What I've learned from you guys is something I am going to  
11 carry on further into my career. So, thank you.  
12  
13 Trustee Blackwell stated congratulations. (There was a round of applause).  
14  
15 Trustee Pennington inquired of Mr. Landini are you going to stay in the area, or will you be  
16 moving? Mr. Landini, no, I'll still stay in the area.  
17  
18 Village President Burke stated obviously he likes health and fitness. All you have to do is look at  
19 him. The abs, and arms, and stuff. That's a very, very good deal for Jim. We're going to miss  
20 you. Trustee Pennington stated congratulations. Mr. Landini stated thank you.

21  
22 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

23  
24 **Planning & Zoning Commission/Human Resources – Trustee Blackwell**

25  
26 **Planning & Zoning Commission** – Trustee Blackwell stated John already covered that on the  
27 30<sup>th</sup> we are going to look at the approval for the permanent plat for the VCA Animal Hospital. I  
28 appreciate what Trustee Oliver brought up about the rendering so we can see what the landscape  
29 is looking like. They did earlier talk about how many trees they were going to have to remove.  
30 But they were also going to leave a substantial amount of trees in the area which is  
31 commensurate with the Village of Olympia Fields in terms of beautification, and the whole look  
32 that it would, in fact provide. I am glad you mentioned that. We should be able to see exactly  
33 what the landscaping is going to look like. I know they had some water concerns at one point,  
34 but they have since resolved all of that. John has really been on the case to work with them on  
35 that to get that done.

36  
37 **Human Resources** – Trustee Blackwell stated on the HR, we did meet a month and a half ago.  
38 Monica Chambers is our Chair. Our committee did meet. We had one resignation of an  
39 individual who resigned. I will await the President's appointment for a new person to step in his  
40 place after you talk to Monica and get somebody else for us to work with.

41  
42 We're doing a couple of things at HR. We are really excited about the new folks that have come  
43 onboard, the camaraderie that has been established and is actually blooming. It's a new day for  
44 the Village. Really grateful for Chief Blasingame's leadership of the police department which is  
45 one of our key places to really work and redevelop. He has done a great job working with the  
46 President and the Trustees, and everybody else to do that. I think that things are going well with  
47 the other departments as well. We are looking to, again, revise the Employee Handbook and do

1 some updating for it to make more sense. That's one of the Chairman's missions to work on that.  
2 We have committee members doing that. We will work with staff to make sure that it is  
3 consistent with the union, as well as with our merit employees in terms of the information, and  
4 the policies, and objectives for the Village.

5  
6 Finally, so far as the handbook itself, we are also looking to, at least do a preliminary draft of a  
7 telework policy. We've had the COVID run for so long. At one point we had people working  
8 hybrid. We're going to try and do a draft to present to the Trustees to consider telework  
9 provisions. In the event that this virus kicks back up, and people have to work from home or  
10 remotely, we'd like to have something that is definitive, but not too specific to limit the  
11 flexibility for the management for people to be able to do some telework in those instances in  
12 anticipation of the virus coming back, or whatever. Not that we want it to, but in the event that it  
13 does, we need to have the flexibility and the operations to do that.

14

15 **Public Works/Beautification – Trustee Finley**

16

17 **Public Works** – Trustee Finley stated Jim, I have to tell you, you've just been amazing. Mr.  
18 Landini stated thank you. Trustee Finley stated it has been a pleasure literally, learning the  
19 business. You've been generous. You've been candid. I think you've been great in being able to  
20 say clearly, "This needs attention now." And it has given me the direction that I need as a liaison  
21 advocate for the department to be able to bring things front and center. And I'm absolutely sure  
22 that the due diligence that was required in order to be able to stand on your work has been done.

23

24 I want to also say, I've been impressed with your sponsorship of Terence in this space. I think  
25 because you have done such a good job, and he is himself quite a remarkable talent, that we're in  
26 good hands as we go through the process of determining not who will replace you, but who will  
27 succeed you in this space.

28

29 Having said that, there's one other item here, the post office lift station update. I'm going to ask  
30 Terence if he will take a second to give us the post office lift station update, so that we can get  
31 use to hearing you say here is how it is.

32

33 Mr. Aquah stated since I have the stage, I definitely want to say, "Thank you, Jim." You took a  
34 chance on me, and I really appreciate that. You went above and beyond to teach me the ropes,  
35 and I really have the confidence. I just want to reassure you guys as well that I'm definitely up  
36 for holding down the fort and keeping the good work that you have created. So, thank you, again.  
37 Mr. Landini stated you're welcome.

38

39 **Update on Lift Station** - Mr. Aquah stated in terms of the lift station, the prefabricated lift  
40 station is ready for delivery. The contractor expects to receive the controls for the station by late  
41 August, early September. Also, the last components of the project, the pumps, are expected to be  
42 delivered by September. I've been in contact with Metropolitan Pumps. They assure me they are  
43 working on it, but we are still dealing with the supply chain issues. They are really pushing for it.  
44 As soon as I get an update, I will make sure that I keep you guys aware of what's happening. He  
45 stated for the most part, they said the lift station is ready, we are just waiting for the components.

46

1 Village President Burke inquired do they have to build another 30-foot deep well, or are they  
2 going to pull the old one out and drop it in.

3  
4 Mr. Landini stated it's about a 27-foot deep, fiberglass well. What they are going to do is fill the  
5 existing well, because of that structural integrity and then dig a hole right next to that so we can  
6 stay in the same infrastructure.

7 Village President Burke stated well, you know what the next question is. The sewage, where will  
8 it go while we are doing this?

9  
10 Mr. Landini stated during construction, once they take the old lift station offline, it will be  
11 bypassed pumped, which basically it is just going to go across the street. Village President Burke  
12 stated going to Kedzie. Mr. Landini stated yes. Then it just drops into the main hole there and  
13 pumps out. So, there is no interruption in service.

14  
15 Village President Burke stated Trustee Watkins will like that since her house is in that  
16 neighborhood. Mr. Landini stated yes. Trustee Finley thanked Mr. Aquah.

17  
18 Trustee Finley stated I'm starting my own inspection of the water towers. Terence took me in.  
19 Jim refused to do it because he suspected I might try to climb the ladder. I might have threatened  
20 that. Terence took me in. I visited the water tower off Lincoln Highway near Maynegaite. She  
21 stated for those of you that don't know, that structure is 72-feet tall. It holds 750,000 gallons of  
22 our water. The other one is by Sunrise. It holds a million gallons. When you go in on the base  
23 level which is where I went, you see the foundational structure. There's a compelling hole at the  
24 top of that first level with a ladder. You can see up, and up. And you just kind of want to go  
25 there. I think you can sell tickets to that thing if you wanted to. There are all sorts of signs that  
26 say don't without the special gear and all that sort of thing which I had not any of. In any case, it  
27 helped me understand what I wanted to understand about how the whole system works. And how  
28 it works, for those of you that want to know, our water comes from Oak Lawn. That, you do  
29 know. We chlorine boost it. And then we send it to the water towers and the Village uses the  
30 water. That's how our water gets here. There is one other water tower that is close, but it's not  
31 ours. That's the golf course. They have their own. The water that's in their tower also comes  
32 through us. That's the quick and easy, Dr. Seuss of how we get our water. Thank you so much,  
33 because that visit helped me understand what it is that you already know.

34  
35 Village President Burke stated thank you so much for her not letting her go up that ladder. Mr.  
36 Aquah stated I tried my best. I tried my best. Trustee Finley stated it was great. Thank you so  
37 much for that.

38  
39 **Beautification Committee – Landscape Awards** - Trustee Finley stated the Beautification  
40 Committee Report. The 2022 Landscape Awards have been determined. The scoring categories  
41 for those are the overall curb appeal. We're looking at neatness. We're looking at ongoing home  
42 maintenance. We're looking at enhancement to the neighborhood, and coordination of landscape  
43 to the home. Those are the categories that are the composites of the judging that goes on.

44  
45 First Place this year is at 2521 Glen Eagles. That's in The Greens. That's the Johnson Family.  
46 Second Place is 20601 Arcadian in Arcadia. That is the Southall Family. Third Place is 16  
47 Graymoor. That is the Walker Family.



1 All of the homes that received nominations receive a certificate because we want to let them  
2 know that we saw you. The competition was stiff, and rich, and deep. She stated for myself,  
3 going on tour and looking at those homes, you wonder can you compare apples and oranges like  
4 that. Honestly, once you see, you know what you are looking at. You see the overall artistry of it.  
5 And you see the work. And you see the gift of the visage of it to the neighborhood and the  
6 community around. That is how you kind of know that these folks have rolled up their sleeves  
7 and done stuff for the love it, not for the awards, but for the love of it.

8  
9 Their awards also include gift certificates to Saunoris Brothers Nursery, and this year Shawn  
10 Michelle's Ice Cream. That's worth making a garden happen just to get the ice cream. These are  
11 some of the things that give you an interesting look into what it is people do to enhance their  
12 homes here in Olympia Fields. That's part of the spirit that you're responding to when you think  
13 about putting a hotel here. It's a full embrace.

14  
15 **50/50 Tree Program** – Trustee Finley stated the 50/50 Tree Program is getting ready to launch  
16 in the fall. The way that works, the Village offers a limited selection of trees for residents who  
17 ask for them. The cost of the tree will be split with the Village and the resident for as long as we  
18 have a supply available. More details will be coming out from the Beautification Committee this  
19 month. You want to know how do we let the residents know about the availability of the  
20 program, the trees. We share that information with the HOA leaders and they communicate that  
21 to the residents in their area.

22  
23 **Public Safety/Police Pension – Trustee Oliver**

24  
25 **Public Safety Committee** – Trustee Oliver stated I must tell you, I pause, because just like so  
26 many others of you who have given your reports, for those in the audience you must be proud of  
27 what we're doing. When I listen to all that is going on, it humbles me to be part of all of this, and  
28 to be part of the Public Safety Committee. He stated for those of you who missed the National  
29 Night Out, you missed a treat. One of our Public Safety Committee persons videotaped it. I think  
30 several of you have received the videotape. We wondered whether or not this might be  
31 something that we could televise, or stream here on the Village's local channel.

32  
33 Village President Burke stated we can put it on the website. Trustee Oliver stated the question  
34 that I pose is, did we need to have consents from folks to put that up publicly? Village President  
35 Burke stated we have two lawyers on staff. We will find out from the two lawyers. Trustee  
36 Oliver stated that's why I bring it up.

37  
38 Trustee Oliver stated the Public Safety Committee met on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The committee is going  
39 through some internal matters that we have to iron out, which I'm very confident that we will.  
40 Part of that has to do with some meetings that were cancelled, as well as we have a number of  
41 members who have not been showing up. Mr. President and this Board, I may be asking for some  
42 assistance once we get a clear understanding of who is going to remain on the committee for  
43 some recommendations to join the committee.

44  
45 Trustee Oliver stated we did have a chance along with Chief Blasingame to discuss the National  
46 Night Out, what worked, what didn't, and what we would do different the next time. I am so  
47 happy that the two officers were recognized for their efforts, and the entire police department and

1 what they did that night. Everyone had a role. Everyone had a responsibility from cooking to you  
2 name it, everyone was involved. It was something that made me as a citizen, not a Trustee, but as  
3 a resident you, Chief Blasingame, and the police department, you make us proud. We're so  
4 happy that you are doing what you're doing, especially under your leadership, Chief Blasingame.  
5 And thank you, Mr. President, for making that recommendation. It has been nothing but a good  
6 thing ever since.

7  
8 Trustee Oliver stated we talked about the summer tickets, and calls, and things like that that went  
9 out for the Village. Thankfully, it has been relatively low.

10  
11 Chief Blasingame gave us a display of how that camera actually works. It is a pretty impressive  
12 thing. That also allowed us to begin our discussion to talk about budgeting issues for the next  
13 Fiscal Year 2023/2024. We never had a budget before. He stated with the Public Safety  
14 Workshop, and with the National Night Out, we may be coming to the Board and asking for a  
15 Budget for next year.

16  
17 **Police Pension Board** – Trustee Oliver stated there is a meeting scheduled on August 18<sup>th</sup> for  
18 the Police Pension Board.

19  
20 **Finance/Building Department – Trustee Pennington**

21  
22 **Preliminary Fiscal Year End 2022 Financial Statements** – Trustee Pennington stated tonight I  
23 will be reporting the annual results of Revenues and Expenses for the Village for the period  
24 covering May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, excluding fiscal closing entries. Those closing  
25 entries will not be a part of this report.

26  
27 Beginning with the General Fund, the General Fund Revenues for this period exceeded Budget  
28 Projections by \$470,015.00, or 7% of Budget Plan. Budgeted Revenues for the period were  
29 \$6,428,885.00, while actual Revenues received were \$6,898,100.00 for this period. General Fund  
30 Expenses were favorable to Budget Projections by \$252,610.00, or 4% of Plan. Budgeted  
31 Expenses for the year were \$6,343,325.00, while actual incurred expenses were \$6,090,715.00.  
32 This resulted in a favorable Fiscal Year to-date actual plus encumbrance in the General Fund of  
33 \$495,135.00. The overall impact to the Budget on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, is a positive \$722,625.00 in  
34 the General Fund.

35  
36 Trustee Pennington stated with respect to the Water Fund, Water Revenue Fees, operating and  
37 non-operating for this period were favorable to Budget by \$192,843.00, an 8% increase over  
38 Budget Plan. Water Revenue budgeted for the period was \$2,346,040.00, while actual realized  
39 revenue was \$2,538,883.00. Water Fund Expenses however, were unfavorable to Budget Plan by  
40 \$117,787.00, or 5% below Budgeted Plan. Budget Expenses for the period were \$2,141,034.00,  
41 while actual incurred expenses were \$2,258,821.00. Notwithstanding the negative expense figure  
42 in this fund, our Fiscal Year to-date actual plus encumbrance, is a surplus \$247,104.00. The  
43 overall impact to the Budget for this period is a positive \$75,056.00 in the Water Fund.

44 Trustee Pennington stated with respect to the Sewer Fund, overall Sewer Revenue for the year  
45 was favorable to Budget Plan by \$133,911.00. Budgeted Revenue for 12-months was  
46 \$1,604,400.00, while actual realized revenue was \$1,738,311.00, or 8% favorable to Plan. Sewer  
47 Fund Expenses were favorable to Budget Plan by \$208,623.00, or 14% of Plan. Budgeted

1 Expenses were \$1,476,605.00, while actual incurred expenses came in at \$1,267,982.00. This  
2 resulted in a Fiscal Year to-date actual plus encumbrance surplus in the Sewer Fund of  
3 \$470,329.00. The overall impact to our Budget in the Sewer Fund is a favorable \$342,534.00. As  
4 one can see, the Village of Olympia Fields is in stellar financial position.

5  
6 Trustee Pennington stated I would like to ask Director Zigras if she would add anymore updates  
7 in terms of the numbers here as to the proprietary funds that I just discussed.  
8 Director Zigras stated yes, going back to the General Fund Revenues as Trustee Pennington  
9 stated we were \$470,000.00 favorable to Budget. Specifically, you can see taxes were  
10 \$540,000.00 over Budget. That is due to higher-than-expected Sales Tax Revenue, Income Tax  
11 Revenue. Those were the most notable increases that we had over Budget.

12  
13 As far as Expenses are concerned, we were lower than Budget. Most notable was the police  
14 department. They were \$166,000.00, almost \$167,000.00 under Budget. Most notable was the  
15 personnel expense and new equipment that was budgeted for in the General Fund, which we  
16 actually purchased out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund. We did have an operating surplus of over  
17 \$800,000.00. Once we transferred \$300,000.00 to the Capital Projects Fund for the Road  
18 Projects, we still had a surplus of \$495,000.00 within the General Fund.

19  
20 Most of the Fiscal Year 22 accrual entries are recorded. There are just a couple of pending  
21 actuarial entries. That should not impact the General Fund. This is pretty much spot on. We will  
22 see in October the actual numbers.

23  
24 Village President Burke stated I think you understated it when you said, “The Village is in  
25 excellent position.” This will be the fifth year in a row that we had a balanced Budget and  
26 created a surplus. You won’t find anybody in the Southern Suburbs who operates like that. It is  
27 all as a result of the team that we have. The Chief, Landini, Betty, John McDonnell, as well as  
28 the Board. We watch these things very closely. It puts us in a position where we’re not  
29 borrowing money. And at the same time, it puts us in a position that anything we have to get  
30 done, we have the money, the cash to go do it. I just want to thank everybody involved. Last year  
31 was a wonderful year, and we plan on doing it again this next year.

32  
33 **Park District/Library Board – Trustee Watkins**

34  
35 There was no report in the absence of Trustee Watkins.

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

38  
39 **Community Relations Commission – October Fest** - Trustee White stated I wanted to share a  
40 couple of updates from the CRC. The team has been diligently working for the next couple of  
41 events that are planned. Coming up on deck will be October Fest which has been scheduled for  
42 October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will occur from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Sergeant Means Park.  
43 You are going to experience probably a large selection of food vendors. It is October Fest. You  
44 can expect to enjoy some of the ruminations that go with October Fest, as well as live  
45 entertainment and music. I want to give congratulations to the team. They’ve been working  
46 really hard on putting this together.

47

1 **Caroling in the Park** - The Second Annual Caroling in the Park has been scheduled. It will be  
2 December 17<sup>th</sup>. The final times to be announced. Last year we only did an hour and a half. I  
3 think there is some consideration to try to extend that this year. Stay tuned for that.  
4

5 **Halloween Candy Giveaway** - The team is also working on doing a candy giveaway, similar to  
6 what we did last year for Halloween. I think they are looking at collaborating with Emmaus  
7 Church on that. There are some details that are still being worked out with regards to that.  
8

9 **Educational Commission** – Trustee White stated I have no updates right now with regard to the  
10 Educational Commission.  
11

12 I would say, “Stay tuned,” with regard to further updates for the events that I just listed.  
13

14 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**  
15

16 The Board did not have any Miscellaneous Reports this evening.  
17

18 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
19

20 Village President Burke opened up Public Comment at 9:10 P.M.  
21

22 **Park District Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** - Mrs. Trinette Britt-Johnson stated I am back  
23 wearing two other hats. Currently, I am President of our Park District. On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>,  
24 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., we are having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for a new playground  
25 that we have installed. Kids have already been playing on it and using it. We want to have an  
26 actual Ribbon Cutting. Mr. President, I look forward to your remarks. And Board, we are  
27 inviting you. I believe, Jessica has sent out fliers or notices to the other commissions. We look  
28 forward to that.  
29

30 **Back-to-School Event** - Mrs. Trinette Britt-Johnson stated wearing the other hat that I wear,  
31 Rich Township, along with State Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin, is doing a Back-to-  
32 School Event on the same day. It is the Park District Ribbon Cutting first, and the second half  
33 will be the Back-to-School Event. I’m hoping that you will be able to attend. There will be lots  
34 of bookbags, giveaways, things for kids to do, food. We hope that you will be able to attend that  
35 event. Thank you.  
36

37 Mr. George Chandler stated I am with Vienna Woods Homeowners Association. I just wanted to  
38 say, “Thank you,” to the Board and to the Beautification Committee for awarding the grant so we  
39 can do some light repairs and replace the lights over there at the entrance. We have one more  
40 light to do. There are two more on Strauss that we will be going for. I hope that you continue for  
41 the next two years, because I have two more of those lights to go.  
42

43 Mr. Chandler stated I agree with you Kelvin, and being proud of the town for all the stuff that  
44 you guys are doing. Everything is just kind of coming together now that COVID is kind of over  
45 and stuff like that.  
46

1 Mr. Chandler stated Jim has always done a great job for us over in Vienna Woods. Thank you,  
2 Jim. I know in the last couple of years things have been going really better because you have  
3 Terence along with that. Terence is a good guy. Thank you very much. Thanks, Chief for  
4 everything. Village President Burke Closed Public Comment at 9:12 P.M.

5

6 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

7

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

9

10 **ADJOURNMENT:**

11

12 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Adjourn the Board Meeting at**  
13 **9:12 P.M.**

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

15

16 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.