

# Village of Olympia Fields

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Olympia Fields Village Hall Board Room  
20040 Governors Highway, Olympia Fields, IL 60461

### Minutes of the Reconvened Regular Meeting October 11, 2023

**Commenced:** 7:06 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 8:44 p.m.

#### **Motion to Reconvene**

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to reconvene the regular meeting at 6:59 p.m.

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

#### **Call to Order & Pledge**

President Burke called the reconvened meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Roll Call**

Village Clerk Stephanie Mills conducted the roll call and announced that there was a quorum:

**Present:** Trustees Jennifer Beasley, Victor Blackwell, Sandra Finley, Kelvin Oliver, Kenneth Smith, Howard White; President Sterling M. Burke; Village Administrator/Chief of Staff Drella C. Savage; Building Commissioner John McDonnell; Chief of Police Derrick Blasingame; Finance Director Betty Zigras; Public Works Director Terry Lusby, Jr.; Village Clerk Stephanie Mills; Deputy Village Clerk Jessica Washington

**Absent:** None

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting:

Trustee Finley moved, seconded by Trustee Blackwell, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting, as presented.

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

#### **Bills for Approval**

October 2023 Bills for Approval – \$351,562.74

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Beasley, to approve payment of the bills for October 2023, in the amount of \$351,562.74.

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

#### **Swearing In**

President Burke administered the oath of office to Officer Morgan McNeal. Prior to joining the Olympia Fields Police Department, Officer McNeal worked with the Calumet City Police Department.

## **Administration Reports**

### **Report of the Village President – Sterling M. Burke**

President Burke announced that the owners of Harold's Chicken will be opening a bar and grill in Butterfield Plaza. He also noted that the VCA Animal Hospital is taking shape. Building Commissioner John McDonnell stated that the roof of the animal hospital is expected to be in place by January. President Burke also stated that the hotel project is still on track. A brief discussion ensued about migrants in the Chicagoland area.

### **Report of the Village Administrator/Chief of Staff – Drella C. Savage**

Village Administrator/Chief of Staff Savage provided an overview of Ordinance 2023-23, explaining that it is a renewal of a 50-year agreement with Nicor Gas. She noted that the new agreement would extend the relationship for another 50 years and provide the Village with gas service at reduced or no cost. A brief discussion ensued.

**Ordinance #2023-23** – Approval of an Ordinance granting NICOR Gas the right to construct, operate, and maintain a gas distribution system in the Village of Olympia Fields for a term of 50 years from June 11, 2023 [First and Second Reading].

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Beasley, to approve the Ordinance granting NICOR Gas the right to construct, operate, and maintain a gas distribution system in the Village of Olympia Fields for a term of 50 years from June 11, 2023 [First and Second Reading].

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

Administrator/Chief of Staff Savage was excused from the meeting at 8:30 p.m., due to illness.

## **Department Head Reports**

- **Betty Zigras – Finance Director**

Director Zigras provided a presentation of the OPENGOV transparency portal and an overview of the proposed contract with OPENGOV for a chart of accounts rebuild/mapping and three-year subscription service. Trustee White requested that approval of the contract be postponed to give Board members time to make a more informed decision relative to the cost and services provided. A discussion ensued, after which the Board agreed to table consideration of the contract.

Trustee Smith moved, seconded by Trustee Beasley, to table consideration of the contract with OPENGOV.

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

**Finance Report:** Director Zigras presented the final FY 2024 1st Quarter financial report.

- **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police**

Chief Blasingame reported on the runaway horse that escaped from unincorporated Flossmoor and was found near Bizios Plaza a few weeks ago. He also announced his recent graduation from the Northwestern University Executive Management Program on October 16, 2023.

- **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

Commissioner McDonnell provided an overview of Ordinance 2023-24, which reverses a 2008 amendment related to sewers and sewage disposal. He explained that per the new ordinance, homeowners would be responsible for the maintenance of sewer lines up to the point that they connect to Village property, which aligns with standard practice.

**Ordinance #2023-24** – Approval of an Ordinance Amending a Section of Chapter 21, Article III, “Sewers and Sewage Disposal” of the Olympia Fields Village Code [First and Second Reading].

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Finley, to approve the Ordinance Amending a Section of Chapter 21, Article III, “Sewers and Sewage Disposal” of the Olympia Fields Village Code [First and Second Reading].

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

- **Terry Lusby, Jr. – Public Works Director**

Director Lusby introduced several resolutions and contracts for the Board’s approval, including Resolution 2023-06, which would allow for inspections of the Village’s elevated water tanks and reservoirs; Resolution 2023-07, which would provide for main pump station control panel improvements; Resolution 2023-08, which would permit the appropriation of monies from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for maintenance; and a contract with Metropolitan Industries and Airy’s for repairs to the Evergreen Lift Station. A lengthy discussion ensued about each of these matters.

**Resolution #2023-06:** A Resolution for 2023 Elevated Water Storage Tanks and Reservoir Inspections by Baxter & Woodman in the amount of \$17,500.

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Beasley, to approve the Resolution for 2023 Elevated Water Storage Tanks and Reservoir Inspections by Baxter & Woodman in the amount of \$17,500.

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

**Resolution #2023-07:** A Resolution for Main Pump Station Control Panel Improvements by Concentric Integration in the Amount of \$19,700.

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Finley, to approve the Resolution for Main Pump Station Control Panel Improvements by Concentric Integration in the Amount of \$19,700.

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

**Resolution #2023-08:** A Resolution for Appropriating Monies from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for Maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code in the amount of \$76,650.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve the Resolution for Appropriating Monies from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for Maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code in the amount of \$76,650.

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

**Contract:** Approval of the contract with Metropolitan Industries and Airy’s for the Evergreen Lift Station repair in an amount not to exceed \$39,966.54.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve the contract with Metropolitan Industries and Airy’s for the Evergreen Lift Station repair in an amount not to exceed \$39,966.54.

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

## Trustee Liaison Reports

- **Finance Department/Human Resources Committee – Blackwell**  
Trustee Blackwell announced that the next Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023. He also reported that the Village’s Tax Exemption Workshops were very well-received. He thanked the Cook County Assessor’s Office and others who made the workshops a success.
- **Public Works Committee/Beautification Committee – Finley**  
Trustee Finley provided an overview of the recent all-day Department of Public Works Planning Session. She also discussed the Beautification Committee’s upcoming Holiday Décor Awards program.
- **Public Safety Commission/Police Pension Board – Oliver**  
Trustee Oliver thanked the Board and Administration for the elevated CodeRED initiative and outreach. He also commented on the importance of the Tax Exemption Workshops, particularly in light of the number of senior residents who had not applied for senior exemptions prior to the workshops.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission/Building Department – Smith**  
Trustee Smith stated that he is pleased to see new members join the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- **Community Relations Commission/Olympia Fields Park District Board/Veterans Affairs – Beasley**  
Trustee Beasley discussed OctoberFest, scheduled for October 14, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; the Village’s Halloween Candy Giveaway on October 29, 2023, from 2–4 p.m.; and the Caroling in the Park event scheduled for December 16, 2023.
- **Educational Commission/Village Technologist – White**  
Trustee White had no report.

## Miscellaneous Reports

No report at this time.

## Public Comment

Olympia Fields resident George Chandler and Flossmoor resident Warren Engelberg addressed the Board of Trustees during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

## Appointments and Resignations

**Appointment:** Approval of the appointment of Craig Martin to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve the appointment of Craig Martin to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

**Appointment:** Approval of the appointment of Jerry Pierson to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee White, to approve the appointment of Jerry Pierson to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

**Appointment:** Approval of the appointment of Stephen Hinton to the Public Works Committee.

Trustee Smith moved, seconded by Trustee Oliver, to approve the appointment of Stephen Hinton to the Public Works Committee.

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

**Appointment:** Approval of the appointment of Carlando Owens to the Public Works Committee.

Trustee Smith moved, seconded by Trustee Oliver, to approve the appointment of Carlando Owens to the Public Works Committee.

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

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Beasley moved, seconded by Trustee White, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes (6-0) Motion Carried.

President Burke adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Submitted November 8, 2023, by Jessica Washington, Deputy Village Clerk