

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, February 25, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 25, 2019 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 7:02 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Police Commander James Greenwood, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Adduci delivered her [State of the Village Address](#).

Trustee Gibbs stated that the address was informative and that he had nothing to add. He reminded everyone that the Forest Park St. Patrick’s Day Parade is Saturday.

Village Clerk Brand-White stated the speech was well said.

Trustee Vazquez reminded everyone of the upcoming elections and candidate forums: the League of Women Voters will sponsor the Village Trustee and Library Trustee Candidate Forum on February 27; the Oak Park River Forest High School Board Candidate Forum is on March 19; the Park District and District 90 Candidate Forum is on March 20. He wished all the candidates good luck, thanked them for their interest, and expressed hope that the forums would be well-attended.

Trustee Cargie thanked President Adduci for her kind words and reiterated all the hard work that went into launching the Community Calendar.

Trustee Corsini thanked President Adduci for her kind words and stated it has been a pleasure to serve. She stated that the Governor gave his budget address and urged the Village Board to keep a close eye on what is happening at the State level, particularly with regard to unfunded mandates. She also encouraged that the Board look at the updates on the PSEBA amendments and to manage that strategically.

President Adduci stated she and Administrator Palm have put together a list of shovel-ready projects in anticipation of a State capital bill related to infrastructure funding. She stated she sent a memo to State Representative Welch requesting his assistance to get Union Pacific to clean up their crumbling walls.

Administrator Palm announced the Public Hearing for the Draft Comprehensive Plan is March 7 and encouraged the public to attend.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019
- b. Authorization to Sell Surplus Property – 2006 Ford Crown Victoria – Ordinance
- c. Authorization to Sell Surplus Property – 2011 Ford Crown Victoria – Ordinance
- d. Authorization to Sell Surplus Property – 2007 Ford Taurus – Ordinance
- e. Monthly Financial Report – January 2019
- f. Accounts Payable – January 2019 - \$1,948,869.85
- g. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to approve the Consent Agenda items a through g.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- a. Payment to Anderson Elevator for \$620.00 (*Trustee Gibbs Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve Accounts Payable from the General Fund to Anderson Elevator for \$620.00.

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Payment for the Madison Street TIF Fund for \$210.32 (*Trustee Vazquez Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to approve Accounts Payable from the Madison Street TIF Fund (\$210.32).

Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals – Appoint Ron Lucchesi (Swindal Vacancy) – Term Ending April 30, 2022

Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Ron Lucchesi to the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve the remainder of the term ending April 30, 2022.

President Adduci stated Mr. Lucchesi is a longtime resident, has the requisite background, and would be a wonderful addition to the ZBA.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, President Adduci stated Bob Swindal resigned because he was too busy and could not make it to a lot of the meetings.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Amend Title 1 of the Village Code Regarding Rules and Order of Village Business of the Village Board – Ordinance

Administrator Palm stated there was an error in the ordinance and it should read “the trustee intending to make a motion to reconsider shall inform the President no more than three business days” rather than no less.

Dan Lauber, 7215 Oak, expressed appreciation that the Board incorporated into the ordinance so much of what was suggested from the February 11 meeting. He stated that still missing, however, is a requirement to state the basis for making a motion to reconsider. He

stated that in the interest of facilitating citizen engagement and transparency, a trustee seeking to change their vote ought to advise the President and public as to why they wanted to change their vote. He also stressed a need for the ordinance to include adequate notification to the public, so that the public has advanced notice to be able to attend a meeting where a reconsideration vote would be taken. He expressed hope that the Board would research and continue discussing second readings of ordinances.

Deborah Hill, 908 Park, stated the work of the trustees and Village administration is already complicated enough and that adding a post-decision period of uncertainty adds more work. She stated that a decision process should be designed to make sound decisions the first time rather than to reverse unsound decisions. She stated that having two readings is a good way to ferret out uncertainty over a period of two meetings. She stated this would preserve the sanctity of a vote, allow trustees to re-think matters after discussion, and add predictability with respect to notices and expectations.

Administrator Palm stated that concerning reconsideration, his interpretation of the Municipal Code is that the Village would be required to re-notify for any planned developments or zoning matters.

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to remove from the table, to add the language “with the reason for the motion to reconsider” to Rule 6, and to approve an ordinance to amend Title 1 of the Village Code Regarding Rules and Order of Village Business.

President Adduci read a statement from Trustee Henek. Trustee Henek agreed with the changes made to Rule 3 regarding addressing the Board and felt they were reasonable guidelines. She is not in support of Rule 6 as currently written and felt that there was a greater benefit to adding more time to the review, consideration, and discussion process before the vote rather than incorporating a rule to correct a regretted vote. She supports two readings of an ordinance. She believes the public’s confidence in the Board’s vote would be undermined by a mechanism that would allow for second guessing; the exception being if there was truly new evidence not available prior to the original vote. She expressed concern about time and cost of re-notifying property owners of a reconsideration.

Administrator Palm stated Trustee Conti called him and wanted to reinforce that the concept of reconsideration is not unique to River Forest. He stated that the most commonly amended rule at the local board level, according to Village Attorney Smith, is to extend reconsideration to the next meeting. Researching in Sterling Codifiers, he stated they found that Des Plaines, Prospect Heights, Summit, Riverwoods, Elgin, and Wheeling all have amendments to reconsideration in their Municipal Codes.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Attorney Smith stated reconsideration is not used often.

Trustee Corsini stated she believes it would be used rarely, and that if it is abused, she urged the Board to review it. She agreed that the person requesting reconsideration should provide a reason and expressed concern that there could be an opportunity for someone to put

pressure on trustees to change their votes. She wondered how the Board would determine what would be significant enough to require a second reading and when a vote could be reconsidered.

Trustee Vazquez reiterated that criteria are needed to allow reconsideration and that the trustee making the motion to reconsider should state the specific basis of why they are making that motion.

Trustee Cargie stated he believes stating the reason for reconsideration is inherent in making that motion.

President Adduci stated she thought it was reasonable to add language to the ordinance to include providing a reason for reconsideration.

Village Attorney Smith stated the ordinance could be amended in Rule 6 to include “with the reason for the motion to reconsider.”

Trustee Corsini stated that having a reason, having notification, and ensuring reconsideration does not get abused is important to her.

Trustee Cargie reiterated that he made a mistake and wants to correct it.

President Adduci stated she is not struggling with this; we should have opportunities to correct mistakes.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Administrator Palm stated that notices for zoning matters have to be post-marked 7 days prior to the meeting taking place.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Village Attorney Smith reiterated the concept of vested rights, which is where someone has acted in reliance on the Board’s decision, and that person would be prejudiced by the Board changing their mind, the Board would no longer have the discretion to change their vote.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Vazquez, Administrator Palm stated most people are not going to start a project immediately upon receiving zoning approval. He recommended that the Board not change the timeframe of the notice requirements.

Trustee Gibbs stated that he is uncomfortable with providing a reason for reconsideration and expressed concern that the reason might not be good enough.

Trustee Cargie stated the motion to reconsider has to be approved by the Board anyway, and it is unlikely to pass without a reason. He stated he wanted to address an issue raised in an email submitted to the Board regarding politicking. He stated these are political decisions and that residents can talk to trustees. He did not agree with the suggestion that they should not talk to anyone outside of meetings or that they would have to disclose who they talk to.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution of Support for Grant Application to Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Viaduct Project

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to approve a Resolution of Support for Grant Application to Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for the Harlem Avenue Multimodal Viaduct Project.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Administrator Palm stated Surface Transportation Project grants are federal and state funding dollars that go to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, which are redirecting the funds for larger, region-wide initiatives. He stated STP funds are what the Village used for the major resurfacing projects on Division, Chicago, and Washington.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 p.m. Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for use of the public body, including discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by a public body.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 8:20 p.m. with the following members:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek
Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cargie made a motion seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Corsini, Gibbs, Vazquez

Absent: Trustees Conti, Henek

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk