

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
December 18th, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 18th, 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, Johnson, Gillis, O’Connell, Bachner, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Assistant Finance Director Keke Boyer, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phyllis Rubin commented on the actions taken by the Village Board in response to a recent complaint made about ribbons on parkway trees. She stated she felt the actions taken by the Village were inadequate. Ms. Rubin noted how the parkway trees of one specific home displaying blue and white ribbons in support of Israel had been singled out. She asked the Board why they had not stated unequivocally that antisemitism is not welcome in the Village. Ms. Rubin also stated her comments will be in the Wednesday Journal.

President Adduci thanked Ms. Rubin for her public comment and stated that the Board and herself do not tolerate hate or anti-Semitic behavior. President Adduci commented that she felt that the Board attempted to respond in good faith and noted being proud of the Board for their swift response.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O’Connell wished everyone a happy Holiday Season and gave thanks to Village Staff for serving the community. He asked that the residents be the Village’s partners in the next year and not adversaries.

Trustee Johnson wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season and reiterated that the Board has all residents' interests in mind. He reminded everyone that while they are not always perfect, the Board and Staff are doing their best.

Village Clerk Keller had no comments.

Trustee Vazquez echoed similar sentiments as Trustees Johnson and O'Connell. He also reported attending a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus meeting on dementia that introduced the Dementia Friends Network, a grassroots effort that makes community members aware of the steps they can take to make their communities more dementia friendly.

He also reported attending a meeting about the Connecticut Age Well Collaborate, a statewide program in Connecticut that advocates for a variety of age-related topics. Finally, he wished everyone a happy Holiday Season.

Trustee Gillis wished everyone a Happy Holiday season and congratulated President Adduci for attending the United Nations Climate Summit overseas. Trustee Gillis reiterated that hate has no home in River Forest and in the World.

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgement. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. She then apologized to Ms. Rubin for the Village's response and noted that she would strive to be better.

President Adduci thanked her fellow Board Members for a great year. She recognized the time it takes to be a volunteer and stated she looks forward to another year working together. She then reported on her trip to the United Nations Climate Summit. She also reported being interviewed by WBEZ Chicago and that the interview and many others can be accessed at the Seven Generations Ahead website.

Trustee Bachner asked if any of the local youth in attendance at the summit had any specific asks for River Forest or other surrounding Villages.

President Adduci stated their comments were geared towards big picture thinking rather than local.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023
- c. Administration Department Report
- d. Accounts Payable – November 2023 – \$2,902,327.93
- e. November Financial Report

- f. Monthly Department Reports
- g. Public Notice of Meetings – 2024
- h. Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal – Ordinance
- i. Approval of an Ordinance Levying Taxes for Corporate Purposes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing on the 1st day of May 2023 and Ending on the 30th day of April 2024 – Ordinance
- j. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150
- k. 2024 REBUILD Illinois Street Improvement Project (SIP) – Schroeder Asphalt Services – \$832,475.00

MOTION by Trustee O’Connell to approve Consent Agenda Items A - K. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

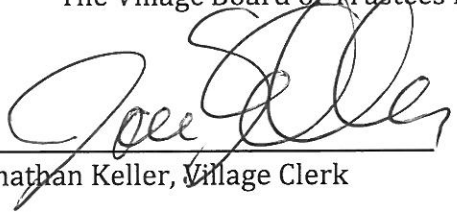
None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee O’Connell. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:
Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, Johnson, Gillis, O’Connell, Bachner.
Absent: Trustee Brennan
Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

Date: 01/08/27