

Village of Olympia Fields

Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting December 17, 2025

Commenced: 7:05 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:01 p.m.

Call to Order & Pledge

President Sterling Burke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Village Clerk Loester M. Lewis conducted the roll call and announced that there was a quorum:

Present: Trustees Victor Blackwell, Sandra Finley, Kelvin Oliver, Kenneth Smith, Andrea Townson; President Sterling Burke; Village Administrator Jessica Washington; Police Chief Derrick Blasingame; Public Works Director Art Jones; Finance Director Lisa Fifer-Smith; Executive Assistant N'deye Walton; Village Clerk Loester M. Lewis

Absent: Trustee Jennifer Beasley; Treasurer Stanley King

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, as presented:

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Townson, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, as presented.

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

Bills for Approval

Approval of the December 2025 Bills - \$791,776.30

Trustee Smith Finley, seconded by Trustee Oliver, to approve payment of the December 2025 bills in the amount of \$791,776.30.

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

Administration Reports

Report of the Village President – Sterling M. Burke

Ratification of the 2026 benefit renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

President Burke explained that healthcare cost are rising nationwide. Health insurance is part of the benefit package offered to full-time Village employees. Blue Cross Blue Shield has been our provider and we will continue with Blue Cross Blue Shield for 2026 after thoroughly examining other plans.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the ratification of the 2026 benefit renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

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

Report of the Village Administrator/Chief of Staff – Jessica Washington

Approval of the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

Administrator Washington explained that the Village will observe 13 holidays in 2026 just as it has in the past. She pointed out that in 2026, Independence Day falls on a Saturday. As a result, Village offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2026.

Trustee Townson moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

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

Approval of the 2026 Public Meeting Schedule.

Administrator Washington explained that the dates for all public meetings for 2026 have been set. She noted that the Board of Trustees will continue to meet every third Wednesday of the month. The Village is required by law to have the dates voted on and set by January 1, 2026.

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Oliver, to approve the 2026 Public Meeting Schedule.

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

Department Head Reports

- **Lisa Fifer-Smith – Finance Director**

Ordinance 2025-10: Approval of an Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, in the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois.

Director Fifer-Smith said this will be the fourth consecutive year that the Village has held the line on the tax levy. President Burke said the majority of property taxes goes toward the school district. The part of property taxes that the Village can control has not increased in four years.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Townson, to approve Ordinance 2025-10 for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, in the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois

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

Ordinance 2025-11: Approval of an Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes by the Olympia Fields Local Library Board for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, in the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois.

Director Fifer-Smith and President Burke explained that the Library Board is a separate taxing agency, but the Board of Trustees has to approve the ordinance because they are the administrative arm.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Finley, to approve Ordinance 2025-11 for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes by the Olympia Fields Local Library Board for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026, in the Village of Olympia Fields, Cook County, Illinois.

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

- **Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police**

Approval of the five-year contract extension/early renewal with Axon Enterprise in the amount of \$268,888.38.

Chief Blasingame said that he wants to have an early renewal of the Village's body cameras, taser and virtual training. By completing the early renewal, the Village will save \$121,000.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the five-year contract extension/early renewal with Axon Enterprise in the amount of \$268,888.38.

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

Chief Blasingame said the police department test drove some new electric vehicles. President Burke said electric cars will be a great cost-saving measure for the Village and should be put into the upcoming budget. Chief Blasingame said that a company will be coming to the Village to evaluate how to install the charging stations at the Village.

- **John McDonnell – Building Commissioner**

Ordinance 2025-12: Approval of an Ordinance Amending Sections 4-35 of the Olympia Fields Village Code by Adding an Additional Class A Liquor License.

Commissioner McDonnell said that Perros Brothers wants to add gaming and liquor sales at their restaurant. The owner, Alfred Hadad, explained that the restaurant has been around since 1983. He said restaurant costs have increased five times, so he is looking for a way to have additional revenue without increasing the cost to customers too much. Adding gaming and liquor would increase the restaurant's profits, which would increase the revenue given to the Village. Hadad explained that another one of his establishments in another municipality has gaming and liquor and there has never been an incident. President Burke explained that all of the liquor licenses have been issued, so the Board must vote to add a license. The state requires that you have a liquor license in order to have gaming. President Burke stressed that it's on-premises drinking only – not carry-out liquor. A discussion ensued.

Trustee Oliver moved, seconded by Trustee Blackwell, to approve an Ordinance Amending Sections 4-35 of the Olympia Fields Village Code by Adding an Additional Class A Liquor License.

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

Commissioner McDonnell said that since January of 2025, the Village has issued 600 various building permits, which represents \$7 million in construction values. There has been a lot of investment in the Village. Those permits brought in over \$100,000 in permit fees.

- **Art Jones – Public Works Director**

Director Jones stated that the Department of Public works will have a full staff soon. Director Jones stated that there was a water main break that day, but the situation had been rectified.

Trustee Liaison Reports

- **Building Department/Planning & Zoning Commission - Smith**

He reiterated there are a lot of improvements happening to properties in the Village.

- **Economic Development Commission/Beautification - Finley**

Trustee Finley said the Economic Development Commission is looking at various deals that are being pitched to the Village and steadily seeking new business ventures. The Beautification Committee will be judging house decorations for the Winter Holiday awards. The top three homes will be awarded their certificates at a future Board meeting.

- **Public Safety Commission/Police Pension Board – Oliver**

Trustee Oliver said the Public Safety Commission met and had representation from the police and fire department. Oliver also stated the Village is in great shape financially.

- **Human Resources Committee/Public Works/Police Pension Board - Blackwell**
Trustee Blackwell said Public Works has done a great job dealing with water main breaks, snow and ice. The Human Resource Committee will be meeting and updating the personnel handbook.
- **Community Relations Commission/Community Development/Veterans' Affairs – Beasley**
Trustee Beasley was absent. Trustee Finley said that the Community Relations Commission is looking at adding some new events for 2026.
- **Library Board/Park District/Schools/Rich Township - No report**

Miscellaneous Reports

None.

Public Comment

Resident Charles Durley expressed concerns about the snow removal process from the previous big snow. President Burke explained that the big streets get done first and then the side streets. Administrator Washington stated that she had replied to Durley's email regarding his snow removal concerns. President Burke said the snow plowing policy would be published and distributed to all residents.

Resident Curline West said she has lived in the Village for 15 years. During those years she has experienced exceptional help from the Police Department, Public Works and the Building Department. She expressed concern about the gas company cutting down too many trees on her property. Those trees served as an extra layer of security and seclusion. President Burke advised her to take advantage of the Village's 50/50 tree program in the spring to replace some of her trees. She reiterated that she has lived in a lot of places and the Village is the best place.

Appointments and Resignations

None.

Adjournment

Trustee Blackwell moved, seconded by Trustee Smith, to adjourn the meeting.

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

President Sterling Burke adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted January 19, 2026, by N'deye Walton, Executive Administrative Assistant