

1 **EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE NEED TO RECONVENE:**

2  
3 To Discuss Executive Session Minutes Under the Open Meetings Act (September 16, 2019,  
4 September 5, 2019 and June 12, 2019) –

5  
6 The Board held an Executive Session from 6:29 P.M. to 6:54 P.M. to Discuss Executive Session  
7 Minutes (September 16, 2019; September 5, 2019; and June 12, 2019) According to the Open  
8 Meetings Act, Section 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d) with the Need to Reconvene.

9  
10 **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

11  
12 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Return to Open Session at**  
13 **7:00 P.M.**

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

15  
16 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**  
17 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
18 **Held on December 16, 2019**

19  
20 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the  
21 Linzey D. Jones Municipal Building and was called to order by Village President Sterling M.  
22 Burke at 7:00 P.M. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

23  
24 Present: Trustees – Watkins, Oliver, Pennington, Finley, and Matz  
25 Village President Sterling M. Burke  
26 Village Administrator, Cynthia Saenz  
27 Village Clerk, Drella Savage

28  
29 Absent: Trustee Thomas.

30  
31 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that we also have present Village President Burke; Village  
32 Administrator, Cynthia Saenz; Ms. Betty Zigras, Director of Finance; Mr. Landini and Mr.  
33 McDonnell; and the Court Reporter; and Interim Chief, Scott Morgan; and Stan King, our  
34 Treasurer. She believes that there are Committee heads here today to give reports.

35  
36 **RELEASE OF PRIOR CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:**

37  
38 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that we had an Executive Session today pursuant to the Open  
39 Meetings Act which requires a public body to go into Executive Session and close the meeting  
40 no less than two times a year, but more regularly if they choose to do so, to review the Minutes  
41 of all prior Closed Sessions. After conferring with the Village Attorney, Mr. John Murphey, she  
42 reviewed all of the Closed Session Minutes and came up with a process by which this Board of  
43 Trustees could review those minutes to make one, of two possible determinations. That  
44 determination is whether or not those Minutes need to remain confidential under the Open  
45 Meetings Act, or whether they can be released for public inspection. That was the purpose of the  
46 meeting tonight. Since the Board of Trustees in Closed Session cannot vote, they can reach a

1 consensus. She is happy to say that the Board members who met today did review the Minutes,  
2 discussed them, and made a consensus which for our purposes will be reduced to a Motion today.  
3 It is the recommendation of the Village Clerk of the Village of Olympia Fields that a Motion be  
4 made and Adopted by the Board of Trustees to not release the Minutes from the Executive  
5 Session held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the basis that the need for confidentiality still exists as  
6 to all, or a part of those Minutes.

7 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Finley, that we not Release the Minutes from**  
8 **the Executive Session Held on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the Basis that the Need for**  
9 **Confidentiality Still Exists as to all, or a Part of those Minutes.**

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

11  
12 It is the recommendation of the Village Clerk of the Village of Olympia Fields that a Motion be  
13 made and Adopted by the Board of Trustees to release the Minutes from the Executive Session  
14 held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the basis that the Minutes no longer require confidential  
15 treatment, and will be made available for public inspection.

16 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Watkins that we Release the Minutes from the**  
17 **Executive Session held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the Basis the Minutes no Longer**  
18 **Require Confidential Treatment, and will be Made Available for Public Inspection.**

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

20  
21 It is further the recommendation of the Village Clerk of the Village of Olympia Fields that a  
22 Motion be made and Adopted by the Board of Trustees to not release the Minutes from the  
23 Executive Session held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the basis that the need for confidentiality still  
24 exists as to all, or a part of those Minutes.

25 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley, that we do not Release the**  
26 **Minutes from the Executive Session held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on the Basis that the need for**  
27 **Confidentiality Still Exists as to all, or a Part of those Minutes.**

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

29  
30 It is the recommendation of the Village Clerk of the Village of Olympia Fields that a Motion be  
31 made and Adopted by the Board of Trustees to convene a series of Executive Sessions in January  
32 and February of 2020, at 6:30 P.M. to review, discuss, and reach a consensus on the release of  
33 the remainder of the Minutes reviewed by the Clerk from prior Executive Sessions dating from  
34 April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, through December 17<sup>th</sup>, of 2018.

35 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Matz that the Board of Trustees Convene a**  
36 **Series of Executive Sessions in January and February of 2020, at 6:30 P.M. to Review,**  
37 **Discuss, and Reach a Consensus on the Release of the Remainder of the Minutes from**  
38 **Prior Executive Sessions Dating from April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017, through December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

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

40  
41 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

42  
43 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Dispense with the Reading of**  
44 **the Minutes, and Approve the Minutes of the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Board Meeting as**  
45 **presented.**

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

47

1 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

2  
3 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Matz to Approve the Payment of Bills**  
4 **for December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in the Total Amount of \$270,765.28.**

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

6  
7 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

8  
9 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT:**

10  
11 **Ordinance #2019-19** – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, “Licenses, Permits and  
12 Miscellaneous Business Regulations,” of the Olympia Fields Village Code to Add New Article  
13 IX, Prohibition of Recreational Cannabis Establishments Within the Village of Olympia Fields,”  
14 Thereto [First and Second Reading] – Village President Burke stated that January 1<sup>st</sup> is the  
15 official kickoff of cannabis legislation in the State of Illinois. The Board has an opportunity to  
16 either opt out or opt in on whether or not there will be cannabis sold or distributed in the Village  
17 of Olympia Fields. That’s what this Ordinance is all about. Is there any discussion?

18 **Motion by Trustee Matz that the Discussion on whether or not to Opt in or out of the**  
19 **Cannabis Sales will be Placed on the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Primary Ballot as a Referendum**  
20 **Question, to Allow the Residents of Olympia Fields to have a Voice.**

21  
22 Village President Burke stated that we have to, by law, take a vote by the Board to opt in or opt  
23 out by January 1<sup>st</sup>. We can, at a later date, make a decision and discuss it. There are all kinds of  
24 Ordinances, changes to our HR Manual, changes to things that go on in the Village, testing by  
25 the Police Department, and we are not prepared at this time to do those kinds of things. We can  
26 always opt in at a later date, but we have to take a vote tonight to either stay in, and change a lot  
27 of things between now and the end of the year, or we opt out for the time being and then bring it  
28 back up at a later date.

29  
30 Trustee Matz stated that she thinks that the cannabis portion of this should be out of this  
31 Ordinance until we have further discussion, Town Halls, and allow the residents to weigh-in on  
32 this. As it stands, this would change the whole landscape, this Ordinance. Village President  
33 Burke inquired of Trustee Matz whether or not she would like to say a few more words on why  
34 she thinks we need to do this.

35  
36 Trustee Matz stated that she thinks that everybody needs to have their voice on the cannabis  
37 because of the medicinal use of it, as well as we have the Medical District over there. They might  
38 want to have a Cannabis Dispensary over there. We are not allowing our residents to see the  
39 value of having it or not having it. She thinks that we are not the judge and the jury over whether  
40 or not cannabis should be allowed in our community. She stated that by putting this in the  
41 Ordinance, it is telling everybody that it is out.

42  
43 Village President Burke stated that like he said before, we have to take a vote tonight to opt out  
44 until, at a future date, we can get into looking at all of the possibilities. He is not sure how soon  
45 we can open this back up.

1 Village Administrator Saenz stated that according to the attorney, we can opt in at any time. We  
2 do have to make a decision by December 31<sup>st</sup> whether we allow the distribution and the sale of  
3 cannabis in the Village of Olympia Fields. That’s what this Ordinance is for. At any time after  
4 January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board can open the floor back up for discussion to make a change to allow the  
5 distribution or sale of the cannabis, and in whatever function we see fit.

6  
7 Trustee Watkins stated that you can opt in at any time. Can you opt out at any time? Village  
8 Administrator Saenz stated that we either have to opt in or opt out before the end of the year. If  
9 the decision is to opt out, we can opt in again at any time. Trustee Watkins inquired so if the  
10 decision is to opt in now, can we opt out at any time? Village Administrator Saenz stated if the  
11 decision is to opt in, our Zoning Code has to be changed. We have to have Public Hearings,  
12 which we will not be able to do by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

13  
14 Trustee Pennington stated that what we are talking about here is just the recreational use of  
15 cannabis. Village Administrator Saenz stated correct. Trustee Pennington stated that we are not  
16 talking about the medical benefits at this particular point in time. He stated given the time  
17 constraints that we are faced with, as well as we are just dealing with the recreational sale and  
18 use of cannabis here in the Village of Olympia Fields, he thinks that is what we have to deal with  
19 at this particular point in time. We can always address the possibility of coming onboard again,  
20 as has been stated already, at a later date. He stated that giving the time constraints that we are  
21 faced with; we need to take action now.

22  
23 Trustee Matz inquired we are faced with that time constraints because of what? How long have  
24 we known about this?

25  
26 Village President Burke stated that we took a straw vote among the Board members a month ago.  
27 It was five to one to opt out. All of the Board members were polled. Everyone except one person  
28 decided to opt out. There was a discussion. Information was given. It was an opportunity to make  
29 a potential decision to do that minus one person.

30  
31 Trustee Matz stated that there were other Villages that had Town Hall Meetings. They had  
32 workshops. They had people come in to discuss the nature of it, and they were well informed of  
33 their options. We have not had that.

34  
35 Village President Burke stated that it is duly noted that you feel that way. Right now, we are  
36 going to take a public vote.

37 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Watkins to Waive in First Reading and**  
38 **Adopt in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2019-19 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12,**  
39 **“Licenses, Permits and Miscellaneous Business Regulations,” of the Olympia Fields Village**  
40 **Code to Add a New Article IX, Prohibition of Recreational Cannabis Establishments**  
41 **Within the Village of Olympia Fields,” Thereto.**

42 **Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustee Matz Voted No) Motion Carried.**

43  
44 **Consideration to Reduce the Annual Liquor License Fee for Redwood Luxe Bar & Grille –**  
45 **Adam Shorter, Owner –** Village President Burke stated that next on the agenda is to follow on  
46 a discussion for consideration to reduce the Annual Liquor License Fee for Redwood Luxe Bar

1 & Grille. He asked Mr. McDonnell to provide the Board with the information that he was able to  
2 find.

3  
4 Mr. McDonnell stated that he gave you a little hand out. It was as much information that he  
5 could squeeze out of all of the surrounding communities around us, and some a little farther out.  
6 On the right-hand side in red, those are the total revenues for each business that they pay to the  
7 municipality to have a restaurant with a bar that seats 50 people or more, and have five gaming  
8 machines. There are only a couple of places that charge more than \$25.00 per machine. That is  
9 because of the State Statute. He stated that Non-Home Rule Municipalities can only charge  
10 \$25.00 per gaming machine. They collect their fees by raising their Liquor License Fees. That  
11 was information that he put together. He stated that the Village President wanted him to compile  
12 this data so that the Board had some more information to make a decision.

13  
14 Village President Burke stated just so everyone is clear, he asked Mr. McDonnell to speak as to  
15 the Ordinance that was passed in 2017. Village President Burke stated that in December of 2017,  
16 Ordinance No. 2017-23 was an Ordinance Amending Chapter 4, “Alcoholic Liquor, Article II,  
17 Licenses, Section 4-32, 4-32.1 and 4-35 of Chapter IX. These are Articles for Licenses, et cetera.  
18 In that Ordinance, we raised the fees for gaming in the Village of Olympia Fields. That was  
19 because the Board took a position that this was something that we were not interested in putting  
20 more businesses there. It was partially a deterrent, and partially a way to help raise revenues.  
21 Prior to that, a gaming license with alcohol was \$1,000.00. We voted to take it to \$5,000.00.

22  
23 Mr. McDonnell stated that is correct. We did that because the Village Attorney told us that was  
24 the only way that we could increase revenues for businesses that wanted to serve a full bar of  
25 alcohol and wanted to have gaming machines.

26  
27 Trustee Watkins stated that she wasn’t here in 2017. When Redwood first came into the Village,  
28 what was their initial cost? Mr. McDonnell stated it was \$1,000.00. Village President Burke  
29 stated and there was a \$100.00 fee for the gaming machines. He believes they had four. Mr.  
30 McDonnell stated that they have three.

31  
32 Trustee Pennington stated that Redwood assumed the cost of that license. The previous owner,  
33 John Bizios, paid that fee. When Redwood took over the operation of the restaurant, that fee was  
34 just continuing for that license. Mr. McDonnell believes that the fee came after it was called  
35 “Redwood.” Village President Burke stated it was increased to \$5,000.00. Trustee Pennington  
36 stated no, no. When Redwood first took over, they took over the operation from Bizios, which  
37 already had the license in place, as well as the machines. Mr. McDonnell stated that’s correct.  
38 Trustee Pennington stated that whatever that cost would have been, \$1,000.00, that would be the  
39 cost that Redwood would have to pay. Mr. McDonnell stated yes.

40  
41 Trustee Watkins inquired so we jumped from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 once Redwood took over.  
42 Mr. McDonnell stated essentially, yes. Village President Burke stated that it wasn’t aimed at  
43 Redwood. It was a general increase. Trustee Watkins stated that she understands. Village  
44 President Burke stated that it went to the \$5,000.00 mark. There should be a letter that is in  
45 everyone’s packet from Mr. Murphey. In the letter, the last paragraph says: “The Village Board  
46 is acknowledging the short notice.” This was done at the first meeting in December. It says, “The  
47 Village Board is acknowledging the short notice, and since you are currently open and doing

1 business in the Village of Olympia Fields, the Village President and Board of Trustees has  
2 decided to give your business a one year grace period, until December 31, 2018, to give you the  
3 opportunity to decide if you would like to continue to offer video gaming at your place of  
4 business. Please note that the amount due for the renewal of the liquor license for 2018 is  
5 \$1,000.00.” The first year we let them continue to pay the \$1,000.00 that they had already paid  
6 the year before. The following year, which was last year, at the time it was time to renew  
7 licenses, they paid \$5,000.00. They made a decision to keep the gaming machines that they had.  
8 That’s what we gave them the opportunity to do. If you do not want to do gaming, then you can  
9 go back to \$1,000.00 and just sell alcohol. They had a year to think that through to see if that was  
10 something that they wanted to do. They chose to move forward and pay the gaming license and  
11 liquor charge. They paid that \$5,000.00. This year, they are asking that we go back to what it  
12 was when it was \$1,000.00. Even though they were paying the \$5,000.00 last year, they want in  
13 2020 to be charged only \$1,000.00. That’s what the discussion is about. Mr. McDonnell stated  
14 that’s correct.

15  
16 Trustee Matz stated that when we were in that meeting, we talked about doing the increase from  
17 \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for a deterrent. We did not want anymore gaming in the Village of  
18 Olympia Fields. We were grandfathering those who already had gaming. They were going to  
19 stay at \$1,000.00. That was her understanding. That’s why she voted yes. She stated that when  
20 you talk to the owners of Redwood, they are under a contract. They can’t get out of the contract  
21 of having their gaming machines there. They already have a contract. We are hurting them by not  
22 allowing them to stay grandfathered in at that \$1,000.00. They have a limited number of gaming  
23 machines in there. That’s not their focus. They inherited that. They have to honor that contract.  
24 We are doing them a grand injustice by not grandfathering them into the \$1,000.00.

25  
26 Village President Burke stated that last year they had an opportunity, and they stepped up and  
27 paid the \$5,000.00. Number 2, effective January 1<sup>st</sup> they can go to six machines if they choose to  
28 do so. Anyone who is in business, can go up to six machines. The third thing that he would like  
29 to put on the table is that we had several conversations where we met with the owners of  
30 Redwood. They came to the Economic Development Commission meeting. We discussed the  
31 concept of either growing and putting more machines in. They told us that they did not  
32 necessarily want to do this, like you said. However, they said that what they would like to do was  
33 to add more machines. They asked to add more machines. If you take a step back from this, it  
34 went from paying \$1,000.00. Then they went up to \$5,000.00. They paid that a year into the  
35 actual enactment of the law. Now, they are coming back and asking us to go backwards to  
36 \$1,000.00. You also have in front of you a sheet that shows all of the liquor licenses and/or  
37 gaming licenses in the Village. You can see that there are a number of people who have  
38 \$5,000.00 license fees. This was not something aimed at them. That sheet was not initially in  
39 your packet. That was something that we just passed out. It indicates that there are at least four or  
40 five other people that have licenses that they are paying \$5,000.00.

41  
42 Village President Burke stated that one of the ways in which the Village raises money to manage  
43 our business around here is through the liquor licenses. He stated that to give them a reduction is  
44 something that we have to see what the Board’s pleasure is on that. He inquired of Trustee  
45 Watkins what her opinion is on this. He doesn’t get to vote unless there is a tie. He is just passing  
46 out the information that we have collected.

1 Trustee Watkins stated that she feels like she is coming on the backend of this one. Redwood is  
2 unique to our community. There is nothing else in our community like that. She is not saying that  
3 we should go back to \$1,000.00. Is there something that we could do for them? Maybe not jump  
4 to \$5,000.00. Maybe give them some type of incentive for next year. It doesn't look like he is  
5 making that much money on those machines.

6  
7 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated point of order. If someone speaks, they need to ask for  
8 recognition from the President that they want to speak.

9  
10 Village President Burke stated that you want to continue. Go ahead. Trustee Watkins stated that  
11 was really it. She was wondering if we had any other suggestions for them. It is a big jump from  
12 \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00. She doesn't know how long John was able to pay \$1,000.00. He was  
13 there for quite a while. She doesn't want to put any strains on a business and lose somebody in  
14 our community.

15  
16 Trustee Matz stated that she would like to be recognized, Mr. President. You had mentioned that  
17 Redwood stated that they wanted to add three more machines. Is that what you said? They  
18 wanted to go up to six machines. Village President Burke stated that they would like to add more  
19 machines. The discussion was that we would not necessarily like the idea, but if that's what they  
20 wanted to do, they could do it.

21  
22 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that as a point of order, if there's discussion to be had by all  
23 of the Trustees, then everyone that may want a turn, should get a turn before one person has had  
24 an opportunity to speak once or twice, and then that person can speak again.

25  
26 Trustee Oliver stated that his view on this matter is he is just looking at the businesses that come  
27 into this town. He is a pro-business person. He wants businesses to thrive and to succeed in  
28 Olympia Fields. The raising of this fee to \$5,000.00 to him as a businessman, doesn't seem like  
29 it is going to cut that much into his profit. If it does, do we belong here? That would be his  
30 question. He is a pro-business person. This doesn't seem to make sense to him that he would  
31 make this much effort to reduce it from \$5,000.00 to \$1,000.00. This is the cost of doing  
32 business with these types of businesses. He is opposed to reducing it.

33  
34 Trustee Pennington stated that he too is pro-business. We all know the need for businesses in this  
35 community. However, the fact is evident that the principals at Redwood paid the \$5,000.00 on  
36 the 18<sup>th</sup> of December last year. Apparently, it was not an issue at that time. And now, it has  
37 become an issue. Hence, the reduction request by the principals. He concurs with Trustee Oliver.  
38 He doesn't think that we should lower the current fee, and it should stay as it is.

39  
40 Trustee Finley stated that she thinks that the move from \$1,000.00 to \$5,000.00 has already  
41 occurred. That horse is already out of the barn. It use to be \$1,000.00. Redwood paid it. Now, it  
42 is \$5,000.00 and Redwood paid that. She thinks that what is really at issue here for the work that  
43 we do at this table, is what price do we set on the evolving business of gaming in our community  
44 that suits our business model? That determination has always been set at \$5,000.00. It says  
45 clearly, if that's what you want to do as part of your revenue model, then this is what it cost in  
46 Olympia Fields to do it. She stated to her, that is clear. She stated with that being the case, she  
47 understands that Redwood is asking for some sort of relief. She doesn't think it can happen here.

1 It may need to happen with something else. Maybe some other proposal. Maybe some other way  
2 we have not heard yet. Gaming is evolving. At some point, \$5,000.00 is going to appear to be a  
3 great big deal, in terms of an incredible deal that you can get. She stated that \$5,000.00 is where  
4 we are. She stated that \$5,000.00 has been validated by Redwood's payment on this before.  
5 Trustee Finley stated that she is for keeping the rate where it is, and seeing what else we might  
6 be able to do when individual specific businesses have concerns that we need to consider at this  
7 place.

8  
9 Trustee Matz stated we all say we are pro-business. Based on everybody on this dais saying that  
10 they think that the \$5,000.00 is just. As much as we tackle economic development out here, we  
11 are trying to bring businesses to our community, it is more advantageous to us to maintain our  
12 businesses and add to them, then replace the businesses and look for a new business. She thinks  
13 it is a travesty that we are even debating this about an established business that we already have  
14 in our community that is serving us well, and we're talking like this. Trustee Matz says, "No."

15  
16 Village President Burke stated that fortunately we have the data. You have before you roughly  
17 20 people who have liquor licenses. The lowest one that we have is \$3,000.00. The highest one  
18 we have is \$5,000.00. We have four people that have \$5,000.00 license fees.

19 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Reduce the Annual Liquor**  
20 **License Fee for Redwood Luxe Bar & Grille from Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to**  
21 **One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00) for the Year 2019.**

22 **Roll Call: Ayes (2) (Trustees Finley, Pennington and Oliver Voted No) Motion Carried.**

23  
24 Village President Burke stated that the Motion carries to not reduce it.

25  
26 **Economic Development Commission Update – Michael Lewis, Chairperson –** Mr. Michael  
27 Lewis stated it is very encouraging to hear all of this pro-business conversation. We are about to  
28 give you some background on something that is coming down the pike that we need your support  
29 on. Tonight's comments are to give you background. Some of the Trustees were not here when  
30 some of the initial conversations began. At the next meeting we will ask for your approval of a  
31 contract which will be the culmination of the work that we have been doing to identify the right  
32 firm for branding and marketing.

33  
34 Mr. Lewis stated that we are supported by an outstanding team of Economic Development  
35 Commissioners. Tonight, we have Trinetta Britt-Johnson who also serves as our consultant and  
36 guide. He stated that Kevin Brookins, George Chandler, Phillip Paige and Howard White are all  
37 present this evening. It takes a great team to come up with a strategy and a plan that we think  
38 makes a difference in our community.

39  
40 Mr. Lewis stated that our history in terms of what we are looking at started in 2017 when we did  
41 a Community Needs Assessment, and a market analysis for the Village which was done by  
42 Valerie Kretchmer and Associates. It came before this Board. You reviewed the Executive  
43 Summary and the recommendations from that. He stated that from that work, we developed a  
44 Work Plan which has been executed and implemented through a combination of staff, the  
45 Economic Development Commission, and guided by our consultant, Trinetta Britt-Johnson, and  
46 TBJ and Associates, in terms of making sure we stayed on a path for what we needed to do.

47



1 Mr. Lewis stated that economic development is a long-term endeavor. It is not an instant oatmeal  
2 unfortunately. While some have been frustrated because of the time, it takes time in order to do  
3 the work right, and do the work correctly, and have long-term, sustainable economic  
4 development in our community. We are committed to that.

5  
6 Mr. Lewis stated that we went through the work with Valerie. We came up with a work plan.  
7 The work plan was presented to this Board. The Board had a chance to see the work plan and the  
8 activities that were going to take place through the three groups that he mentioned, either the  
9 staff, the Commissioners, or through the consultant to really help move us to the next level. We  
10 committed in 2019 that one of the key things that we wanted to make sure that we identified and  
11 brought to the table was to bring an outside consultant in to help us with brand, image, and  
12 marketing. That's a key success factor to make sure that you are marketing and selling what you  
13 are, and not always being on the defensive about what you are not.

14  
15 Mr. Lewis stated that it is important for our community to be recognized for the assets it brings.  
16 We have a world-class health facility, a world-class recreation facility, world-class housing, safe  
17 community. It's an environment that people will want to go to, but they have to know about it.  
18 He stated that bringing a branding and marketing firm on site, not only will it help from an  
19 economic development perspective, but we think that it will help overall, in terms of trying to  
20 make sure that we are being recognized for the tremendous community that we are.

21  
22 **Proposal Presentation from A5 Branding & Digital to Develop a Marketing Brand for**  
23 **Business Retention and Attraction** - Mr. Lewis stated that what you have in your packet, is a  
24 Brand and Marketing Initiative RFP Review. In this process we started with an RFI. In the early  
25 part of the year we determined that a Request for Information was going to be put out. We  
26 wanted to make sure that we assessed whether or not what we wanted to do would be supported  
27 by companies that would be interested in working with us in that endeavor. In July we received  
28 that information. We were encouraged that the RFI was affirmative. There were at least three  
29 firms that had expressed interest in making sure that they work with our organization. Because of  
30 the rules that exist, we needed to go from an RFI to an RFP. We put our RFP out in the public  
31 space. We wanted to make sure that there were no qualified firms that if they were interested,  
32 that didn't have a chance to compete for our business, and certainly an RFP was quarterbacked  
33 by people who are on our Economic Development Commission who have specific background  
34 and training. Howard White and Hilde Betts who couldn't be here tonight, have spent extensive  
35 time. He stated that Howard owns a digital marketing company and has worked for CNA. He  
36 stated that Hilde worked for over 28 years with BMO Harris Bank. She was very extensively  
37 involved with RFPs and RFIs. We wanted to make sure that we were not only asking the right  
38 questions, but also establishing the right criteria and evaluating these objectively, so that the end  
39 product was going to be something we all could say meets our acronym which he introduced to  
40 the Board before, "STAMP," Strategic, Transparent, Accountable, Measurable, and Practical.  
41 That's what we try to do on everything that we do. This receives our stamp of approval because  
42 we went through the process and it was unbiased.

43  
44 Mr. Lewis stated that in your packet under the Overview which is the second page, it talks about  
45 the Commission, the seeking of proposals for a potential agency to help us and the Village of  
46 Olympia Fields with refining and executing a strategy designed to: Detail the Village's brand  
47 value proposition which is critically important, particularly when there are a lot of competing

1 brands out there that don't have the same assets, if you will, same allure as ours does. Leveraging  
2 said brand's value proposition, with a strategic approach to attract businesses. He heard most of  
3 you say tonight that that is very, very important to our community. Drive awareness of the  
4 Village's brand and assets to increase the positive perceptions of our Village, and increase its  
5 desirability as a community for present and future homeowners. That's a residual benefit of this  
6 work, even though our charge is to look at the economic development subject equation. There  
7 are residual benefits from this work that he thinks will approve to all residents and to all  
8 stakeholders.

9  
10 Mr. Lewis stated that the next page shows who the candidates were. There were five respondents  
11 to the RFI. It was A5 Branding, The Grillo Group, the L3 Agency, North Star Place and Useful  
12 Group. Those are the five that responded to the RFI. The RFI was put out in the public domain.  
13 We not only posted information on the website, but we also posted information in the press so  
14 that we were fully compliant with all requirements to make sure that there was nobody excluded  
15 from that process.

16  
17 Mr. Lewis stated that from that we put together evaluation criteria. He stated that Howard White  
18 and Hilde Betts who are skilled professionals in this area helped tremendously, along with the  
19 guidance of our consultant, TBJ and Associates to make sure that these evaluations had the kind  
20 of criteria in them that would lead to an outcome that would actually satisfy our goal, which is to  
21 make sure that we have the best in class product, and best in class provided. He stated that he  
22 won't delineate all of those. You can see experience, branding and marketing being the primary  
23 focus. Completeness of responses, references, costs within our budget. Most important is the  
24 availability to start the project. We would like to start this work in January. Those are the  
25 evaluated criteria.

26  
27 Mr. Lewis stated that the next page shows what those responses were and what the assessment of  
28 our team was relative to those key criteria. He thinks that they have been very clear. They could  
29 either do it or they couldn't. We went down the key criteria. We assessed which firms were best  
30 able to satisfy those criteria and reported it accordingly. He stated from those five, we narrowed  
31 it down to the top 2. That was A5 Branding and The Grillo Group. We wanted to have one-on-  
32 one interviews. We had personal interviews where the full team was pretty much there. We had a  
33 chance to sit down with those two firms and ask them the questions that were contained in the  
34 RFI, but also to get a feel for their staff, their people, and whether or not their experience would  
35 lend itself to the job at hand. We completed that process. At the end of the process, in addition to  
36 the cost which is shown on the next page, our recommendation is A5 Branding & Digital based  
37 in Chicago, Illinois. They had a demonstrated track record. They've worked with a number of  
38 communities, not only in the Chicago area, but around the Midwest. Their team was responsive.  
39 Their team was flexible and nimble. As we completed the work, we wanted to look at the  
40 contract and make sure that the contract met the requirements and stayed within the parameters  
41 that we had established. Rather than try to rush it, we decided that it made more sense to do it  
42 right and come back to you in the next meeting with the contract for approval, with all of the  
43 costs delineated fully, and all of the negotiations clearly laid out so that you can see it and have  
44 that information before you. It was unanimous that A5 was the most qualified provider. It was  
45 unanimous amongst the group that we take an internal vote that they would be the agency that  
46 could lead us in the branding, marketing, and digital arena. It was confirmed in terms of the  
47 response, as well as in terms of their verbal presentation that they gave to us.

1 Mr. Lewis stated that the purpose of him being here tonight, is to give you the background. He  
2 stated that if you have questions, Trinette is here from the consultant equation. He stated that  
3 Howard is here and he participated very actively in the process. Next month we will put the  
4 contract before you for your review and approval, and then proceed from that point forward.

5

6 Trustee Pennington inquired can you share with us what are some of the branding models,  
7 branding techniques that A5 uses, or would that be a better question for a later date.

8

9 Mr. Lewis stated that he can give you some generalities in terms of how they would get to that.  
10 He can't say as he sits here now, this is what they would do. They don't have a cookie-cutter  
11 model. They sit down and interview stakeholders. They learn what the key goal and objectives  
12 are. What are your capabilities? What are you? What aren't you? Then determine what you are.  
13 They have a very collaborative model which was comforting. He stated that one of the firms that  
14 presented did work for Flossmoor. The Flossmoor Model is one that was built around that  
15 community. He thinks that we can expect that this model will be built around our community. He  
16 can't tell you exactly what it will be, that would probably be speaking negatively to the process,  
17 when the process should include stakeholders which would include all of you.

18

19 Trustee Pennington stated as a follow-up, during the time that you were looking at the  
20 candidates, at any point in time did you, or any member of your team, contact some  
21 municipalities that the candidates have worked with before and got comments from them.

22

23 Mr. Lewis stated that we got confirmation from them that they were either satisfied with the  
24 work, felt comfortable with what they had done. We didn't do it with every reference. We did  
25 check some references to make sure that their reputation was not just their word, but was  
26 certainly verified by their own efforts.

27

28 Trustee Finley stated that it is very exciting. Trustee Finley inquired the team that would be  
29 working on the Olympia Fields project, will that include the principals of A5?

30

31 Mr. Lewis stated yes. The owner of the firm, John, came to make a presentation. He apologized  
32 for not having his last name. He will be involved in the process. When we did the RFP response,  
33 he was out of town on another proposal. He called in. His team was here in person. He called in.  
34 The comforting thing was that the team was able to give us enough comfort, support, and  
35 information, that even though he was not here physically, his team stepped up and made us feel  
36 even better about the process. He stated yes, the principal owner of the firm will be involved in  
37 our business model. Village President Burke stated John Harris.

38

39 Trustee Oliver stated that it sounds exciting. Mr. Lewis stated that we are very excited as well.  
40 We look forward to the culmination of a long-term strategic process. We look forward to taking  
41 the next step. At the January Board meeting you will have a full contract. You will be able to see  
42 the details. We will answer any questions that you might have.

43

44 Village President Burke stated that he didn't want to be redundant. He stated that what this is  
45 partially about is Flossmoor has a brand. Homewood has a brand. Oak Park has a brand. He  
46 stated that if you ask Olympia Fields what our brand is, people are hard to come up with what  
47 that brand actually is. In the case of Homewood/Flossmoor, it is the high school. Here we have

1 the country club. The country club isn't part of the Village of Olympia Fields. When we are out  
2 marketing, trying to get people to want to do business with the Village of Olympia Fields, we tell  
3 them all the reasons why all of us moved into the Village. We want to try to put this into  
4 something that we can articulate and have anybody in the Village be able to talk about. It is  
5 something that they can see on the website. They can see it in the newsletters that we produce.  
6 These guys have done a really good job of putting together the website, newsletters, et cetera to  
7 market other towns. This is why they kind of rose to the top to do this for the Village.

8  
9 Mr. Lewis stated that if anything, we have probably been hamstrung because we are caught in  
10 that amorphous South Suburban Community description, as opposed to basically being identified  
11 for what we are, and what we have, and what we can market more effectively if we can work  
12 with a firm like A5 to get that message out.

13  
14 Trustee Watkins inquired of Chairman Lewis whether or not he saw or read on CNBC.com the  
15 10 best U.S. Suburbs for retirement. A neighbor sent it to her. Mr. Lewis stated that he did see  
16 that. Trustee Watkins stated that Olympia Fields is in the top 10. Mr. Lewis stated that we did  
17 read that. That's one of the things that we want to talk about capitalizing on what we are, instead  
18 of defending what we are not. We are not Winnetka. We shouldn't be. What we are is a  
19 community that has that to offer, along with some other outstanding attributes. So, beginning to  
20 build off of that is how you create a narrative that works, as opposed to always being on the  
21 defensive. (There was a round of applause).

22  
23 **Update by Economic Development Consultant Trinette Britt- Johnson** - Mrs. Trinette Britt-  
24 Johnson stated that her update is not as glamorous as Mike's. She wanted to piggyback off of one  
25 thing from his update. One of the things that she was excited about, she heard from John Harris  
26 the owner of A5. He made a comment about putting everybody in the same boat, rowing in the  
27 same direction. She stated from the community, from the businesses, from the developers, from  
28 administration, getting everybody together and understanding everybody's ideas. That particular  
29 article has been on our website for a long time about a retirement community. She stated that  
30 something that Mike always says is being something that we are, versus being something that we  
31 are not. It is just understanding whatever that is, so that when we are going after people, we are  
32 going after the type of businesses that will fit this particular community. She enjoyed listening to  
33 that particular consultant. It connected.

34  
35 Mrs. Britt-Johnson stated that from her last update, she is excited about something. The deal isn't  
36 done. The last update, she mentioned that there were two particular potential owners that were  
37 kind of fighting over Butterfield Plaza. One has won out. That deal may close this week. It will  
38 close before the month is out. Batters & Berries has signed a Letter of Intent. We are really  
39 excited about that. (There was a round of applause). They have to deal with John with  
40 architectural for building out their kitchen and layout and so forth. We will be excited to talk  
41 about a timeline, and a construction timeline, and an opening for them over in Butterfield Plaza.  
42 The potential new owner is also bringing in another restaurant in addition to Batter & Berries.  
43 They don't have a Letter of Intent yet. We will wait on that.

44  
45 Mrs. Britt-Johnson stated that the doctor that owns the dialysis center on Vollmer has just  
46 recently purchased the Chase building. He is turning that into an office building for himself with  
47 additional office spaces for him. He is also working on opening up a Surgical Care Center in

1 Olympia Fields. That site has not been identified. That is something that he would like to work  
2 with us on in opening up that type of Surgical Care Unit.

3  
4 Mrs. Britt-Johnson stated that we have been entertaining a developer who is interested in  
5 Olympia Corners, the former Jewel Plaza. She stated that due to the fact that is Village owned  
6 property, that developer will come before the Board and make presentations on his particular  
7 concepts for that location. We do have another restaurant that we are entertaining. That  
8 restaurant may go into Olympia Corners. As that progresses, we will keep you posted.

9  
10 **REPORT OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

11  
12 **203<sup>rd</sup> Street Metra Parking Lot Update – Recommendation to Rescind Previous Decision to**  
13 **Issue a Notice to Terminate the Agreement for Operation and Maintenance of the 203<sup>rd</sup>**  
14 **Street Metra Parking Lot and Work with Metra to Make the Recommended Upgrades to**  
15 **the Commuter Parking Lot –** Village Administrator Saenz stated that next on the agenda is a  
16 letter that we received from Metra in regards to the 203<sup>rd</sup> Street Metra Lot. In September the  
17 Board voted to terminate the contract with Metra. The direction she was given was to send a  
18 letter acknowledging that we wanted to terminate our contract. After hearing from the audience,  
19 and hearing from the residents, and having some discussion internally, we decided that instead of  
20 sending the Letter of Termination, we would sit down with Metra, discuss some of our concerns,  
21 put together a budget, a plan. We did that. Metra has come back and responded. Metra has  
22 agreed with us that there is a need to increase the daily parking rate at the Metra Lot, along with  
23 making some changes regarding the technology to upgrade the lot.

24  
25 Village Administrator Saenz stated that what she is proposing today to the Board, is a  
26 recommendation to rescind the previous decision to issue a Notice to Terminate the agreement  
27 for operation and maintenance of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Street Metra Parking Lot, and to work with Metra to  
28 make the recommended upgrades to the Commuter Parking Lot. She stated just to refresh the  
29 memory of the Board, a few of the upgrades that we had discussed before, we have been talking  
30 internally for about a year about implementing the mobile app, the passport app. She stated that  
31 what staff is ready to do is to move towards that now, and make that implementation of the  
32 mobile app begin. We will start that process in January of 2020.

33  
34 Village Administrator Saenz stated that the rate increase that Metra has agreed to is a 75-cent  
35 rate increase. She stated that increases the rate to \$2.00 from \$1.25. We would make that  
36 effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. The other thing that Metra has agreed to, that they think is a good move  
37 for us at this point, is to change the collection process at the lot. We have spoken with them.  
38 They agree that the electronic pay stations would be a good move for us. They are requiring that  
39 we have five pay stations installed. We will begin working on that as well. We will work in  
40 tandem with the mobile app facility. It will take five to seven weeks for the pay stations.

41  
42 Village Administrator Saenz stated that the other thing that we are discussing internally that we  
43 still need to work out, but she thinks everyone is in agreement, and we heard this from the  
44 public, is the need for safety and traffic control at the lot. We are discussing having a part-time  
45 code enforcement officer/traffic control officer at the parking lot in the mornings and in the  
46 evenings to help with the control of the traffic and the safety for the commuters. After hearing  
47 today about the economic development that we all felt was important, with Metra agreeing to the

1 fee increase, the Village really should remain a part of the maintenance of that lot and remain in  
2 control, especially as we make decisions regarding economic development. Although, the Metra  
3 Lot is not the corridor to the Village, it is a very important asset for us. She thinks everyone is in  
4 agreement that we still need to be involved with the decisions that pertain to that lot. The  
5 recommendation that she has for the Board, is a recommendation to rescind the previous decision  
6 to issue the Notice to Terminate the agreement for the operation and maintenance of the 203<sup>rd</sup>  
7 Street Metra Parking Lot, and work with Metra to make the recommended upgrades to the  
8 commuter parking lot.

9 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Matz to Accept the Recommendation to**  
10 **Rescind the Previous Decision to Issue a Notice to Terminate the Agreement for Operation**  
11 **and Maintenance of the 203<sup>rd</sup> Street Metra Parking Lot and Work with Metra to Make the**  
12 **Recommended Upgrades to the Commuter Parking Lot.**

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

14  
15 **2020 Public Meeting Schedule** – Village Administrator Saenz stated that the next item is the  
16 2020 Public Meeting Schedule. She stated that everyone had in front of them on the dais a  
17 corrected schedule. What was not included in the schedule that you received in your Board  
18 Packet were the dates that Trustee Matz and Public Works Director Jim Landini had agreed upon  
19 for the Public Works Committee. Those dates have been added to the calendar. She stated that  
20 Trustee Watkins has brought to my attention that for the Library Board there was some  
21 confusion. It’s listed that the Library Board will meet the last Wednesday of the month. It’s  
22 actually the fourth Wednesday of the month. We will make that correction before we publish the  
23 calendar. We are looking for approval of the Public Meeting Schedule Calendar for 2020.

24 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve, Publish, and**  
25 **Distribute the 2020 Public Meeting Schedule of all Boards, Commissions and Committees.**

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

27  
28 **Update on the 211<sup>th</sup> Street Metra Lot** - Village Administrator Saenz stated that she had a few  
29 other items she wanted to bring to the attention of the Board. The Village did receive a letter  
30 from the Chicago/South Suburban Mass Transit District. That is the entity that manages the lot at  
31 211<sup>th</sup> Street and Kedzie. They sent us a letter terminating our service contract. Their Board has  
32 made the decision to contract with a third-party vendor for the maintenance of the lot there. That  
33 contract with us has changed quite a bit over the years. The only thing that we were doing was  
34 emptying garbage and changing lightbulbs periodically. They are going to handle that  
35 themselves with a third-party vendor. We will have no more involvement with that lot except for  
36 property maintenance, code enforcement issues.

37  
38 Trustee Oliver inquired when you say “property maintenance,” are you saying as far as the  
39 landscaping. Village Administrator Saenz stated no. She stated that John can speak to this. She  
40 stated more enforcement for signage, condition of the lot, things of that nature which falls under  
41 our Property Maintenance Code. She stated that Reggi will still be out monitoring the lot,  
42 making sure that proper signage is there. That it’s readable. That there are no potholes. Mr.  
43 McDonnell stated that is pretty much it.

44  
45 Trustee Oliver stated but the third-party will be the one trimming bushes and doing those other  
46 things to beautify the area. It really is an eyesore. Village Administrator Saenz stated yes. We  
47 have some communication out to them currently. It’s a page and a half of issues. We have been

1 trying to get in contact with the new director over there. It has been pretty difficult to get her to  
2 respond. We are trying to follow-up. We are looking for a date from them as to a timeframe  
3 when they will get everything taken care of before we start issuing citations. The Building  
4 Department is staying on top of that.

5  
6 **Possible Changes to the HR Personnel Manual** - Village Administrator Saenz stated that the  
7 last item that she has was information that is in your packet. It was at the very end of your  
8 packet. It had to do with the cannabis law that changed effective January 1<sup>st</sup> as it relates to  
9 employees. She wants to let the Board know that we received legal opinion from John Murphey  
10 as it relates to law enforcement for our police officers. We are also in communication with the  
11 attorney regarding the changes that we will need to make to the HR Personnel Manual. Even  
12 though it is stated in our Manual that you can't consume or possess cannabis on Village property,  
13 we still need to go through the Manual to make sure that there are other pieces to that law that  
14 flow through the Manual properly. She spoke with the attorney today. Next week they will be  
15 spending time on the Manual because things are kind of slow during that time period. They are  
16 working on reviewing our Manual, along with their other clients. At our meeting in January, we  
17 will come back with the necessary changes that we need to make. They are not expecting a great  
18 overhaul. We may need to make a few changes.

19  
20 **DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:**

21  
22 **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

23  
24 **Building Department Report** – Mr. McDonnell stated that Trustee Finley asked him to talk  
25 about a project. Mr. McDonnell and Trustee Finley met with the developer quite some time ago.  
26 It is slowly turning into a development. Rewards Luxury Development i.e. The Traditions  
27 Subdivision. Their new homes that they would like to start building in the middle of winter. The  
28 weather is holding them back a little bit. He has been working with them on a project that they  
29 are continuing to do. They have taken up half of the third floor of one of the office buildings  
30 behind Village Hall. He would ask that in a month from now everybody look them up and maybe  
31 go visit their display cases. They are suppose to display different models of homes that they hope  
32 to be building, not only in Traditions, but in other areas he is sure. He doesn't know what the  
33 other areas are. He is sure that they reaching out to more than just Olympia Fields.

34  
35 Mr. McDonnell stated that as Trustee Watkins stated, we are in the top 10 of the senior citizen  
36 community. It is a good place to retire. That's what those homes are in Traditions. It's a 55 and  
37 older community. That's what they are going to be building there. He wanted to give everybody  
38 an update. Just because you don't see earth moving equipment and things out there, that the  
39 wheels are still turning. Right now, they are concentrating on getting their office put together.  
40 We have completed some rough inspections out there, his inspectors have already. He met with  
41 their general contractor today on the site to talk about weather conditions and concrete conditions  
42 during the winter months. They have been in contact with Ozinga. Ozinga is going to be their  
43 concrete supplier for the project. They talked to them about their holiday hours and things such  
44 as that for pouring concrete. The ball is still rolling. There is still forward motion. He is told that  
45 they have two, possibly three units already sold. He would suspect that they already have  
46 deposits for those projects. It's a moving forward project. That is his update for it.

1 **Betty Zigras – Director of Finance**

2  
3 **Resolution #2019-06** – A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and  
4 Approving the Fourth Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District/Wal-  
5 Mart Economic Incentive Agreement) – Mrs. Zigras stated that before us we have Resolution  
6 #2019-06. It is a Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Promissory Note and Approving the  
7 Fourth Distribution of Tax Increment Funds. It is the Lincoln-Western TIF District and the Wal-  
8 Mart Economic Incentive Agreement. This fourth installment payment is based on the second  
9 installment of the 2018 Levy. The TIF received from Wal-Mart in the second installment,  
10 \$606,860.80, of which 90% of the Economic Incentive Agreement is to be distributed back to  
11 Wal-Mart. That equals \$546,174.72. Village President Burke stated just so everybody  
12 understands, this is the semiannual payment for the TIF.

13 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve Resolution #2019-06 -**  
14 **A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Promissory Note and Approving the Fourth**  
15 **Distribution of Tax Increment Funds (Lincoln-Western TIF District/Wal-Mart Economic**  
16 **Incentive Agreement).**

17 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) Nay (0) (Not Voting -1) Motion Carried.**

18  
19 **Ordinance #2019-20** – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year  
20 Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and Ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook  
21 County, Illinois [First and Second Reading] – Mrs. Zigras stated that next on the agenda is  
22 Ordinance #2019-20. This is our annual levy that we do every year around this time. The first  
23 one is for the Village. It is an Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal  
24 Year beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 of the Village of Olympia Fields,  
25 Cook County, Illinois. This is on First and Second Reading. This Ordinance includes a levy for  
26 the Village, the debt service, and for the library. The total levy is \$3,004,001.00. There was an  
27 email and the packet explaining the 2019 Levy and the options that we had available to us. The  
28 proposal was to do the Illinois State minimum pension contribution versus the actuarial  
29 recommendation for the levy. The option that she recommended, and is before you here is the  
30 option to do the State minimum pension contribution.

31  
32 Village President Burke inquired of Mrs. Zigras how much that went up from last year. Mrs.  
33 Zigras stated that what was extended last year to what we are levying this year is \$8,314.00. If  
34 we had done the actuarial recommended contribution, it would have been a \$357,000.00  
35 increase.

36  
37 Village President Burke stated that at the last Board Meeting there was a presentation on the  
38 actuarial position and where we are from pension contributions. Mrs. Zigras stated correct. We  
39 are approximately 40% funded. She stated that with the State minimum contribution, we should  
40 be 90% funded by the year 2040. That's the minimum amount of contribution that we can do  
41 under State Statute.

42  
43 Village President Burke stated that he just wants to make sure that the public understands that  
44 this levy has to do with the Police Pension. It's the second largest individual expense that the  
45 Village has behind the Police Department, which is 70% of our money. We have to put this  
46 money into the Pension Plan. The better that the Pension Plan does, the less that we are going to  
47 be liable for. There is a new State Law on the horizon that they are aggregating all of the



1 pensions for the Police Departments into one big pot, so that they will have more money to  
2 leverage across investments, which would help mitigate our side of it. The larger the pot is, the  
3 more likely they can make the appropriate investments. If we still maintain it at our level, it puts  
4 more pressure on the Village of Olympia Fields.

5  
6 Mrs. Zigras stated if there's a consolidation of all downstate, which is all of the Pension Funds  
7 outside of Chicago, the consolidation of the investments only, the Pension Board will still  
8 maintain authority as far as benefits, hiring, and other types of recommendations. They will not  
9 have the investment authority.

10 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Waive in First Reading and**  
11 **Adopt in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2019-20 - An Ordinance for the Levy and**  
12 **Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and Ending April 30<sup>th</sup>,**  
13 **2020 of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois.**

14 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) Nay (0) (Not Voting -1) Motion Carried.**

15  
16 **Ordinance #2019-21** – An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of the Special Service Area  
17 Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and Ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, of the Village  
18 of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, in and for Special Service Area Number One [First  
19 and Second Reading] – Mrs. Zigras stated that next on the agenda is Ordinance #2019-21. It is an  
20 Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of the Special Service Area Taxes for the Fiscal Year  
21 beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, of the Village of Olympia Fields, for SSA  
22 One. This is a \$35,000.00 levy for the Office Park Development costs, which we have been  
23 levying for. It's a reimbursement to the developers of the Office Park for public improvements.  
24 According to the contract, this should be the final levy for SSA One. It expires in 2019.

25 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Pennington to Waive in First Reading and**  
26 **Adopt in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2019-21 - An Ordinance for the Levy and**  
27 **Assessment of Special Service Area Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and**  
28 **Ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, of the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois, in and for**  
29 **Special Service Area Number One.**

30 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) Nay (0) (Not Voting -1) Motion Carried.**

31  
32 **Ordinance #2019-22** – An Ordinance Adopting the 2019 Tax Levy for Village of Olympia  
33 Fields Special Service Area No. 3 [First and Second Reading] – Mrs. Zigras stated that the final  
34 Ordinance under the levy is Ordinance #2019-22. It is an Ordinance adopting the 2019 Tax Levy  
35 for the Village of Olympia Fields Special Service Area No. 3. This is the Oak Lane  
36 reconstruction and paving project. It is a 15-year project. It is going through to approximately the  
37 2025 levy. It was a project for \$89,000.00. The SSA Levy is \$7,500.00 which would be imposed  
38 on the residents of Oak Lane.

39 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Waive in First Reading and**  
40 **Adopt in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2019-22 - An Ordinance Adopting the 2019 Tax**  
41 **Levy for Village of Olympia Fields Special Service Area No. 3.**

42 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) Nay (0) (Not Voting -1) Motion Carried.**

43  
44  
45  
46  
47

1 **Jim Landini – Public Works Director**

2  
3 **Ordinance #2019-23** – An Ordinance Amending Article IV, “Tree Preservation and Protection  
4 and Landscape Plans,” of Chapter 6, “Building and Building Regulations of the Olympia Fields  
5 Village Code in Its Entirety [First & Second Reading] – Mr. Landini stated that what you have  
6 before you is Ordinance #2019-23 - An Ordinance Amending Article IV, “Tree Preservation and  
7 Protection and Landscape Plans,” of Chapter 6, “Building and Building Regulations” of the  
8 Olympia Fields Village Code in Its Entirety. This is amending the old Tree Ordinance. He is not  
9 sure when it was written. It was outdated. It had a lot of gray area in it that left a lot of things up  
10 for interpretation. He stated that with the hard work of the Beautification Committee, and our on  
11 staff at the time arborist, they worked very hard on this. It highlights much more detailed  
12 definitions of what you can do regarding the Tree Ordinance. There are much more procedural  
13 requirements for both the Public Works Department and the residents. It is clearly defined on  
14 what we can and cannot do. There is more detailed permitting language, and much more robust  
15 guidelines for tree selection and preservation. We wanted to bring all of this in and update it, and  
16 get rid of the gray area and have a clear, new Tree Ordinance.

17 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Waive in First Reading and**  
18 **Adopt in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2019-23 – An Ordinance Amending Article IV,**  
19 **“Tree Preservation and Protection and Landscape Plans,” of Chapter 6, “Building and**  
20 **Building Regulations” of the Olympia Fields Village Code in Its Entirety.**

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

22  
23 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that this particular Ordinance will be published in pamphlet  
24 form.

25  
26 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

27  
28 **Building Department/Community Relations Commission – Trustee Finley** – Trustee Finley  
29 stated that John gave the Building Department report.

30  
31 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee Finley stated that they are still working through  
32 their strategy on the mission that they were given. She stated that what is taking an additional  
33 amount of time, and well invested time, it is involving entities that are outside of the circle of the  
34 Commission itself. Trustee Finley stated that we will be working with some external  
35 organizations in an effort to orchestrate the resources that are going to be needed in order to  
36 accomplish the mission. She thinks that when we are there, you will be pleased with it.

37  
38 **Public Works/Park District – Trustee Matz** – Trustee Matz stated that she would like for  
39 anybody in the audience to join our Committee. She has asked over and over again. A lot of  
40 people say, “Oh, I am busy.” She has just one person who has committed. She is putting it out  
41 there that we are looking for residents to join our Public Works Committee. We meet once a  
42 quarter. We are not going to take up a lot of your time. We have some projects coming down the  
43 pike. We want to make sure that we are on top of things.

44  
45 **Park District** – Trustee Matz stated The Polar Express was a success. We had 11 residents from  
46 Olympia Fields participate in The Polar Express which was the Metra Train Ride for Christmas,  
47 Santa Claus. They had about 66 people all together.

1 **Zumba Classes** - Trustee Matz stated that if you want to jump start your weight loss in January,  
2 the Park District will have free Zumba Classes every Friday at 11 o'clock at the Park District.

3  
4 **Public Safety/Educational Commission – Trustee Oliver** – Trustee Oliver stated that the  
5 Public Safety Committee has been meeting on a much more frequent basis than we had in the  
6 past. In the past, the meetings occurred every other month. We have a meeting once a month to  
7 get a better understanding of what kinds of police calls, which on the average is about 800 a  
8 month, what are those calls about. Where are they in the community? We want to report that  
9 information out. Interim Chief, Scott Morgan has also been trying to alert you to the types of  
10 calls and issues that have been going on in the Village. Some of you may be aware that in  
11 Wysteria there was a carjacking. Those kinds of activities which prompts a lot of calls, the ones  
12 that are most alarming, these are calls that the perpetrators are people who live outside of our  
13 community. More than anything else, if you see something, say something. That old adage he is  
14 going to continue to say over and over. It is true. We are meeting on a regular basis. We are now  
15 collecting data to indicate where these calls are coming from, but we are looking at the budget  
16 more closely too. The Village President is always talking about 70% of our tax dollars is going  
17 towards the Police Department. We want to know why. Maybe it is where it should be. His  
18 hunch is that it isn't. We are taking a very close look at that.

19  
20 Trustee Oliver stated that you also need to know that we have been meeting because we are  
21 looking for a Police Chief. We have been meeting every week for the last six weeks, to put some  
22 things in place so that when we reach out to the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, they will  
23 have a cadre of candidates that will be ready to interview for this position as Chief of Police. We  
24 have gone through an exhaustive exercise in establishing a job description. Something that will  
25 provide a profile of what this Police Chief for this Village, at this time would look like. What  
26 ultimately, they would be responsible for doing.

27  
28 Trustee Oliver stated that we asked the Village Administrator to take a look at what exactly this  
29 Police Chief will be required and be measured to do. That's something that he thinks has been  
30 missing. We want some things like that in place so that the Police Chief knows exactly what this  
31 Village is expecting and will be measured by that. It is important that you understand that the  
32 people associated with the Public Safety Committee, he is just a mouthpiece. He stated but it is  
33 your neighbors, your residents, your friends, he needs to give their names. They include people  
34 like Michael Hogan, Robert Lewis, Paul Cruse, Richard Gibbs, Geraldine Tyler, Fritz Meyer,  
35 Robert Dawson, Nate Grant, Dr. Micha Sawnsey, and Erin Killingsworth-Walker. He wants to  
36 give a special acknowledgement to someone who is from the Human Resources Committee who  
37 has been very helpful in helping us craft the job description and taking a serious look at how we  
38 move forward with identifying who this Police Chief is. He stated that is Monica Chambers. She  
39 comes with a great deal of assistance and help to us. He just wants to make sure that she knows  
40 it.

41  
42 Trustee Oliver stated that we are doing a lot in order to get this right for the Village. One of the  
43 things that we are doing, one of our speakers for this week's meeting is Mitchell Davis. He stated  
44 that Mitchell Davis is a Chief of Police Chief of Police. He has a stellar record as the President of  
45 the South Suburban Chiefs of Police Association. He is a member of the Illinois Association of  
46 Chiefs of Police. He is also the President of the National Organization of Black Law  
47 Enforcement. He is the Chief of Police of Hazel Crest. He is coming to speak to our Committee

1 as we fine tune what we will be looking for in this Village. He is going to be speaking about the  
2 current trends here in the south suburbs.

3  
4 **Educational Commission** – Trustee Oliver stated that Chairman Lewis has put out a charge that  
5 he wants to do more marketing of this Village. Trustee Oliver stated that he liked something that  
6 he said. “We have to recognize the Village for what we are. It’s a tremendous community.”  
7 Under the Educational Commission, one of the things that is alarming is we don’t have that  
8 many children in Olympia Fields. Some people would say, if there aren’t that many children in a  
9 church, you are going to run from that church. What can we do to market more younger people  
10 to come in the Village? How do we sustain this Village? We have to market and attract more  
11 younger families in this community.

12  
13 Trustee Oliver stated that the Village President has mentioned that there are three basic tenets of  
14 this governance of the community. We have taken that. We have sort of used that same strategy  
15 for the Educational Commission. In July of 2019, the three main projects that the Educational  
16 Commission has established in alignment with these four principles of the President and his  
17 administration are as follows: 1. To enhance and improve communication between the School  
18 Districts that serve our community and our residents. 2. Develop a website presence along with  
19 appropriate content that will inform our residents on local, national, and world-wide education  
20 issues. 3. Identify and develop programs for our residents and students that will enhance their  
21 college and career opportunities.

22  
23 Trustee Oliver stated that there are a lot of rumors and innuendos about what goes on in our  
24 schools. As Chairman Lewis is saying, we need to capitalize on those things that we are doing.  
25 Trustee Oliver would implore you that there are great things that are happening in our schools  
26 when we take a look at them. You will be receiving an invitation shortly to come out and meet  
27 the new principal of Rich Central High School. You will have an opportunity to not only meet  
28 him, but ask the questions so many people are wondering about. What are our schools about?  
29 What’s going on in our schools? Are the test scores as they should be and, if not, why? What else  
30 can the community and the schools do to partner? We have to begin to start selling our  
31 community. This Board, as he believes Trinetta mentioned, has grabbed some oars, and  
32 hopefully are rowing in the same direction. Now we need you.

33  
34 Trustee Oliver stated that this is a rhetorical question. What would you say to someone who  
35 happens to be driving by, and is asking you a question about this Village? A few weeks ago, he  
36 was out raking his leaves. He stated that a guy and his wife stopped and they were asking him  
37 questions about Olympia Fields. They were from Chatham. The south side of Chicago. They  
38 were thinking about moving to Olympia Fields. They were also seriously considering HF. They  
39 stopped him to ask his opinions on what is unique, what is different about Olympia Fields than  
40 HF. They had a flier from Dr. Selma McDonald. She is selling her home. They were looking at  
41 it. It is right down the street from him. Trustee Oliver just went into all of the wonderful things  
42 that he felt about the Village. They asked some hard-hitting questions about the schools. He gave  
43 them his best response about the schools as well. They actually went to an Educational  
44 Commission meeting. They spoke with the Chairman and the members of the Educational  
45 Commission. They came back to Trustee Oliver’s house on another weekend when he was  
46 outside doing yardwork. It made him feel good to respond. He didn’t want it to sound like he is  
47 just a big cheerleader of Olympia Fields. He wanted his wife to come out and speak to them as

1 well. His wife pretty much said the same thing that he was saying. They are still not convinced.  
2 That's why they went to an Educational Commission meeting. One of the tenets that we are  
3 going to be talking about again, is to enhance and improve the communication between the  
4 schools and the district. We are going to arm you with information that you too, have enough  
5 information to talk to anyone about these schools, so it is not just what you see is the negatives.  
6 There are some positives as well.

7  
8 Trustee Oliver stated that he wants to make sure that we recognize some of these folks who have  
9 been long-standing members of the Educational Commission. They should be recognized for  
10 their efforts, because they too are volunteers and have been doing this month after month, year  
11 after year. They include people like: Dr. Delores Woods, Tanya Davis, Don Ransford, Cheryl  
12 Rutherford, Kijuana Marshall, Dr. Doris Langon, Howard White, and the Chair is Fred Veazey.  
13 Trustee Oliver applauds these people, as well as the members of the Public Safety Committee,  
14 because they put in the time on our behalf.

15  
16 Trustee Pennington stated that it was a very fine report. He forgot to tell them about Graymoor.  
17 Graymoor kids go to HF. The next time they come around, you can tell them to move to  
18 Graymoor. We have some homes over there for sale. Trustee Oliver stated that you are  
19 associated with our Park District. Trustee Pennington stated no we are not. We have to pay extra.

## 20 21 **Finance/Planning & Zoning – Trustee Pennington**

22  
23 **October Financial Statements** – Trustee Pennington stated that this evening he will be  
24 presenting the financial results of revenues and expenses for the Village of Olympia Fields  
25 through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. He is starting with the General Fund. Our General Fund revenues for  
26 this period exceeded budget projections by \$54,811.00, over 2% above Budget Plan. Budgeted  
27 revenues for this six-month period were \$3,120,179.00, while actual revenues received were  
28 \$3,174,990.00. General Fund expenses were favorable to budget projections by \$234,815.00.  
29 Budgeted expenses for this period were \$2,944,727.00, while actual incurred expenses were  
30 \$2,709,912.00, or 8% favorable to Budget Plan. This resulted in a favorable year to date actual  
31 plus encumbrance in the General Fund of \$448,628.00. The overall impact to the budget is a  
32 positive \$289,625.00.

33  
34 **Water Fund** - Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Water Fund, water revenue fees  
35 for the period were above budget projections by \$124,409.00, or 10% of plan. Water revenue for  
36 this period was budgeted at \$1,119,308.00, while actual realized revenue was \$1,243,717.00.  
37 Fiscal year to date actual plus encumbrance for this period is a positive \$279,407.00. Water Fund  
38 expenses exceeded budget projections by \$51,571.00 for the period. The projected expense  
39 budget for this term was set at \$912,739.00. Actual incurred expenses were \$964,310.00, or 5%  
40 above Budget Plan. This resulted in an operating deficit in the expense line item of \$72,838.00.  
41 Our fiscal year to date actual plus encumbrance in the Water Fund is a positive \$279,407.00. The  
42 overall impact to the Water Fund Budget is a positive \$72,838.00.

43  
44 **Sewer Fund** - Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Sewer Fund, sewer revenues for  
45 this period were favorable to Budget Plan by \$105,511.00. Budgeted revenues were projected at  
46 \$759,500.00. Actual revenues realized were \$865,011.00. Sewer Fund expenses were favorable  
47 to budget by \$28,554.00, or 5% of plan. He stated that \$555,822.00 was budgeted for the period.

1 The Village incurred \$527,268.00 in actual expenses. This resulted in an actual fiscal year to date  
2 plus encumbrance in the amount of \$337,743.00. The overall impact to the budget is a positive  
3 \$134,065.00.

4  
5 **Cash Balances** – Trustee Pennington stated that in your packet you have the report of Cash  
6 Balances for the same period. You will see that on the second page, the book balance of our  
7 funds, there is a calculation for September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as well as an October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
8 calculation. We increased our total book and bank balances by 3%. That’s pretty good given the  
9 framework that we are in. It tends to lead to the experience and dedication of our Treasurer, Mr.  
10 Stan King, who orchestrated that. Trustee Pennington stated that he applauds Mr. King for the  
11 3% increase.

12  
13 **Human Resources/Police Pension – Trustee Thomas** – Village President Burke stated Human  
14 Resources and Police Pension. He stated that Trustee Thomas is ill today and she is not going to  
15 be here. We will pass on that one.

16  
17 **Beautification/Library Board – Trustee Watkins** – Trustee Watkins thanked Jim Landini. She  
18 stated that we got the Tree Ordinance done tonight and she appreciates that. The Beautification  
19 Committee worked really hard to get that done.

20  
21 **Library Board** – Trustee Watkins stated that she attended her first Olympia Fields Public  
22 Library Board meeting as library liaison on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. She had the pleasure of meeting  
23 the Board of Trustees, as well as the Library Director and Library Board Treasurer.

24  
25 **Annual Holiday Party** – Trustee Watkins stated that the Library Board had their annual Holiday  
26 Party on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Scrementi’s Restaurant located in Steger.

27  
28 **Library Board of Trustees Meetings** – Trustee Watkins stated that the Library Board Trustees  
29 meet every fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held here at Village Hall, except  
30 for November which is a possible cancellation based on the holiday. The December date is  
31 December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. That’s the only change on the calendar.

32  
33 **U.S. Census** - Trustee Watkins stated that every 10 years since 1790, the United States has  
34 undertaken the task of counting all of our residents. This is your chance as Olympia Fields  
35 residents to play a role by supporting our community to ensure that everyone is counted. The  
36 U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of positions across the country to  
37 assist with the 2020 Census count. She stated that Cook County, Illinois pay rates per hour are  
38 between \$26.50 and 29.50.

39  
40 **Job Assistance** – Trustee Watkins stated that the library will be conducting job assistance this  
41 Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. In addition, the library is offering  
42 workshops to assist our residents here in Olympia Fields.

43  
44 **Holiday Movies All Day** - Trustee Watkins stated that this Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, there are  
45 holiday movies all day.

46

1 **Friends of the Library Book Club** - Trustee Watkins stated that on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the  
2 Friends of the Library Book Club will meet at 12 o'clock to discuss the Underground Railroad  
3 written by Colson Whitehead. This discussion will take place in the Ringing Room. Calendars  
4 will be placed in Village Hall of all activities related to the library.

5  
6 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

7  
8 The Board did not have any Miscellaneous Reports to present this evening.

9  
10 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

11  
12 Village President Burke opened Public Comment at 8:51 P.M.

13  
14 **Timely Notifications of Incidents in the Village** - Mrs. Doris Langon stated that she resides in  
15 Olympia Club. Mrs. Langon inquired of Trustee Oliver whether or not he could work with his  
16 Public Safety Committee to provide residents with more timely information, specifically related  
17 to the incident you talked about in Wysteria. She doesn't know exactly when it happened. She  
18 knows it was a while after that her and others became aware of it. Mrs. Langon stated that when  
19 incidents like that happen, sometimes those perpetrators continue until they are caught. She  
20 doesn't know what mechanism or what alerts you might consider, but clearly, we need to have  
21 more timely notification of serious infractions like that. She stated thank you. Trustee Oliver  
22 thanked Mrs. Langon.

23  
24 **Timely Notifications of Incidents in the Village** - Mrs. Sandra Durley stated that she is the  
25 President of Arcadia. She wanted to echo the comments that were just offered by Mrs. Langon.  
26 The scenario that was described is a woman coming into her garage and someone came in  
27 afterwards. That's the scenario that she has every day. She heard about the scenario that was  
28 described through the grapevine. She believes that we have robo calls. It would have been nice to  
29 hear the robo calls. The resident came into her garage and was attacked in the garage. That's the  
30 scenario that she has every evening coming in. She would like to ask that when those incidents  
31 happen, that they be communicated to the residents so that we have a heightened sense of  
32 awareness.

33  
34 **Change in the Law Regarding Cannabis** - Mrs. Durley stated that as a pharmacist, she wanted  
35 to advise the Board that it proceeds with caution with the decisions about cannabis, and whether  
36 we are going to allow the sale in our community. There are still a lot of unknowns. Mrs. Durley  
37 just asked that the Board proceed with caution.

38  
39 **Thank You on the Metra Station** - Mrs. Durley thanked the Board for reconsidering its  
40 position regarding the Metra Station. She is delighted to hear that we are going to take a different  
41 course of action. She also wanted to commend you for your Marketing Plan.

42  
43 Village President Burke stated as far as the Metra thing, you have to understand, that was part of  
44 what we needed to get negotiations with Metra to be able to change our relationship in terms of  
45 what it was costing the Village. It worked out fine. We were able to do what we needed to do.  
46 All of those things that people talked about, were things that we had already been talking about.  
47 The way the contract was written, we couldn't do those things. He believes that we were all on

1 the same page all along. He stated that doing what we did, it put us in the position to negotiate  
2 better than what we were able to.

3

4 Village President Burke stated that as far as the police are concerned, he agrees with her 100%  
5 about being notified. That should have been something that should have been done. We've had a  
6 talk with the Police Department about that. It's a delicate balance between talking about things  
7 and scaring people to death. At the same time, we need to keep people informed. We don't want  
8 anybody being accosted in their house in the Village of Olympia Fields. Most of the things that  
9 happen around here occur outside of the Village where people don't live here. We have a  
10 population that is full of very honest people. There will be some of those people coming from the  
11 outside. We have to do a better job of letting people know when something occurs like that. We  
12 are going to fix that. That should not have happened.

13

14 Village President Burke stated that there were two incidents that you probably need to be aware  
15 of. He inquired of Interim Police Chief Morgan if he wanted to talk about the pellet gun and  
16 what he can share, as well as the situation in Wysteria.

17

18 Interim Police Chief Scott Morgan stated that about three weeks ago, at dismissal at Rich Central  
19 High School, students got on the school buses. As they were leaving the school, one school bus  
20 passed another school bus. An adult on that school bus who was 18 years old somehow had a  
21 pellet gun on him. He shot from his school bus and hit another bus and shattered the window on  
22 the bus. The young person who was sitting in the bus did get a facial cut on his nose. That was it.  
23 Medical treatment was refused at the scene. We did take somebody into custody. He was charged  
24 after we did an investigation on that.

25

26 Interim Police Chief Morgan stated that addressing the call in Wysteria, the female came home  
27 late at night. She didn't notice that a car was following her. She stopped in her driveway. She  
28 noticed a young man come up on the passenger side of her car. She got out to talk with him.  
29 When she got out, a second subject she didn't see came up behind her and hit her. They both  
30 jumped in the car and took off. The subjects were taken into custody about two and a half hours  
31 later in Dixmoor. He stated that four subjects were arrested. They were all juveniles. They were  
32 all charged with the appropriate charges.

33

34 Interim Police Chief Morgan stated that the thing with the community alert, as far as doing the  
35 robo calls and the Code Red, he feels personally that those are things that are happening right  
36 now in the Village. If that would have been an ongoing situation, we had foot pursuits going on,  
37 or we were searching for subjects in the area yes, we would have done a Code Red to alert  
38 everybody to keep on the lookout. Perhaps we could get together with the Public Safety  
39 Committee. Perhaps we could put something on the Village's website as a police blotter that this  
40 information could be put out a lot quicker.

41

42 Village President Burke stated that he would like at every one of our meetings, that we have at  
43 least a sanitized description if there is something that is horrific. We are going to have to depend  
44 on the Public Safety Committee to come up with a delicate line between what we want to talk  
45 about perpetrators and what we don't want to talk about. He remembers about six months ago,  
46 there was a situation where two people got mugged down in Homewood. We should be letting  
47 people know to be on the lookout. In both of these cases the people were apprehended relatively



1 quickly. At the same time, at least at a minimum, what we should be able to do is to say that such  
2 and such a situation occurred, especially since we apprehended these people within two hours,  
3 and let people know it has been taken care of. When there is stuff floating around, and rumors  
4 floating, people get really, really nervous about the rumors. If there is something that we can shut  
5 it down immediately, we should do that. If it is something that somebody still may be at large,  
6 we can try to figure out a way to communicate without crying fire in the theatre. We will still try  
7 to work through this to get the right balance. At the same time, we should be able to get back to  
8 the public to let them know something occurred, and at the same time, if we apprehended the  
9 person, or the culprits, that people can rest assured that it has been taken care of.

10

11 **Comments on the School District** - Miss Constance Means stated that she represents  
12 Maynegait Property Owners Association and she is a taxpayer. Miss Means stated that first with  
13 education, she attends the Board meetings regularly. She would like to get more of an  
14 understanding of what she just heard Trustee Oliver address when it comes to education. She is  
15 very serious about this. Our high schools are failing. It's not her opinion. It is backed up by  
16 research that you can find online under the Board of Education, State of Illinois. She has been  
17 talking to young people about moving here. She has been told we've got to take this kind of  
18 criticism or we can just discard it because we don't want to hear it. She has been told that, "You  
19 have a lovely home. This is a lovely community, but I can't afford it. The taxes are too high."  
20 The price on the housing is diminishing. The schools are terrible. If she wants to move here as a  
21 young person, she will have to consider tuition as an option. She doesn't think that you should  
22 have a public system that has now closed one of the schools, now proposing a \$105,000,000.00  
23 tax hike. We need to work on it. We need to attend those Board meetings. We need to make  
24 certain that we are representing our community. This is not about us against them. This is our  
25 community. We are the homeowners. We pay the taxes. All of us sitting all over this room want  
26 great schools. We demand that. There is nothing on this earth wrong with demanding great  
27 schools. It is possible. But we have to do the work. Part of that work is going to have to be all of  
28 us coming together and looking at those schools realistically. That is what she is going to say on  
29 that. She has a Petition here to bring the \$105,000,000.00 tax proposal to referendum. If you  
30 would like to sign it, she would love to see your name present. She is going to make sure that she  
31 has this available. She can pass it around, if you like. She stated please sign. We just want to  
32 make sure the voters get a chance to vote it up, or vote it down.

33

34 **Wall Along the Reserves of Maynegait** - Miss Means stated that there is one other issue that  
35 she wants to bring to you tonight and that is the wall on Route 30, The Reserves of Maynegait.  
36 The last time she got anything was back in June. She wants to know what is going on with that.

37

38 Mr. McDonnell stated that he walked the wall two weeks ago. There are no sections that are  
39 damaged and in fear of falling off of the fence. Currently, we are not taking anymore panels  
40 down until they become dangerous to the public. We believe the property is in foreclosure yet  
41 again. The taxes have not been paid on the property. We are assuming that the current owner is  
42 again walking away from the property.

43

44 Village President Burke stated that he is sure that the Petition that Miss Means has, most people  
45 will want to do something about that. He stated that it is a \$105,000,000.00 increase on top of the  
46 \$85,000,000.00 budget that they already have, and the closure that they have already.

47

1 **Comments on the School District** - Miss Means stated yes, and they just put a Strategic Plan on  
2 their website which is not complete. They admit it is not complete. She attended the coffee on  
3 Saturday. We don't have any answers to education forthcoming. This is a community of a great  
4 number of retired educators at all levels. They are not using any of those resources. We were told  
5 at a Board meeting that we were elected to these offices to do what we do. She stated that if  
6 anybody believes that people are elected to do that kind of outrageous stuff, we just need to  
7 reexamine it. She is pro-schools. She is pro-schools working. She is retired out of Chicago Public  
8 Schools. She knows those schools can work if they use the model to make it work. You have a  
9 superintendent who never taught. They don't want to deal with that. How would that  
10 superintendent be able to lead instruction? Even if he hired someone, he has to totally rely on the  
11 fact that they know something that he doesn't know. How does he evaluate that? There is a gross  
12 misuse and underuse of our massive resources in teaching, while the top is being build, build,  
13 build, because we have a superintendent who doesn't know. There is no sense talking about  
14 ducks if you have never seen one. If you have never seen one, she can talk to you about ducks all  
15 day long, you still don't know what a duck is. That's our problem. We need to work collectively  
16 to pull this up. This is not this Committee versus that Committee. It is about our community. If  
17 we don't want the truth in this community about our schools, about our taxes, and about the  
18 reckless behavior of some of those we have elected to put in office, then we are sure to die. We  
19 are going to be the same thing as Woodlawn, as some of the west side, Chatham, all of those  
20 communities that most of us have lived through and watched just fall out of existence. We have  
21 to approach it. We have to do something about it. She would like all of you to sign the Petition.  
22 You must live in Rich Township. She is going to pass it around.

23  
24 Village President Burke stated that he is sure that all of us live in Rich Township. You should be  
25 able to get signatures from everybody in the audience because it doesn't make sense.

26  
27 **Timely Notification on Incidents** - Mrs. Shirley Johnson stated that she wants her robo calls  
28 back. She didn't know that this had happened. She wants to know immediately. She wants to  
29 know everything that is happening around her. It is a shame that she just found out tonight.  
30 When did this happen with this carjacking? It should not happen anymore and she doesn't know.  
31 She wants to be informed about everything that happens in this town.

32  
33 **Attend the School Board Meetings** - Mrs. Johnson stated that all of you need to come to the  
34 School Board meeting this week. We need to make Rich Central a Selective Enrollment School.  
35 That's the only way we are going to get this going. It has to be a Selective Enrollment School.  
36 She stated have one wing for people to test in there and then these homes will sell. People cannot  
37 afford to come here and pay the tax and tuition.

38  
39 **Comments on the School District** - Mr. Lee Langon stated that he just wanted to comment on  
40 the good, the bad, and the ugly. We have to celebrate the good. We have to identify and come up  
41 with solutions for the bad. We have to eradicate the ugly. He stated that for some reason or  
42 another we have all the resources known to man in this Village. We can't seem to grasp  
43 excellence. Do we know what excellence is? Because we are not striving for it. We have every  
44 tool in our box that we are not using to get there. We have issues with our schools. We have four  
45 people that have decided to tax 77,000 people \$105,000,000.00, and nobody seems to care, on  
46 top of the taxes that we are already paying. He stated that Miss Means stated that property values  
47 are declining. He has a neighbor that sold their house and took a \$125,000.00 hit. The neighbor

1 said that he had to cut his losses because he can't afford to send three kids to Marian Catholic, or  
2 some other private entity because we don't have a good option. We have Southland. Southland  
3 has done a pretty good job as far as perpetuating the education of our kids. If you really look at  
4 the numbers and dig down, he is not an educator but his wife is, they are not doing a hell of a lot  
5 better than Central or South. They have decided to close East. We have three high schools, East,  
6 South, and Central. He stated that with closing East, wouldn't you think the savings and the  
7 synergy from closing that school, would work to do some type of managed Capital Plan to build  
8 out and remodel the other two? But no.

9  
10 Mr. Langon stated that we have four people decide that we need \$105,000,000.00 to refurbish  
11 these two buildings. These four people that voted for it, you have the public mass preaching pie  
12 in the sky with no real plan that is drilled down to exactly what is going to happen to this  
13 \$105,000,000.00. He is appalled that this community isn't outraged, because it isn't. We have  
14 been out working day and night to try to get signatures to put this to a referendum. He stated that  
15 no school district spends this kind of money without going to a public referendum. He had dinner  
16 with that superintendent two years ago. He said, "Oh, we don't have to do a public referendum."  
17 Mr. Langon inquired of the superintendent, "Why don't you think you have to do a public  
18 referendum?" The superintendent stated, "We don't have to do it. The public will never go for it  
19 anyway." Mr. Langon stated that the public is going to have to know about this. The  
20 superintendent inquired how is the public going to know about this. Mr. Langon stated because  
21 he is going to freaking tell them. The superintendent went ahead and got his four votes lined up.  
22 They passed this bond issue of \$105,000,000.00. They hired the bond broker before they voted  
23 on passing the bond issue. They hired bond attorneys before they voted to issue the bonds. It is  
24 just a backdoor deal. It's a backdoor referendum. They are taking 28,000 homes that are in Rich  
25 Township and they are increasing our taxes and it is unnecessary. He stated that with good  
26 management, you could have used that savings from that school that is closing to refurbish these  
27 two schools. It's just too simple. It makes too much sense. They are putting us in jeopardy. We  
28 are going to start to lose a lot of good people out of Olympia Fields and some other surrounding  
29 suburbs because this is not sustainable. He just wanted to share that with you. Village President  
30 Burke closed Public Comment at 9:13 P.M.

31  
32 **NEW BUSINESS:**

33  
34 The Board did not have any New Business to discuss this evening.

35  
36 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

37  
38 **Resignation – Willett Hudson from the Police Pension Board** – Village President Burke  
39 stated that he has the Resignation of Willett Hudson from the Police Pension Board.

40 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Accept the Resignation of**  
41 **Willett Hudson from the Police Pension Board, and Authorize a Letter to be Sent on Behalf**  
42 **of the Village Board of Trustees.**

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

44  
45 **Appointment – Rhonda McNeal to the Community Relations Commission** – Village  
46 President Burke stated that he has the Appointment of Rhonda McNeal to the Community  
47 Relations Commission. You have the complete background on Rhonda in your packet.

1 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve the Candidacy of**  
2 **Rhonda McNeal to the Community Relations Commission for a Two (2) Year Term Ending**  
3 **in the Year 2021.**

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

5

6 **ADJOURNMENT:**

7

8 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Adjourn the Board Meeting**  
9 **at 9:15 P.M.**

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

11

12 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

13

14

15

16

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