

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Gillis (arrived at 7:08pm), Brennan, O’Connell, Bachner, Johnson

Absent: None

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Bochenek, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Police Commander Michael Swierczynski, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

**2.PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3.SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

- a. Commendation Award of Sergeant Ben Ransom

Police Chief O’Shea gave background on the award and presented the award to Sergeant Ben Ransom.

**4.CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**5.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment. She then wished everyone a happy belated Fourth of July.

Trustee Vazquez thanked Sgt. Ransom for his work and noted working with Sgt. Ransom in the past. He then highlighted attending a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Age Friendly event.

Trustee Gillis gave her condolences to the family of Lance Bolonik for their loss.

Village Clerk Keller had no comments.

Trustee Brennan highlighted a Forest Preserve Cleanup event being held by the Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters and Environment Illinois.

Trustee Johnson wished everyone a happy cicada-free summer.

Trustee Gillis noted receiving a mailer from Lakeshore Recycling Systems on the proper way to recycle and reminded everyone to follow recycling protocol.

Trustee O'Connell had nothing to add to the record.

President Adduci reminded everyone that the next Village Board meeting will be August 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- c. June 2024 Accounts Payable and Payroll – \$2,251,322.58.
- d. Administration Department Report
- e. Monthly Department Reports
- f. Purchase Approval – Police Vehicle – not to exceed \$28,000.00
- g. Purchase Approval – Core Server Rack – DeKind Computer Consultants – \$42,191.55

Trustee O'Connell asked that Agenda item 6.E. Monthly Department Reports be pulled for separate consideration.

**MOTION** by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Items A-D & F-G. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

### **Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

- e. Monthly Department Reports

**MOTION** by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Item E. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee O'Connell stated that he misspoke when pulling the agenda item for separate consideration and has no comments on it.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**8.RECCOMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Appointment of Commissioner – Sustainability Commission – Benjamin Kadlec – term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027

**MOTION** by Trustee Brennan to approve Commissioner Kadlec for a term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci noted that the former Chair of the Sustainability Commission, Eric Simon, is in the audience and can help answer any questions.

- b. Appointment of Commissioner – Sustainability Commission – Manolo Avalos – term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2028

**MOTION** by Trustee Brennan to approve the appointment of Commissioner Manolo Avalos for a term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee Bachner asked for clarification on how Commissioner Avalos' transfer from student commissioner to full time commissioner will work.

Trustee Gillis provided clarification for Trustee Bachner and noted that the Commission is already looking to fill the student positions.

Administrator Walsh noted that the Village has connections at the school districts that staff have utilized in the past to fill the student positions.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- c. Appointment of Co-chairman – Sustainability Commission – Gary Lennon – term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**MOTION** by Trustee Johnson to approve the appointment of Commissioner Lennon to Co-chairman for a term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Trustee Brennan stated that in the future, staff should include all background information on all appointments in the packet, not just new commissioners. Trustee Brennan also suggested that the Village consider appointing people to the role of Chairperson that are extensively qualified in their commission's field.

President Adduci addressed some of the concerns raised by Trustee Brennan.

Sustainability Chairman Simon also addressed some of the concerns raised by Trustee Brennan and noted that Mr. Lennon is very active on the Sustainability Commission and worthy of the cochair position. Mr. Simon also raised concerns about having an entirely "activist" commission and noted that a board with a diverse background of commissioners is necessary.

President Adduci noted being in support of the comments made by Chairman Simon.

Trustee Bachner thanked Mr. Simon for his comments but agreed with Trustee Brennan that some information on the appointments would have been beneficial for the Board and should be included in future packets.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- d. Sustainability Commission – Electric Aggregation Program Contract Extension – MC Squared Energy Services, LLC – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to adopt an ordinance authorizing the Village Administrator to execute a 24-month Extended Term Agreement to the Master Power Supply Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Village Administrator Walsh provided background on the agenda item and fielded questions from the Board. He noted that the Sustainability Commission recommended this by a vote of 4-1 and that the one, “no” vote raised concerns about the loss of benefits in the contract over the years.

Trustee Brennan asked if this renewal contains any monetary benefits and Administrator Walsh stated no.

She then asked if the previous year’s contracts contained monetary benefits. Administrator Walsh stated yes.

Trustee Gillis highlighted the importance of this contract as a representation of the Villages commitment to sustainability.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O’Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

e. Sustainability Commission – Compost Program Recommendation

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to accept the Sustainability Commission’s recommendation to implement a compost sharing program. Seconded by Trustee O’Connell.

Administrator Walsh provided clarification on the agenda item and noted that the Sustainability Commission was worried about the potential additional costs of an opt-out program and how the additional compost bins would be utilized.

Trustee Brennan asked what the potential price structure was for the opt out program.

Administrator Walsh stated that staff have not discussed an opt out program with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) and that this item is just feedback from the Sustainability Commission.

Trustee Brennan suggested the Village contact LRS and have an in-depth discussion surrounding the potential costs of an opt out program.

Chairmen Simon provided background on the Sustainability Commissions recommendation and agreed with Trustee Brennan that additional conversations surrounding costs would be beneficial. He noted that the Commission would like to continue with public education surrounding the compost program to help grow the program before taking a large step like an opt out program.

Trustee Brennan stated that she thought the Village had already instituted a shared bin program.

Trustee O'Connell stated that due to outstanding questions regarding an opt out program, he thinks this item should be relegated back to the Sustainability Commission for further discussion and then brought back to the Village Board at a later date once all the questions have been answered.

Administrator Walsh provided clarification on the proposed cost sharing program and stated it would be an easy change for staff.

President Adduci noted being in support of the proposed cost sharing program.

Trustee Gillis suggested the Board amend the motion and add direction to the Sustainability Commission to have discussions with LRS about the costs of an opt out program.

Trustee O'Connell noted being weary of the back and forth between the Sustainability Commission and the Village Board and asked that all potential changes regarding compost be presented together.

The Village Board discussed the compost program further.

Trustee Brennan encouraged the Board and the Sustainability Commission to consider an opt out program.

President Adduci raised a concern about signing up a large amount of residents for a cost they themselves did not sign up for.

Trustee Vazquez asked for clarification on who can share the compost bins.

President Adduci stated only two households can share the bins.

Trustee Brennan asked if there is data the Sustainability Commission can access to see if the Village's program has been subsidizing the landfills compost program.

Chairmen Simon said the Commission should have access to data that can address that.

Trustee Brennan also asked what population enrollment percentage other municipalities are using to trigger their opt out programs and why the Village has chosen 50% to be its trigger.

President Adduci stated that the 50% number came from LRS during the last contract negotiations.

Trustee Brennan stated that during the last round of negotiations, LRS claimed to be prepared to start an opt out program.

Trustee Bachner stated that concerns were raised about people opting out and the waste generated from the new bins that would not be needed.

Trustee Brennan asked how a shared household will count towards the total subscriber count.

Village Administrator Walsh stated the subscriber count will be based on total number of households.

Village Attorney stated a second motion would not be needed as the Board is just directing the Sustainability Commission and staff to commit research.

Trustee Bachner asked how long the roll out would take for the compost sharing program.

Administrator Walsh stated a few weeks.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- f. Sustainability Commission – Amending Village Code Regarding Parkway Trees – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to adopt an ordinance updating the Trees and Shrubs Chapter of the Village Code to comply with requirements of the Morton Arboretum grant process. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on this agenda item and noted it was unanimously recommended by the Sustainability Commission.

Trustee Brennan noted multiple scrivener's errors in the agenda item contents.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O'Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

**9.UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Presentation on Lead Service Line Replacement Program**

Public Works Director Bielak updated the Board on the status of the Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

Trustee O'Connell asked when builders stopped using lead for water lines. Director Bielak stated after the 1960s.

Administrator Walsh noted that many of the items discussed during the Presentation are available on the Village's website for the public to see.

President Adduci asked if the "Get The Lead Out" Resident Assistance Program requires competitive bids. Director Bielak stated yes.

The Board and Director Bielak discussed the general cost of a lead service line replacement and the bidding process.

Administrator Walsh stated the requirements are in response to anecdotal evidence of contractors overcharging residents.

Trustee Johnson asked how residents can find qualified contractors for the work.

Director Bielak noted that the Village keeps a list of registered contractors.

Trustee Bachner asked if there are any disclosure requirements regarding lead service lines.

Village Clerk Keller stated there are no mention of lead service lines in real estate disclosure requirements.

Trustee Bachner asked how soon the Village will contact residents regarding the program.

Director Bielak stated the Village has already been contacting residents in the year one replacement areas.

President Adduci suggested the Village consider using loans to pay for the program and use the existing grant funds on other services.

Director Bielak asked the Village Board for feedback on which protocol the Village should implement when working in residents' homes.



Clerk Keller suggested the Village use the most basic and simple protocol.

Trustee Johnson asked if there are clusters in the Village where every home has a lead service line.

Trustee Brennan thanked Director Bielak for his presentation.

**11.EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1)&(6) to discuss: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

**Roll call:**

Ayes: Trustees Vazquez, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, O’Connell, Gillis.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes at 8:25 pm.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez. Seconded by Trustee O’Connell.


Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, O’Connell, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

Date:  \_\_\_\_\_