

1 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**  
2 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
3 **Held on April 30, 2020**  
4

5 Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this Board Meeting is being conducted remotely via  
6 teleconference. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>,  
7 was rescheduled to Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by  
8 Village President Sterling M. Burke at 5:00 P.M.  
9

10 Present: Trustees – Watkins, Oliver, Pennington, Finley, Thomas, and Matz  
11 Village President Sterling M. Burke  
12 Village Administrator, Cynthia Saenz  
13 Village Clerk, Drella Savage  
14

15 Absent: None.  
16

17 Village President Burke stated that as an introduction, this Board Meeting is unusual because of  
18 the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Due to the Governor’s Stay-at-Home Order, all members of the  
19 governing body and staff are participating remotely. We are using the AT&T Conference Call  
20 that allows us to be in different places and participate as if we were in council chambers at  
21 Village Hall.  
22

23 All of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act will be in effect during this meeting. We will  
24 be making sure that all guidelines are being followed, even though we are remote. Meeting rules  
25 for Public Comment: We have developed an informal protocol where Board Members can speak,  
26 and then when they are done speaking say, “I yield,” so that we are not talking all over each  
27 other.  
28

29 The amendment to the Open Meetings Act requires that we allow the public to observe the  
30 meeting. We have people who are on the line, but they cannot speak. It does not require the  
31 public be given the opportunity to participate in the meeting. However, it is our policy to give the  
32 public the opportunity to give comments to the Board. With that in mind, the public was given an  
33 opportunity to submit comments by mail. They were able to do that up until 5 o’clock yesterday  
34 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We are recording this meeting. A copy of the completed minutes will be posted to  
35 our website when approved. Let’s get started with the meeting.  
36

37 Village Clerk Drella Savage proceeded with roll call. Present were: Village President Burke.  
38 Trustee Matz, Trustee Oliver, Trustee Pennington, Trustee Thomas, Trustee Watkins and Trustee  
39 Finley. We also have on the call Drella Savage, the Village Clerk for the Village of Olympia  
40 Fields; the Village Administrator, Cynthia Saenz; Executive Administrative Assistant to the  
41 Village President and the Village Administrator, Gladys Foster; Village Attorney, Mr. John  
42 Murphey; Finance Director, Ms. Betty Zigras; Building Commissioner, Mr. John McDonnell;  
43 Director of Public Works, Mr. Jim Landini; Acting Police Chief, Mr. Scott Morgan; Economic  
44 Development Consultant, Trinette Britt-Johnson; Chairman of the Economic Development  
45 Commission, Mr. Mike Lewis; and the Court Reporter, Faith Stine.  
46  
47

1 **PUBLIC HEARING:**  
2

3 **Proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget** – Village President Burke Opened the Public Hearing  
4 at 5:08 P.M. Village President Burke stated that the public had an opportunity to make any  
5 comments up until last night, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5 o'clock. As of last night, we did not have anyone  
6 make any comment from the public. Village President Burke asked Trustee Pennington to do an  
7 introduction on the budget and make a few comments.  
8

9 Trustee Pennington stated that the Village of Olympia Fields Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget, is a  
10 compilation of many meetings beginning with the Capital Projects Meeting in January of this  
11 year with the Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Village Managers. In February, we held  
12 two Finance Committee Meetings which were also attended by Trustee Liaisons and Directors.  
13 He stated this Budget Year, because the review process was changed due to the COVID-19  
14 Pandemic, and the restrictions put into place for public gatherings, the Budget document was  
15 emailed to the Trustees on April 9<sup>th</sup> for their review. There were no assumptions made on the  
16 economic impact of COVID-19. We will have no revenues and expenses. We will be closely  
17 monitoring the revenues as they are received, and if needed, we will amend the Fiscal Year  
18 2020-2021 Budget accordingly. We do have a balanced Budget. We have very, very strong  
19 budget surpluses. The Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget operating surpluses for the General Fund is  
20 \$20,913.00 The Water Fund surplus is \$264,515.00. We also have a Sewer Fund operating  
21 surplus in the amount of \$314,842.00. The surplus in the Enterprise Fund is required to help  
22 identify future water and sewer projects. We have a very strong Budget. We are strong. We are  
23 financially viable.  
24

25 Village President Burke stated that in speaking with other villages and towns around us, we are  
26 in a much better position than most of the other towns around us. He knows for a fact, that  
27 several places are looking at borrowing money to continue to pay their employees. They are  
28 looking at potentially furloughing some people. They are looking at going out for bonds. We  
29 don't have any issues like that whatsoever. There is a lot of head wind ahead of us as far as the  
30 unknown that is associated with this terrible disease. We have sufficient surpluses that will allow  
31 us to continue to function the way that we have been functioning. He stated with that, and with  
32 not having any further comments from the public, he is going to ask for a Motion to Close the  
33 Public Hearing.

34 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Close the Public Hearing at**  
35 **5:14 P.M.**

36 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**  
37

38 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
39

40 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Dispense with the Reading**  
41 **of the Minutes of the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Workshop Meeting; the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board**  
42 **Meeting; and the March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting; and Approve the Minutes of the**  
43 **January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Workshop Meeting; the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting; and the**  
44 **March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting as Presented.**

45 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**  
46  
47

1 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

2

3 **Ratification for March Bills for Approval - \$375,922.26 –**

4

5 **Ratification for April Bills for Approval - \$208,375.76 –** Village President Burke stated that  
6 next is the Ratification of the March Bills for approval of \$375,922.26, and the Ratification of  
7 the April Bills for approval of \$208,375.76. Village President Burke stated that in both cases  
8 those bills were approved electronically via a vote with email. He stated that what is in front of  
9 you, is to ratify the March and April Bills for approval.

10 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Thomas for Ratification of the Bills**  
11 **Previously Approved for March and April.**

12 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**

13

14 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

15

16 **Report of the Village President:**

17

18 **Economic Development Update – a5 Community Outreach Results –** Village President  
19 Burke stated that we have had a number of meetings, via the Economic Development  
20 Commission with a5, which all of you are aware we put them in play to help us with branding.  
21 You should have a copy of a summary of a Presentation that they provided to us this afternoon.  
22 That’s why it wasn’t in your Board Packet earlier. This is an update to give you an idea of where  
23 we are and what they found. All of this is subject to change because of the virus, and how  
24 everything in our lives has been turned upside down. If you have that report and look at Page 5,  
25 these are the some of the things that they came back and told us, and when he says “us,” it was  
26 the Economic Development Commission, Cindy Saenz and myself. We met with them twice.  
27 They gave us a 67-page report. We took several pages out of that report.

28

29 Village President Burke stated that one of the things that he charged them with was to go and  
30 look at the things that they found, and take into consideration all of the things that we know that  
31 are changing in this new world, this new normal that we are going to be in, and come up with  
32 some additional things that we can do right away to position ourselves to be able to continue  
33 expanding some of our economic development efforts, knowing full well that some of the things  
34 that we normally would do, see, and buy and do are not going to exist anymore, or at least not for  
35 a while. This Pandemic is probably going to go on for a while until they get all of the necessary  
36 testing done. He stated that 91% of the public today is not comfortable getting in large crowds.  
37 He stated that because of that, a lot of things are going to change.

38

39 Village President Burke stated that based on some of the things that they saw or heard, from their  
40 interviews, they interviewed 30 people. They talked to most of the Board Members. They talked  
41 to some of the Commission Members. They looked at what we were doing and compared it to 12  
42 other communities. They interviewed Olympia Fields citizens. The people that they interviewed  
43 had some very good ideas. This is a little bit of the feedback. He isn’t going to go through all of  
44 them. He stated a lot of the things are things that we all kind of knew about the Village, because  
45 we invested heavily by buying a home here. Most of these things are not new at all to us. He  
46 stated but to get it documented on a piece of paper so that we can use it. We talked to others

1 about moving in, and talked to other businesses that we are looking at trying to come into the  
2 Village.

3  
4 Village President Burke stated on Page 6, “What is best about us?” Architecture. Every house in  
5 the Village of Olympia Fields is unique. Olympia Fields is unique by Ordinance; you have to be  
6 that way. The country club is a big deal. We have two Metra Stations that stop here. As we just  
7 indicated, we are on sound, financial footing. The hospital is a huge asset. We have one of the  
8 safest communities in the southern suburbs. It is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. On  
9 the other hand, we have an older population. We don’t have a lot of new, younger people moving  
10 in. The Village is very well maintained and managed. There’s a lot of talent in this Village. He  
11 doesn’t think that a lot of people in the Village really realize it and know this. The people, for the  
12 most part that live here, are people who are the best of the best in the southern suburbs. They  
13 have their own businesses. He stated many of which are retired. It is what a friend of his called,  
14 “PIP’s”, “Previously Important People.” They have skills that we have tried to enlist to help us  
15 with the Village. Arcadia is a Blue Ribbon School. The last one is “Batter & Berries” is coming.  
16 He stated that even though restaurants are very, very, very empty, the Economic Development  
17 Commission and Trinetta has worked tirelessly with Batter & Berries to make sure that they  
18 come. They are coming. We have been in constant contact with them to help them navigate their  
19 way through any PPP money, and to be able to put themselves in the position to open up as soon  
20 as possible. He stated even if possibly, serve as a Pop Up in the community where you can buy  
21 food to take away. We recently got the blueprints for 110 seats in that restaurant that they are  
22 going to do. That is still on track to happen.

23  
24 Village President Burke stated that the next page is SWOT Analysis of Olympia Fields. You can  
25 see the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats. A median income of over \$100,000.00.  
26 Very low poverty. We are one of the most affluent, predominantly minority African-American  
27 community in the whole United States. We are Number 1. We have a charter school, and Arcadia  
28 is an excellent school. The hospital and the country club, and a good reputation.

29  
30 Village President Burke stated that the weaknesses: There is very low awareness, no real image.  
31 Other communities actually have a brand. Homewood has done a very good job of branding  
32 itself. The Village of Olympia Fields, other than a nice place to live, we don’t have a real brand.  
33 A weakness is the public high school. He stated that 30% of the people who get arrested and they  
34 end up getting put in our jail are from that high school. A lot of people don’t realize it, but that is  
35 a real big problem when it comes down to people who want to come in here, they feel not only  
36 that the school is not the best academic school, but it is also an issue with the potential crime or  
37 harm that can happen to their kids. Home prices are down. There is a lack of goods and services.  
38 It is not a walkable, organized community. We have 14 or 15 different subdivisions. They pretty  
39 much operate as stand alones. There’s a lack of sense of community as a whole, because the  
40 people that go to work come home, and they aren’t necessarily involved in what’s going on  
41 around them. A lot of that is the result of not having kids. Everybody’s kids for the most part, is  
42 up and gone.

43  
44 Village President Burke stated that threats: The property taxes. That’s one of the head rants when  
45 it comes down to picking businesses to come to the Village of Olympia Fields. They all come  
46 back to talk about their taxes. There are some people who are on this call who have taxes as high  
47 as \$25,000.00 for their home property taxes. We have this situation where a lot of people want to

1 say, “Not in my Backyard.” We don’t want this. We don’t want that. That came through in some  
2 of the interviews. More so than being inviting and trying to get people to want to come in to us.

3  
4 Village President Burke stated that the proximity to Indiana is a biggie because businesses who  
5 might want to come and put something in the Village of Olympia Fields, we have an issue with  
6 them because they can get lower taxes over in Indiana which is just five, 10 minutes, 15 minutes  
7 at the most. It is a lower tax base as far as property taxes and lower commercial taxes, and a lot  
8 of people will go to Indiana. Homewood has a big advantage with the Halsted Corridor. It is an  
9 exit right off of 80. A lot of success that they have had is because of the proximity they are to 80.  
10 That is a big opportunity there. A big deal.

11  
12 Village President Burke stated that from an opportunity standpoint, one of the things that we  
13 have to do is get people engaged in the overall vision of what we are trying to do. Economic  
14 development opportunities, room for growth. As he indicated before, some of the things that is  
15 holding us back is the high taxes. Just about everybody that we talked to, the first thing they want  
16 to do is talk about the taxes. Increase home values. All of us want to see our home values go up.  
17 We are all are probably underwater somewhat. That’s a big opportunity to improve. If the  
18 schools get better, we get more opportunities where businesses are coming in here and we can  
19 create this thing that this is “the place” to be. The hometown to come back to. That will help us  
20 with our overall home values. More marketing from the Village and local businesses to increase  
21 revenue and create a stronger community. When we sat through and listened to their complete  
22 presentation, it became very clear to everybody who was listening, that one of the first things that  
23 we probably need to do is try to figure out a way to do more external marketing for businesses,  
24 as well as to get more people to want to live here. The big golf tournament that is coming up is  
25 going to draw people. So far, it is being pushed out a week. It is part of a Points Program. He  
26 stated that what he means by that is, by the time that golf tournament comes around, one of the  
27 advantages of that golf tournament is that there has been a number of previous tournaments that  
28 have been held all year long. The competitiveness has a lot to do with who gets the most points  
29 in order to get the FedEx Trophy. The good thing about it is with the Pandemic doing what it is  
30 doing to everybody, by the time that golf tournament comes around everything could be over  
31 sheltering in place, that golf tournament will be an even bigger event because if we are able to  
32 get behind some of the social distancing, it will draw a lot more people and we will get a lot  
33 more notoriety in the meantime.

34  
35 Village President Burke stated Park District programming for kids. More things like that need to  
36 be done. This is one of the things that they found out in their study in comparing us to other  
37 places. When we had a lot of young kids, Kelvin Oliver was the King of Baseball. He got to  
38 know a lot of people in the Village. He has probably coached half of the people on this call’s  
39 kids at one time for baseball. He stated that having no baseball because we don’t have kids, we  
40 are missing the pulling together of all of the communities because of kids. We are low density.  
41 That’s a good thing in some cases and a bad thing in other cases. He stated that being low  
42 density, there’s a lot of elbow room around all of us, our homes. We are a community of 5,000  
43 people. When you talk to people about expanding businesses, they look for roof tops. They look  
44 for how many cars drive by. We made a decent case with some of that. The density has come  
45 back in and tends to bite us a lot. He stated land available. We have parcels of land over by the  
46 Monastery. That is available to be developed. This “Not in my Backyard” concept, there is a  
47 feeling among most of the people in the Village that we don’t want apartments. He stated that

1 because with apartments you don't have the right kind of people supposedly. There is land  
2 available. The question is, do we want to go and try to have living conditions that are setup so  
3 that we attract more people that are younger. When these houses were at the expense that they  
4 use to be, the values have fallen and a lot of people are moving in and getting tremendous deals  
5 with that. People that could not live here before are now starting to move in. That's a two-edge  
6 sword.

7  
8 Village President Burke stated that when you are talking about Olympia Fields and what came  
9 out of the presentation that a5 presented, most of these things are pretty spot on. Then you have  
10 to come and just drop a big old glob of nothing that you really want called this COVID-19 virus.  
11 Everybody in America right now is in trouble. A lot of businesses are not going to come back.  
12 He knows that Janice is working very hard with Metra trying to figure out how they are going to  
13 get people to take that train. It's a good possibility that half the people will not go back  
14 downtown. They have learned how to work from home. That reverse commute, it maybe that  
15 there are more and more people working at home. Probably one of the positive things is that  
16 maybe we can use that to our advantage, that people are going to be working from home, or they  
17 could be hoteling out in the suburbs. He read an article earlier today that people in some of the  
18 large cities out east, they are now moving out of the city out to the suburbs where there is more  
19 space to get away from other people because they are afraid of the Pandemic. That is where we  
20 are going.

21  
22 Village President Burke stated that one of the things that he asked, and the Commission asked a5  
23 to do, is to come up with five initiatives that we could make happen in the next 12 months. When  
24 there is a problem in business, and things get tight, that's the best time to invest. You don't wait  
25 until afterwards to invest in opportunities. You try to take advantage of what is the potential  
26 going to be in the future. If you go to Page 11, here are the five initiatives that we penciled out.  
27 1. "Create a compelling brand and story: Why is it good to live here? Why is Olympia Fields a  
28 great place to locate a business?" Whatever we were working on before, it is going to be  
29 modified somewhat to take into consideration what the new world is going to look like, and what  
30 the new normal is going to look like. 2. "Develop a rollout plan including metrics that reaches  
31 people in multiple ways using (the web, social media, email, print media, etc.) consistently." Our  
32 penetration to our website, and our penetration to technology still could be improved. There are  
33 probably 25%, 30% more people hitting our website today than what it had been a year ago.  
34 There is a lot more to do. We need to do more social media. That's a key initiative. 3. "Create the  
35 marketing and communication tools needed to market economic development in the  
36 community." The original a5 initiative was primarily focused at economic development. The  
37 things that we discussed with them is that there needs to be economic development, and there  
38 needs to be growing and promoting the Village of Olympia Fields to help our property values.  
39 He stated that with better property values our taxes could be lower to attract more younger  
40 people. A lot of people who live here they are going to be going off and retiring someplace else.  
41 Their houses are going to be available. We have to do things to market and sell people that this is  
42 the right place to come. 4. "Focus economic development on short, medium and long-term goals,  
43 recognizing that the COVID-19 landscape requires Olympia Fields to pivot while continuing to  
44 attract new businesses."

45  
46 Village President Burke inquired what are the new businesses that are going to be up and  
47 coming? One of the things that we talked about is something called a "Grocerant." It is a cross

1 between a grocery store and a restaurant. It was kind of an up and coming thing. The concept is  
2 you can go in and pick out food that you want. There may be a bakery in there possibly. There  
3 would be pre-packaged food. They would actually cook the meal for you, and you could walk  
4 away with a meal already prepared. He stated people are not going to sit down in a restaurant,  
5 and this would be the next best thing that you can go and have. It's the same kind of food, but  
6 you can take it home. That is one idea, one concept. 5. "Capitalize on the talent in Olympia  
7 Fields and create partnerships to strengthen the sense of community." As he stated earlier, we  
8 have 14 or 15 Homeowners Associations that are operating independently. He stated for the most  
9 part, people know each other. If you think about it, how many people do you know in the other  
10 subdivisions? How often do you get together to do things? What is that common bond, other than  
11 the fact that you say that you live in Olympia Fields? What's that common bond that gets you  
12 mixing with other people that are in our town that have a sense of belonging? He stated that  
13 Homewood and Flossmoor do a pretty good job of it. Olympia Fields, we pretty much don't do  
14 that.

15

16 Village President Burke stated that these are the five things that we talked about what we would  
17 need to do to reboot. These were the five things that came out of multiple discussions. It was  
18 very important that we share this with the Village Trustees, and the management as a whole.

19

20 Village President Burke inquired of Village Administrator Saenz whether or not she had  
21 anything that she wanted to add to this. Village Administrator Saenz stated other than just to say  
22 that she really feels that a5 did a great job with the information that they provided. She wished  
23 that they would have included the one slide that included the businesses, the communication that  
24 they got from their interview for the businesses that they wanted to come into the Village. They  
25 did a good job. They had a great plan. It's just now we have to rethink where we are going  
26 unfortunately, because of COVID-19. We are still in a great position with the property that we  
27 have acquired and the stake that we have to still prosper. We just have to develop that brand and  
28 make sure that we are marketing the Village the best way that we can. She stated that for a long  
29 time she did not want to enter the world of social media, but we are here now. It is something  
30 that we have to do if we want to stay in the forefront and be relevant with everyone today.

31

32 Village President Burke inquired of Trinette Britt-Johnson and Mike Lewis whether or not they  
33 wanted to add anything. Mr. Lewis stated no, he thinks it is pretty complete. The pre and post  
34 timeframe with respect to the Pandemic is probably the key success factor. He thinks that a5 has  
35 really helped us to make sure that we organize our thinking the right way so we are relevant and  
36 on point. It's important for a successful long-term plan to make sure that when you have a major  
37 interruption like this, that you factor all the necessary ingredients in. He has been very pleased  
38 with a5 and look forward to continuing.

39

40 Mrs. Trinette Britt-Johnson stated that the only thing that she would add is, it's just really  
41 helping us, which we already knew, but we needed to get to a point of actualizing a different  
42 level of outreach and communication. Their direction is going to help us just reach a broader  
43 base of people, not just the community and how we need to let people know how great and  
44 wonderful Olympia Fields is. We know, but the outside world doesn't know. And communicate  
45 amongst each other a little bit better, and giving us the direction and a plan to do that, but also to  
46 reach out beyond the borders of Olympia Fields so that we can possibly be on the minds of

1 others to come to Olympia Fields. This is a great place to live, work, shop, whatever. It is giving  
2 us a broader way of thinking of how to get attraction back to Olympia Fields.

3  
4 Village President Burke stated that this virus is going to get better. We are probably going to  
5 have another wave behind it. He talked to a few people. He doesn't think that there is going to be  
6 any baseball or football, or anything for a while until we can get a vaccine and do social testing  
7 and move forward with some kind of contact tracing. The kinds of businesses and opportunities  
8 that we are going to be chasing is going to be a little bit different than some of the mix that had  
9 existed before. Matteson is talking about trying to get a Casino. He doesn't see that happening  
10 for a while. We've had some people that are interested in trying to bring in a rehab center that is  
11 really not the rehab center type that we had originally thought. It is more like a Betty Ford  
12 Program where you stay two, three months at a time. That's a little bit something different than  
13 what we have heard before. This one company was even talking about spending as much as  
14 \$15,000,000.00. They would be paying taxes, whereas some of these other medical things are not  
15 paying taxes. Our number one industry in the Village is medical. Medicine, and not-for-profits  
16 do not generate any revenue to costs that will help us balance our tax base. There's a new look at  
17 and a reswiveling of how we look at some of the businesses that we want to get involved with  
18 that will help us stay in a positive position financially. Village President Burke inquired whether  
19 or not anybody had any questions.

20  
21 Trustee Oliver stated that he had a comment and a question. He thinks it is very, very important  
22 that the Economic Development Commission had reached out and retained a5 to do this study.  
23 He thinks that it has now positioned us well as we go forward beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic.  
24 We are positioned well now that we know what our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, et  
25 cetera are. We can move forward with that.

26  
27 Trustee Oliver stated that his question had to do with a comment made by Cindy, which is a5 did  
28 not include the business content slide. Do you have any idea why they didn't include those? Is  
29 there anyway that he could get a copy of their response?

30  
31 Village President Burke stated that when you say, "business content" what do you mean? Trustee  
32 Oliver stated that Cindy made a comment that a5 included all of the comments made by Village  
33 Officials, and a number of other sources. He thought that she said that she was surprised that  
34 they did not include the comments made by several of our business owners here in town.

35  
36 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she was sorry. She stated that what she said was there  
37 was a list that included the types of businesses that the people that were interviewed wanted to  
38 see in Olympia Fields. She stated that she apologizes for not being clear. The reason that she  
39 would have liked to have seen that as part of the report is because of what the Village President  
40 said, after we are back and we transition back into the work force, some of those businesses will  
41 not be able to sustain. We know that those types of businesses are not the type of businesses that  
42 we want to seek out for the Village of Olympia Fields. That was the only reason that she thought  
43 that it was important. Trustee Oliver thanked Village Administrator Saenz for the clarification.

44  
45 Trustee Watkins inquired whether or not it is possible to share any of those businesses that were  
46 recommended. She would be interested to hear that.

47



1 Village President Burke stated that we can get you the 67-page presentation. Trustee Watkins  
2 stated that she doesn't need the 67-pages. She is just saying a couple of the recommendations.  
3 Village President Burke stated that it wasn't a recommendation. It was more along the lines that  
4 you have to understand that when we engaged them, it was pre-COVID-19. In pre-COVID-19,  
5 everybody around here wanted restaurants. We were chasing restaurants. We were chasing those  
6 kinds of things that are white, tablecloth type restaurants that are upscale, and instead of people  
7 going to Orland, Tinley, or over in Indiana, they would come to our restaurant. In the near term,  
8 and maybe the mid term people aren't going to be going to restaurants. What they were  
9 originally interviewing and talking to the people about, some of that stuff is not applicable in this  
10 new unknown world. He stated for example, having a restaurant like Cooper's Hawk, they are a  
11 very big footprint. A lot of these big footprint restaurants are in trouble compared to those that  
12 are kind of medium size places that have to go. One of the examples that they used was  
13 Potbelly's. He stated that 80%, 90% of their business is come in and sit down and eat. He stated  
14 that 90% of Jimmy John's is takeout. In the new world where people can't sit down and talk with  
15 other people and socialize, a big restaurant, and an investment in a really big restaurant where  
16 you have a lot of money sunk into having an environment like that, it's unrealistic to think that is  
17 what you are going to get.

18  
19 Village President Burke stated that the point that they were trying to make is that we need to look  
20 at those kinds of businesses that are grab and go. That's when he thought about the "Grocerant."  
21 Everybody goes to the grocery store. Bizios does a pretty good job of packaging up stuff that you  
22 can get that is already cooked. We spent time and visited "Standard Market" out in the Western  
23 Suburbs. He stated that he, along with Cindy and Trinetta went there at least three times. He had  
24 to drag them out of there. It has a bakery inside of the place. It has all kinds of food that they  
25 prepare. They have a meat market that is probably half the size of Bizios just by itself with just  
26 fresh meat. You can pick out something and take it over and they will grill it and cook it right  
27 there and you can take it home. You can get fresh, baked bread right there. In another section  
28 they had little shopping bags with food already prepared. You just get off the train and you go in  
29 there and grab one of these bags and take it home and you have a meal for two. He stated  
30 concepts like that. That's maybe the new up and coming types of businesses. We need to jump  
31 on those kinds of things before anybody else does. Everybody else right now, is trying to figure  
32 out ways to balance their budgets. He is telling you they are underwater. We're not. When we  
33 talked with them a couple of weeks ago about rebooting, and reswivelling what we were asking  
34 them to do, we have five things that is going to make a difference and put us in a position to take  
35 advantage. We want to try to make lemons into lemonade. This Pandemic is a lemon. We want to  
36 make lemonade out of it. What can we do that is different? We don't have all of the answers yet,  
37 but these are the things we have talked about already and it kind of gives us a head start.

38  
39 Trustee Watkins inquired is their timeline being moved back, or are we going to keep the same  
40 timeline and the same payment schedule. Village President Burke stated that we redirected them  
41 to do things different than what they were doing. We are telling them we need you to help us  
42 redefine what the yellow brick road is going to look like going forward. What do you know that  
43 is happening, and what is the trend in the marketplace that we can take advantage of that can  
44 help us be in a better position? What we have going for us is that our finances are in great shape.  
45 We want to keep them in great shape. We are not borrowing any money. We haven't borrowed  
46 any money whatsoever. We had Capital Projects that we were ready to roll out that were all self-  
47 funding. We are in a very unique position that other people don't have. We will be able to

1 survive this crisis a lot longer than others around us. At the same time, we are not going to  
2 squander what we have our riches in and go do things that don't make sense. We want to try to  
3 find that next new thing to put us in position to do stuff. Amazon is killing all the big-boxes. The  
4 restaurants now have been killed for the most part for a while. What is that next new thing?  
5 Right now, we don't have complete answers and they don't have all the answers. Together, we  
6 will come up with some things that are going to help us. Trustee Watkins stated thank you so  
7 much.

8  
9 **First Amendment to Agreement for Economic Development Consulting Services – Village**  
10 President Burke stated that the next thing that he wants to talk about is the Economic  
11 Development Consulting Services Agreement that we have with Trinette. You saw some of the  
12 things that we were working on. You have seen Batter & Berries. You have seen that we've had  
13 some things that we thought we had nailed down, but that hasn't stopped us. The plaza where  
14 Batter & Berries is going, it was about to go under. We helped and worked with banks to get that  
15 place secured by a developer. That is one of the ways that Batter & Berries was able to get in  
16 there. We sold them on coming in.

17  
18 Village President Burke stated that we have a number of other projects and things that are still in  
19 the works. The Commission as a whole, Trinette's leadership on this has been very helpful. We  
20 are not where we would like to be. If we had been as successful as we wanted to, all the  
21 restaurants and hotels would be shutdown right now. They would be gone. Just like up and down  
22 Halsted would be shut down. On the flip side, we are still pretty comfortable that going forward  
23 we have the right team and the right people to make this work.

24  
25 Village President Burke stated that what he is putting before the Board right now is to do a  
26 rollover of the contract. He has the authority to do that with the votes from the Board to extend  
27 the contract for Trinette's services through April of 2021.

28 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Authorize the Village**  
29 **President to Execute the First Amendment to the Agreement for Economic Development**  
30 **Consulting Services between the Village of Olympia Fields and Trinette Britt-Johnson. It's**  
31 **Amended by Extending the Term to and Including April 2021.**

32  
33 Trustee Matz stated point of order, discussion before a vote. Village President Burke stated go  
34 ahead. You have the floor. Trustee Matz stated that as you said before throughout your whole  
35 presentation while we were talking about a5 and all the great things they did, and that their  
36 document is a living document and can be changed because our world as we know it has just  
37 been turned upside down. She personally has been home for the past 40-days sheltered-in-place.  
38 She stated that with that being said, as you mentioned before, all the possibilities of what might  
39 happen in the next month or two, or three, i.e. the golf tournament which she doubts. Speaking in  
40 the reality of where we are at right now, we are looking at our businesses have been closed since  
41 March 20<sup>th</sup>, unless they are essential services. All of our residents are mandated by law to  
42 shelter-in-place by the Governor. If they leave home as of tomorrow, they must wear a mask  
43 until the Governor revisits the State's COVID-19 status as of May 30<sup>th</sup>. So, we are sheltered in  
44 place until May 30<sup>th</sup>. No movement is being had or done business wise. People are still  
45 scrambling to figure out how to survive through this through their loss of income. And the fear of  
46 the unknown that this Pandemic has presented us, we now are our brother's keeper. As the  
47 Village leaders, you, the President, and my fellow Trustees of a small but mighty community,

1 our main concern should be right now that everyone of our residents gets through this crisis  
2 alive. And the health and safety of our 5,000 residents who live within our three-mile  
3 circumference of Olympia Fields in this time and moment is our immediate and only focus. We  
4 don't know what our new normal is. You pointed that out several times throughout your whole  
5 President's Report how the unknown is the unknown, and we don't know what the new normal  
6 is, and pretty much it is guesswork. We are guessing at it. How can we do the Village any justice  
7 by renewing the Economic Development Consulting Contract right now at the tune of \$6,500.00  
8 a month, when we don't know what our immediate future is, or what it looks like, or how long  
9 our movements will be stifled? That, right there, is not something that we should visit right now.  
10 We can visit that in the future, because we are all still sitting around trying to figure out what is  
11 next. Our residents need masks. If they start moving as of tomorrow, everybody needs a mask.  
12 Are we prepared to help them out? Our community right now, and she didn't see it in a5's report,  
13 that we are a senior citizen community. We are the hardest hit of them all. We are seniors. We  
14 have underlying illness. And COVID-19 is not eradicated. So, for us to put forth a movement  
15 and talk about economic development when we haven't taken the temperature of our businesses  
16 that have been shut down. We need to focus on what is going on with our businesses that are  
17 shutdown before we can even talk about anything else that is coming into our community. It  
18 might not be a fit like you even mentioned. The Casino, is a pie in the sky that Matteson is  
19 constantly talking about. We might not ever be undistancing six-feet from each other. So, how  
20 can there be a Casino? Restaurants, how can we go back to eating at a restaurant when we are  
21 mandated to wear a mask? Do we get it through osmosis? Is she sipping it through a straw? She  
22 won't sit in a restaurant.

23

24 Trustee Matz stated right now, let's just take a pause. We need to pause right now. We need to  
25 not enter into a contract that we are obligated to pay money to that we are not getting any results  
26 from, and we don't even know what those results are. We are more than capable using Gladys  
27 and the Economic Development Commission to maintain the businesses that we have by taking  
28 their temperature. And as we see fit, and as we see when the Governor lets up on the mandate,  
29 and as we see if this Pandemic is asymptomatic, she can just be talking to somebody who looks  
30 perfectly fine and healthy, all of a sudden, she gets COVID-19. And now, what does that look  
31 like? Let's talk in the real. It sounds real good. Our community is stable. Halleluiah. Praise God,  
32 Jesus Christ, Mother Mary and Joseph. So, let's just pause for a minute because we are in a  
33 sweet spot. Let's just see what our community needs and how we can all get out of this thing  
34 alive. She is very passionate about living. She doesn't know about anybody else. Dying right  
35 now is an inconvenience, because she just buried her mother and you could only have 10 people  
36 in there to say goodbye. So, we just need to pause for a minute.

37

38 Trustee Thomas stated that she listened to the presentation and she read through it. She also  
39 participated in the interviewing for a5. She believes that the timing has changed, a lot of things  
40 that we were going to do. Now, our focus should be on a campaign for recovery. She also thinks  
41 that it is crucial that based on what a5 has provided, and now we are giving them a new  
42 direction, she doesn't really understand why we would want to renew a contract for economic  
43 development, when we are dealing with reality and the things that Trustee Matz just eloquently  
44 explained. She is not going to repeat those. That's our reality. Our residents are looking at us.  
45 She was on a call last night with residents. They want to know why hasn't the Village tried to  
46 identify masks for our community. Tomorrow, we have to wear masks when we go outside. They  
47 are hard to come by. She has not heard on that. She has not heard of the Village's efforts. She did

1 inquire with Cindy about this a while ago. Nothing in efforts have been done. She is saying right  
2 now, is that the message that you want to send to our community? As she is on this phone, texts  
3 are coming from people on the phone. She will say this, they are not in Olympia Club either.  
4 Texts are coming from people on the phone that are asking these same questions. She knows that  
5 a decision has probably already been made. She wants it to be noted that she thinks this is  
6 something that we should step back, and reconsider, and reposition our marketing consultant. We  
7 should also reconsider economic development and come back and visit it later when we know  
8 how the economy is going to stabilize. We are talking about bringing business, and people are  
9 afraid to leave their homes, and people are being careful with their money. People don't want to  
10 leave out of their house. She doesn't go to the grocery store. She has her groceries delivered to  
11 the house. She goes to work, comes home, comes in the garage and parks her company car.  
12 That's what she does, unless she has to go somewhere. We need to really look at a real reality.  
13 She thinks that it is time for us to just pause, and try to see how we can help our people in our  
14 community that need help. That's what she believes is important for us to do.

15

16 Trustee Finley stated that she thinks that our opportunity here is not to pause, but to pivot. She  
17 thinks that you pivot with the expertise of the team that has been working to bring us this far that  
18 everybody is so satisfied with. She thinks it is important that we continue to be able to walk and  
19 chew gum at the same time. That's what has brought us to this opportunity where we have such  
20 glowing reports. We have been able to say here is how things are, and here is how things will be.  
21 And these are the things that we want to have happen. COVID has happened. It will run its way  
22 and have its course with us. You are right, we will be in a new normal. She doesn't think that  
23 you go to the new normal without the expertise of the people who have invested in bringing us  
24 this far and have a real core vision and experience on what it is that it takes to consider what our  
25 new normal will be.

26

27 Trustee Oliver stated that he hears the passion that both Trustee Matz and Thomas expressed  
28 regarding their concerns about holding fast until we know exactly what is going on in this new  
29 world. He has to think about not just the country, but other countries as well who have already  
30 gone through this and have prepared and positioned themselves to move on. He believes that  
31 Olympia Fields, based on what the President has presented us with today, really positions us to  
32 do some things most other towns cannot do, or not in a position to do currently. He is sure that  
33 the City of Chicago has not put its economic development on hold. This is not like a hold where  
34 we think of these issues personally. We have to think of this as the towns and the people who  
35 have elected us to try and do something to get us beyond where we are. Now, there are three  
36 different issues to him that seem to be debated. 1. Are we providing COVID masks for our  
37 residents? 2. Should we do any economic development during this COVID period? 3. Should we,  
38 as a Village, just stand still and do more to protect our residents?

39

40 Trustee Oliver stated that he thinks that if we are focusing on all three, if you look at Public  
41 Works, Public Works continues to function in spite of COVID and is doing its job. Public Safety,  
42 or the police is doing its job. Everything else seems to be shut down, but we don't have to be  
43 shutdown just because we can't communicate or be with one another. He thinks it is imperative  
44 that the Village does whatever we can to move beyond where we are, so that when this Pandemic  
45 is over, we are in position to take advantage. He is not a business person. He knows that some of  
46 you on this line are a business person. You can expand upon what he is saying. Most business

1 people when they see an opportunity like this, they are looking at how do we capitalize on an  
2 issue like this. We are in that position to do that. Why would we stand still? That is his comment.  
3 Trustee Watkins stated as a business person she would not spend at this time, over \$6,000.00 for  
4 a consultant, especially when she has a whole team that can still push forward doing the same  
5 exact job. She understands, and she appreciates everything that Trinette has done. She is in  
6 agreement, to just take a moment and pause for at least three months. If the States are shutdown,  
7 she is sure that we can take a pause for 30 days or 60 days as well. So, just take a step back.  
8 That's \$6,000.00 that she thinks Trustee Thomas mentioned that we can provide masks, and PPE  
9 for front line people here in Olympia Fields. There is so much that we can do with that money.  
10 That is her comment.

11  
12 Trustee Thomas stated that she wanted to add to what Trustee Oliver said. The reality is, the  
13 government has bailed out businesses, and the government is now looking at another stimulus to  
14 bail out businesses, because businesses are not looking for opportunities. They are looking for  
15 survival. Also, the City of Chicago, they are not working on an economic phase at this time.  
16 They have made it clear, they have one focus right now, that is to keep their residents safe. The  
17 Mayor has created a Task Force that is comprised of individuals from the Regional  
18 Transportation Board, from the County, from other businesses. How do you keep people safe in  
19 this time, particularly our African-American communities? She knows there is passion. She  
20 knows there is friendship. She is really talking about what do we do to help the people that are  
21 listening on the phone, and we are talking about how do we get a connection and start to say at  
22 the Village, if you need masks, call me if you need masks. How do we say, "If you need hand  
23 sanitizer, call me if you need hand sanitizer?" How do we help the community to shelter-in-place  
24 in their home if they can't get out, if they don't even understand how to do an Instacart to buy  
25 groceries? How do we do that? What can we do to help? She knows in her community they made  
26 a decision to all homeowners, your Homeowners Association dues are due in July, and we aren't  
27 going to hold you to that. You don't have to make it up, because people are struggling. Our  
28 future about economic development, she thinks right now it does not hurt, we can pause, we can  
29 come back and renew the contract. It can be a competitive process. We have to make sure that  
30 when we are saying things that there are people that are listening, that we don't come across that  
31 we are just so focused on businesses and we know businesses are struggling.

32  
33 Trustee Matz stated that she would just close with this, adding on to what Trustee Thomas just  
34 said. It's all about our community. It's all about our residents. If our residents perish, our  
35 community perishes. We have obligations to the businesses that have been with us for years, who  
36 abruptly had to close their doors. What packages are we looking into for them to show them that  
37 you are of value to us? We want you to stay. When that opportunity presents itself, we want your  
38 doors to swing wide open so we can come back and continue to purchase things from you. What  
39 are we putting in place to maintain our businesses, so that when the opportunity arises to add to  
40 them, it is not a heavy lift, then to replace the businesses that we let close down forever and add  
41 to, that is a heavy lift?

42  
43 Trustee Pennington stated that he calls for a vote. Village President Burke stated that he wanted  
44 to make a couple of comments on things that he has heard. He is going to pose a question. And  
45 then he is going to give an answer. There are 36 cases in the Village of Olympia Fields that have  
46 been documented to have this virus. We've had two deaths, two. The people in the Village of  
47 Olympia Fields are well-educated. They have income north of \$100,000.00. This is not some

1 small, predominantly minority community that doesn't have any money. They are well-educated.  
2 They understand that staying in, washing their hands, and social distancing is very important to  
3 them. We have the lowest mortality rate than anybody in the southern suburbs. You can go and  
4 look at places like Park Forest with 10 deaths. Matteson has 12. Homewood has 16. Country  
5 Club Hills has 19. Chicago Heights has 13. The people who live in this town have done a  
6 phenomenal job of making sure that they take care of themselves during this Pandemic.  
7 Brookdale/Sunrise, they went on a lockdown. They have not had one case. The most vulnerable  
8 people in the whole town, not one case of COVID-19 in that facility over there. He has spoken  
9 with the director. He talked to them about how we can help them through the State to get all the  
10 PPE's that they need. Yes, they are making money over there. We were able to provide  
11 information to them that they didn't know anything about.

12  
13 Village President Burke stated that the website that we have has all kinds of resources that are  
14 available for the people who live here, and for the people who have businesses here. We have  
15 been able to assist those individuals that asked for our help, we've helped them. We are able to  
16 walk and chew gum like somebody said a little while ago. We are able to still do everything that  
17 we were doing before. We are providing and have protected the Village in every way possible.  
18 Anybody who needs a mask, can get a mask. If anybody wants to try to help some people get  
19 masks that's fine. If not, we are not Chicago. We are not responsible for providing masks to  
20 every individual in this town. We want them to stay in. We want them to be healthy. We will do  
21 whatever is necessary to do that. We have done wellness checks. We have done things to make  
22 sure that people get what they need. One thing that we could do, maybe instead of giving people  
23 masks to go someplace, maybe what we should do is have a group of people go shopping for  
24 them. Help those individuals that need the help.

25  
26 Village President Burke stated that as far as the money to do this is concerned, half the money  
27 comes out of the TIF. Out of that TIF, you can't use it for anything else other than economic  
28 development. The State is providing up to 75% for those things that are essential to help keep  
29 governments running. The money associated with this particular contract is not taking away from  
30 anything else that we have that we need to do. It is imperative that the Village of Olympia Fields  
31 does everything it can to maintain its competitive advantage and to be able to grow our base. One  
32 of the reasons that our taxes is where they are today is because we don't have a large enough  
33 commercial base. In his conversations with businesses around the Village as recently as two days  
34 ago, he was in one particular store. The gentleman that he spoke with was the manager. He told  
35 the Village President that the expenses that he has to pay for signs was twice what he normally  
36 would have to do, and he had other stores in other locations. He stated that not only are the  
37 public having to pay higher taxes, but every business is having to pay higher taxes. The only way  
38 you stop that is to go with a commercial base as much as we possibly can. It is not a good idea to  
39 wait until everything gets better before you go and try to get an advantage over the rest of the  
40 people that you are competing with. He stated that with that said, he can tell you right now, if  
41 you want to, you can go look at the statistics that's on that website that we have connected up to  
42 the Coroner's Office and the Illinois Department of Health, Cook County Department of Health,  
43 and you can find any statistic that you want to see exactly how well the Village of Olympia  
44 Fields is doing.

45

1 Village President Burke stated that he is very, very, very proud of the Village and how it has  
2 been able to get through this Pandemic. We have done much, much, much better than everyone  
3 else. With that said, everybody had an opportunity to speak. He had a call for the vote.

4 **Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustees Matz, Thomas and Watkins Voted No) Motion Carried.**

5  
6 **Motion by Trustee Matz that we Table this Economic Development Contract until we get a**  
7 **Handle on COVID-19, and the Governor Releases the Shelter-in-Place Mandate, and we**  
8 **Assess the Conditions of our Current Businesses before we Spend any Money**  
9 **Unnecessarily.**

10  
11 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that the Motion was already voted on and carried. You can't  
12 make a Motion to Table that. That Motion was already made. If she wants to entertain another  
13 Motion that would be appropriate. The Motion to Table is inappropriate.

14  
15 **Motion by Trustee Matz that we Table the Economic Development Contract until we get a**  
16 **Handle on COVID-19, and the Governor Releases the Shelter-in-Place Mandate, and we**  
17 **Assess the Conditions of our Current Businesses before we Spend Money Unnecessarily.**

18  
19 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated that we have already voted on the Motion to approve the  
20 contract. You cannot now, put in a Motion to Table. The Motion to Table would have been  
21 before this vote was taken.

22  
23 Trustee Matz asked for clarification from Village Attorney Murphey. Mr. Murphey stated that  
24 the Village Clerk is correct. A Motion to Table needs to be made and voted on before the vote on  
25 the prime Motion. The vote on the prime Motion has been done. That's the end of the action  
26 item. As a practical matter, the arguments made by those voting no, would be the same argument  
27 that would be on the Motion to Table. He believes that everybody's views have been set forth in  
28 the record. He agrees with the Village Clerk. Trustee Matz stated that she stands down.

29  
30 Village President Burke stated that he appreciates everybody's opinion. That's what Democracy  
31 is all about. He stated that we have to move on. Next, is the report from the Village  
32 Administrator.

33  
34 **Report of the Village Administrator:**

35  
36 **Metra 203<sup>rd</sup> Street Parking Lot Update** – Village Administrator Saenz stated that she wanted  
37 to give an update on the situation that we currently have with the Metra Station at 203<sup>rd</sup> Street.  
38 We've had quite a few developments since our last update and discussion on the parking lot.  
39 After our February meeting, she received the letter that you have in your Board Packet from  
40 Metra notifying us that they were going to terminate our maintenance agreement, which came as  
41 quite a surprise considering, if you recall, we had negotiated with Metra to continue to maintain  
42 the lot and make upgrades that they had actually agreed to prior to the end of the year.

43  
44 Village Administrator Saenz stated that after receiving the letter, she reached out to Metra and  
45 asked a few questions. She wanted to know if we could have clarification as to why they were  
46 terminating the agreement. And as you can see from the email, a few other things. If they were  
47 going to move forward with making those upgrades and implementing some of the technology

1 that we had discussed. They said that they would, but also, as far as reasons for terminating the  
2 contract, it just really wasn't clear. They stated that there was a change in one of the  
3 Amendments from 2015, that we were actually never able to get clarified. We asked the Village  
4 Attorney, John Murphey, to get involved. He was going to attend their meeting. And, just like  
5 everything else, COVID-19 happened. At that point, Metra had moved forward with their audit.  
6 They had begun making plans to takeover the lot. We just had to conform to those processes and  
7 position ourselves to turn the lot back over. She stated that she can tell the Board that the audit  
8 went smoothly. We had no issues, which we had not anticipated any. Metra had begun to make  
9 the modifications at the lot for the changeout of the collection system there. They are moving  
10 forward with making the updates to the lot. Today, Reggi handed over the keys. We did our final  
11 collection and handed over the keys. Effective tomorrow, Metra will be maintaining the lot. They  
12 have another company that they partnered with SP+. We all took a look at their website at the  
13 company in general. It seems to be a pretty reputable firm. It looks like they do a good job. We  
14 can only hope that they will continue to upgrade the lot and maintain it the way we would, and  
15 we won't have any issues.

16

17 **Resolution #2020-01 – A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Northern Illinois**  
18 **Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC) and Authorize the Village Administrator to**  
19 **Approve a Contract with the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for a Period up to 36**  
20 **Months, to Energize the Village Water/Sewer Pumping Station** – Village Administrator

21 Saenz stated that the next item is to ratify the electrical aggregation bid process that we  
22 underwent in early March. Everyone has already been updated on this previously. The Board did  
23 approve the movement of this process. The Resolution that you have in front of you was giving  
24 her authorization to coordinate and form an Ad Hoc Committee so that we could review the bids  
25 that were going to come in through NIMEC. The Committee consisted of Trustee Matz, Trustee  
26 Pennington, Public Works Director Jim Landini, and Village Administrator Saenz. They did  
27 review the bids that came through. The bids came in less than our current rate that we were  
28 paying, so it was actually a good time for renewal. We were able to sign off on a three-year  
29 contract with Constellation being the company to actually win our services. The Board has  
30 already approved everything. This is just a bit of housekeeping. We need a Motion first to  
31 approve the Resolution, and then a Motion to ratify the contract.

32 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Approve Resolution No. 2020-**  
33 **01 - A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric**  
34 **Collaborative (NIMEC) and Authorizing the Village Administrator to Approve a Contract**  
35 **with the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for a Period up to 36 Months, to Energize the**  
36 **Village Water and Sewer Pumping Station.**

37 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**

38

39 **Ratification of NIMEC Bid for Electrical Suppliers Associated with the Village Water and**  
40 **Sewer Pumping Facilities – Contract Award to Constellation for a Period Up to 36 Months,**  
41 **to Energize the Village Water/Sewer Pumping Station –**

42

43

44

45

46



1 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Pennington to Ratify the Contract**  
2 **Documents with Constellation to Supply Alternate Energy Supply to the Village’s Sewer**  
3 **Lift Station and the Water Pumping Station Facilities for Three (3) Years, through May**  
4 **2023, for Account 0339171121, and Account 2243086046, and Account 6923137059, and**  
5 **Account 7723018001, and a Three (3) Year Rate of 0.03914 Cents per Kilowatt.**

6 **Roll Call: Ayes (6-0) Motion Carried.**

7  
8 **RedFlex Contract Extension** – Village Administrator Saenz stated that the last item she has on  
9 the Agenda has to do with our RedFlex Contract. During the budgeting process, we had  
10 discussed the issues surrounding the Red-Light Camera Program and the fact that our contract  
11 with RedFlex which is the current vendor, would be expiring in March of 2020. We had  
12 discussions of having Chief Morgan reach out to other vendors so that we could look at some  
13 other programs that were out there, and again, COVID-19 happened. We did reach out to  
14 RedFlex and ask if they would consider extending the term of the three cameras that were  
15 expiring in March to actually coincide with the camera that we have left on Vollmer and Western  
16 that is set to expire in May of 2021.

17  
18 Village Administrator Saenz stated that our reason behind this, basically had to do with the fact  
19 that this program in itself there is Legislation out there to ban the Red-Light Camera Program.  
20 We really don’t know which way this will go. There is Legislation out there that was passed in  
21 November of 2019 by Representative Lou Sweeney. There was another Representative that  
22 introduced another Bill in early January of this year. We don’t know what is going to happen. As  
23 we discussed during the budgeting process, this is a program right now that we really can’t  
24 afford to turn our backs on. Until we know whether or not cameras will be banned, it just seemed  
25 like a good idea for us to keep everything in place as it is. She knows that Mr. Murphey had  
26 conversations with RedFlex for the Village and looked into this for the Village. She inquired of  
27 Mr. Murphey whether or not he had anything that he would like to share with the Board.

28  
29 Mr. Murphey stated no. It is a simple one-year rollover that kind of just serves until we can either  
30 see what the future of the Legislation is going to be, or if Red Light Cameras survive, it will give  
31 us time to go to the marketplace. As of now, this is the most prudent course to have this one-year  
32 rollover.

33 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Watkins to Authorize the Village**  
34 **President to Execute the Second Amendment to the Agreement between the Village of**  
35 **Olympia Fields and RedFlex Traffic Systems, Inc. for Photo Red Light Enforcement**  
36 **Program.**

37 **Roll Call: Ayes (4) (Trustees Matz and Thomas Voted No) Motion Carried.**

38  
39 Trustee Matz stated that she had a point of clarity. She stated that there was a lot of static and  
40 noise when Cindy was making her report about relinquishing our rights to the upkeep of the  
41 Metra Station on 203<sup>rd</sup>. Trustee Matz inquired of Village Administrator Saenz whether or not she  
42 mentioned how much money we had to give back to Metra. Trustee Matz stated that she doesn’t  
43 see the dollar amount in her notes.

44  
45 Village Administrator Saenz stated that Betty has that information. She inquired of Ms. Zigras  
46 whether or not she could share with the Board what the balance in the Metra Fund was.

47

1 Ms. Zigras stated that we made the last deposit today into the Metra Fund, because we made our  
2 last collection. It is roughly \$430,000.00 in that area that we will be giving back to them. You  
3 can see that as of March 31<sup>st</sup> the Cash Balance Report that is in the Board Packet, the Metra Fund  
4 has \$436,000.00 in cash as of the end of March. They didn't make much deposit in the month of  
5 April because there was not much ridership. She is waiting to see what the April month end bank  
6 statements will look like. They are around \$430,000.00. That is what she is expecting to transfer  
7 out sometime this week. Trustee Matz thanked Ms. Zigras for that clarity.  
8

9 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

10  
11 **Betty Zigras – Director of Finance**

12  
13 **Ordinance #2020-11 – An Ordinance Approving the Annual Budget of the Village of**  
14 **Olympia Fields for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year [First & Second Reading]** – Ms. Zigras stated  
15 that we have Ordinance #2020-11. It is an Ordinance to approve the Annual Budget of the  
16 Village of Olympia Fields for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Trustee Pennington gave a  
17 presentation on the General Fund, and the Water Fund and Sewer Fund Budget Surplus. The  
18 timing of the COVID Pandemic with this budget process that's in the 2020-2021 Budget, we  
19 have not included any assumptions on the possible economic impact of what the COVID  
20 Pandemic could have on the Village's finances. We will need to closely monitor the actual  
21 revenues and expenses at the end of each month. We plan to amend the Budget accordingly, as  
22 needed.  
23

24 Ms. Zigras stated that on Page 2 of the Budget document, we have the General Fund Budget  
25 Summary. This shows the Fund Balances from Fiscal Year 2017 through to the current Budget  
26 year. She stated that from Fiscal Year 2017 until 2020, the projected Fund Balance increase is  
27 about \$1.3 Million. That is including a \$450,000.00 transfer from the General Fund to the  
28 Capital Projects Fund. She stated that even with that transfer, we still have a \$1.3 Million  
29 increase in Fund Balance. The Fund Balance Policy requires that we have 40%, or five months of  
30 expenses in the Fund Balance. She is projecting that at the end of Fiscal Year 2020, we will have  
31 74% of our expenses, or nine months of expenses in reserves. It is very positive.  
32

33 Ms. Zigras stated that with this COVID Pandemic, she has been attending a lot of Illinois  
34 Government Finance Officers Webinars. She stated what is some of the risk assumptions. What  
35 are all of the concerns from the Finance Directors? A lot of municipalities are having cash flow  
36 struggles, working capital. Some of the larger communities that have large retail presence, 40%  
37 of their Budget is sales tax. Luckily, we are not in that position, because we have only about 10  
38 businesses that make up 90% of our sales tax structure. Wal-Mart is doing very well during this  
39 time. She stated that Trustee Pennington will be presenting the March Financials later in the  
40 Board Meeting. She looked at the Village's cash balances. She stated that as of April of 2012, we  
41 had a cash balance of all funds together of \$4.9 Million. She stated that as of March of 2020, we  
42 have \$12,000,000.00 in cash balances. She stated cash balance, we are able to fund our Capital  
43 Projects. She is not concerned of a cash flow issue. She is hearing that a lot of other  
44 municipalities, and she sees from our webinars are getting loans. Ms. Zigras stated that she  
45 doesn't foresee that we will be in that position.  
46

1 Trustee Oliver stated that he would like to tip his hat to Betty and to the Finance Committee, and  
2 the Finance Team. That is awesome news. He has been saying for a while, that the Finance  
3 Committee should be properly recognized by the State, if only there was some way. He can make  
4 up an award. Trustee Oliver stated that he is so happy that Betty is part of our team. Ms. Zigras  
5 thanked Trustee Oliver.

6  
7 Village President Burke stated that he wanted to add to what Trustee Oliver just said.  
8 Throughout this Pandemic, and over the last three years, he challenged the staff to manage and  
9 look at this money as if it was their money. He stated that everyone of them, Cindy, Betty, Jim  
10 Landini, John McDonnell, and the Police Department, they all stepped up and did the right  
11 things. We have been in a position to self-fund anything that we needed to get done for the  
12 Village of Olympia Fields without borrowing a penny. He stated that as Betty just indicated, our  
13 fund balances have grown. We are well positioned to be able to continue in these areas. The  
14 staff, as a whole, has done a marvelous job. He is very, very, very proud of what they have done.  
15 He wants to publicly recognize them as well as what Trustee Oliver just said. The staff has just  
16 been phenomenal.

17  
18 Village President Burke stated that even during the shutdown, we have been able to meet twice a  
19 week. As Cindy indicated, we are on conference calls with everybody from the Governor twice a  
20 week, to our Senators, Federal Senators, Cook County. There are like 25 people that we wind up  
21 talking to on a weekly basis about what is going on during this Pandemic. It is very clear that we  
22 are in a much better position than everybody else that we hear from. He thinks that everybody  
23 has done a wonderful job. It's not just the staff. It's this whole Board because we are all in this  
24 together. He wants to recognize Betty, as the Director of Finance, and Cindy, and the whole  
25 professional staff. They have done everything that they possibly could to make sure that we are  
26 in good financial condition, and he is very proud of them.

27  
28 Trustee Finley stated that in addition to the kudos to the amazing staff and the Finance Team, she  
29 also wants, for our record, to acknowledge Stan King and his work to help contribute to the  
30 positive, strong standing of the Village of Olympia Fields. She sees him every now and then  
31 driving by, and she just smiles, because of everything that we are able to enjoy, and the point of  
32 strength that we are able to consider these very weighty matters through because of what this  
33 team has done. She wants to add her congratulations and gratitude.

34  
35 Trustee Pennington stated that he echoes all that has been said. We have a fantastic team, and a  
36 dynamic finance team. Betty, is the hinch pin of all of it. Trustee Pennington stated thank you,  
37 Betty. Ms. Zigras stated that you are welcome.

38 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Waive in First Reading and**  
39 **Approve in Second Reading Ordinance No. 2020-11 - An Ordinance Approving the Annual**  
40 **Budget of the Village of Olympia Fields for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.**

41 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**

42  
43 **Jim Landini – Director of Public Works**

44  
45 **2020 Landscape Maintenance for Village Owned Properties** – Mr. Landini stated that what  
46 you have before you is the 2020 Landscape Maintenance Agreement for Village owned property.  
47 Normally, we would go out for bid for this in March and get it approved in April, but due to the

1 Pandemic that couldn't happen. He reached out to Eternally Green Landscape who had the  
2 contract last year. They agreed to do the same contract for this year from April to November, for  
3 the same price of \$7,830.00. This is for the landscape maintenance of all of the Village owned  
4 properties.

5 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Accept the Recommendation**  
6 **of the Public Works Director to Continue with the Current Maintenance Agreement for**  
7 **the 2020 Village-wide Landscape Maintenance with Eternally Green Lawn Care, in the**  
8 **amount of \$7,830.00.**

9 **Roll Call:                      Ayes (6-0)                      Motion Carried.**

10  
11 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

12  
13 **Building Department/Community Relations Commission – Trustee Finley** – Trustee Finley  
14 stated that she wanted to take this moment and thank all of you so much for your care, and your  
15 prayers, while she and Eddie struggled with COVID. She stated that COVID came through here  
16 and it hit us hard. It took both of them out and down. It was rough going. At this moment, she is  
17 happy to report what many of you already know, we are recovered. Trustee Finley stated that  
18 their lives have changed because of it. At the same time, we never knew how much love,  
19 support, and prayers just mattered to their own spirits, and their own sense of encouragement as  
20 they got through it. If anybody wants to know more about that experience, please let her know.  
21 Everybody's COVID experience is distinctive to them. She can certainly share this one and let  
22 you know what role her neighbors have played, her friends have played, and her family has  
23 played, and of course, our Village. She stated that for her, Eddie, and for her entire family, she  
24 thanks you very much. (There was a round of applause).

25  
26 Trustee Finley stated that regarding the Building Report, John has good things to talk about. It's  
27 all about expansions, the high school, the hospital, and Traditions.

28  
29 **Building Department Report** – Mr. John McDonnell stated that he is going to give a brief  
30 report. He knows that we have a long Agenda tonight. It has been a while since the Board met.  
31 There has been a lot of activity as far as the world is concerned. Everybody knows that we do  
32 have a hospital in our town. It is very busy. When this first broke, he was in Florida for the very  
33 beginning of it on vacation, and getting phone calls from representatives from the hospital that  
34 they needed to do things, and they needed to act very quickly. Mr. McDonnell stated that the  
35 Building Department, he, along with the Building Department staff, did function in that way. We  
36 did move very quickly to get the hospital what they needed. Gave them approvals for what they  
37 needed to get things in place to take care of patients, our residents, and surrounding residents all  
38 around us. The landscape around the hospital is a little bit different. In the parking lot, you will  
39 notice that there are a couple of mobile units in their parking lot. You will notice that there is a  
40 temporary structure out there. That is all for COVID patients and their treatment.

41  
42 Mr. McDonnell stated that while this has been going on, the Building Department has been  
43 active answering residents phone calls, contractors phone calls, what procedures are to apply for  
44 permits, down to how do they pay their \$60.00 minimum Building Permit Fee for what they need  
45 to have done. The Building Department has been recognizing the Governor's Order to stay-in-  
46 place, work-in-place. We have mostly been issuing permits just for emergency conditions. He  
47 stated somebody's furnace is going out. Their sewer system is backing up. Those types of items.

1 The Building Department has been actively working, all of its staff. All of the office staff has  
2 been actively working for our residents.

3  
4 Mr. McDonnell stated that we do have a couple of things coming up. There is some expansion at  
5 the high school, District 227. They are remodeling inside the building. The items that the Village  
6 would be involved with are what is happening outside of the building. They are putting in a  
7 concession area for their football stadium and field and track events. They are going to be  
8 expanding their seating that is on the exterior of the building. Along with this, they will need  
9 variances from the Village for parking facilities temporarily, until the 2021 construction cycle.  
10 He would imagine that a lot of this may slow down due to COVID, as football games and things  
11 like that might not be able to be held outside at this time. In the near future, hopefully it will be  
12 done.

13  
14 Mr. McDonnell stated that the hospital has been working with the Village's Engineer, Baxter &  
15 Woodman, about water detention and retention, and water runoff facilities for this expansion.  
16 There will definitely be more to come before the Board for this activity. He just wanted to let the  
17 Board know that this activity is happening.

18  
19 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee Finley stated that in the spirit of multitasking,  
20 while much of the Village's efforts have been on the battle against COVID, there were other  
21 things that needed attention in the same time period. The CRC has been on it. Particularly, the  
22 focus on supporting the Census responses. She saw a notice that as of today, all of the  
23 neighborhoods now have signs up encouraging people to respond to the Census for all of the  
24 reasons that we all know that it is important. It is critical. The most recent data that we have been  
25 able to see says that Olympia Fields has a 62.5% response rate right now. We hope to build that.  
26 The State of Illinois, she believes is at 59.6%. As a Village, we are ahead of the State. We still  
27 have some distance left to run. She is hoping that everybody notes those signs that you see in  
28 your neighborhood. The Commission put them where they thought they would be most readily  
29 visible. She stated that you know your neighborhoods. If there is a better place, and you see a  
30 sign sitting someplace to the left or the right of where it probably should sit, with the proper  
31 permission, we hope that you will help us make those recommendations and adjustments.

32  
33 Mr. McDonnell stated that if anybody sees any of those signs laying down or bent over, please  
34 contact the Village so that we can get them straightened up. Those signs are important to the  
35 2020 Census. We want everybody to be able to see them.

36  
37 Village President Burke stated that the door-to-door has been postponed because of the virus.  
38 Our total participation at the last Census was about 72%, 73%. We are close to it. You can do the  
39 Census on the Village's Website. It takes five minutes. He stated that your neighbor, or people  
40 that you know in the Village, while we are at home sheltered in place, they should go and take  
41 this Census. It is very important for the State, the County, and Olympia Fields to get their fair  
42 share of the dollars that's there. Village President Burke thanked the CRC for stepping up and  
43 doing this.

44  
45 Trustee Watkins just wanted to let Trustee Finley know that Brendan McCormick from Good  
46 Shepard Center is willing to work with people, municipalities, individuals, that need to get this  
47 information out as well. She can share his information. He sent an email. They have a lot of

1 resources at the Good Shepard Center. They are attempting to get this information out to all  
2 residents. Trustee Finley thanked Trustee Watkins for the information. She looks forward to  
3 receiving it. She will put it immediately on the CRC's Chair, Andrea Davis, who will get right on  
4 it.

5  
6 **Public Works/Park District – Trustee Matz** – Trustee Matz thanked Village President Burke  
7 for that recognition. She stated that Jim Landini already talked about the contract for the  
8 summer.

9  
10 **Park District** – Trustee Matz stated that as you know, due to COVID-19, everybody is  
11 sheltered-in-place. Businesses are shutdown and that included our Park District. The Director  
12 told her that they are making sure that all of the parks are cut. Due to the fact there is not a lot of  
13 activity out there, they are able to do their due diligence. We control making sure that the trees  
14 are trimmed. They are doing a lot of things to beautify the parks, so that when we are able to go  
15 back out and enjoy them, they will be beautiful. He also told her that he noticed the Census signs  
16 just being in the entranceway of the subdivisions. Trustee Matz stated that he said that he would  
17 not mind, and he would do it himself, if you give him some signs, he will put them in every park  
18 to make sure that visibility is there. Trustee Matz stated that if Trustee Finley can get with the  
19 Park District, or John can put them out, or someone can put them out in all of the Park District's  
20 properties.

21  
22 Trustee Matz stated that since the parks are closed, they are offering free Zumba and other  
23 workout courses online. If you go on the Park District's Website, it will give you the Zoom  
24 number, and the times that they are offering these free exercise classes, so that we all can emerge  
25 from our homes not looking like couch potatoes.

26  
27 **Public Safety/Educational Commission – Trustee Oliver** – Trustee Oliver stated that he  
28 noticed that there are some boards laying on the ground along Kedzie, and along 203<sup>rd</sup> Street. He  
29 wondered what that was about, and how extensive is that project?

30  
31 Mr. McDonnell stated that what that is, Commonwealth Edison has been working in the Village  
32 of Olympia Fields pretty diligently for the last three years now, because we have a lot of outages  
33 in certain areas due to very large trees and overhead electrical services. What they are doing in  
34 those areas, is they are putting that power underground now, so that these areas will not  
35 experience those outages like they are currently. Those areas that have those big, wooded pallets,  
36 they are very large. Those are so that they can pull heavy machinery in those areas and not do a  
37 lot of earth damage to the ground, the grass, and so forth. There is approximately about four of  
38 those areas that look like that and have those big, wooden pallets down. They are continuing to  
39 do the work and complete it. They have been working a lot in the Village of Olympia Fields in  
40 that area off of Kedzie Avenue between 203<sup>rd</sup> Street and 207<sup>th</sup> Street. Trustee Oliver thanked Mr.  
41 McDonnell for the information.

42  
43 Trustee Oliver asked Chief Scott Morgan to share with the Board, what Chief Morgan shared  
44 with Trustee Oliver regarding the calls that have been made since February and where we are  
45 today.

46

1 Chief Morgan stated that just in the month of February, the Police Department had 727 calls for  
2 service. Out of that, there were 29 adult arrests. Those entail retail theft calls, thefts, identity  
3 thefts, and traffic arrests. That was the call volume for February. He stated and then as we  
4 reached the Pandemic which was the beginning of mid-March, for March we had 554 calls for  
5 service. We had 34 adult arrests. In the month of March, they had quite a significant increase in  
6 retail thefts for some reason. That was at Wal-Mart and Dollar General. He stated that so far, in  
7 the month of April, they only had 327 calls for service, and only nine arrests. The retail thefts are  
8 low as of right now. Wal-Mart and Dollar General are handling stuff a lot internally. If we get  
9 calls for retail theft, we are responding and our officers are taking the appropriate action as far as  
10 either arrests or just citations that are being issued to them. Trustee Oliver thanked Chief  
11 Morgan.

12

13 **Authorization for the Village President to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with**  
14 **the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police for the Assessment Process and Delivery of a**  
15 **Written Report for the Recommendation for the Village’s New Police Chief –** Trustee Oliver  
16 stated that before the Board is the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police contract. Most of you  
17 know that each time we’ve had a Board Meeting he has had some sort of element of this contract  
18 that he discussed with you. He stated that what he failed to do, was to get an approval from the  
19 Board to even enter into this contract. Now, that we are three-fourths of the way done with this,  
20 and then COVID hit, we were to approve the contract. This is sort of a housekeeping issue.

21 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Oliver to Authorize the Village**  
22 **President to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with the Illinois Association of**  
23 **Chiefs of Police for the Assessment Process and Delivery of a Written Report for the**  
24 **Recommendation for the Village’s New Police Chief, not to Exceed \$9,000.00.**

25 **Roll Call: Ayes (5) (Trustee Thomas Abstained) Motion Carried.**

26

27 **Finance/Planning & Zoning – Trustee Pennington –**

28

29 **March Financial Statements –** Trustee Pennington stated that tonight, he will be presenting the  
30 financial results of revenues and expenses for the Village of Olympia Fields through March 31<sup>st</sup>,  
31 2020. Trustee Pennington stated starting with the General Fund, General Fund revenues for this  
32 period exceeded Budget projections by \$13,775.00. Budgeted revenues for 11 months were  
33 \$5,944,346.00. The Village realized actual revenues in the amount of \$5,958,121.00. The  
34 General Fund expenses were favorable to Budget projections by \$685,807.00. Budgeted  
35 expenses for the period in the General Fund were \$5,885,311.00, while actual incurred expenses  
36 were \$5,199,504.00, or 12% favorable to Budget. This resulted in an operating surplus in the  
37 General Fund of \$699,583.00 for this period.

38

39 Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Water Fund, water revenue fees for the period  
40 exceeded Budget projections by \$407,351.00, or 16% above Plan. Water revenue for this period  
41 was budgeted at \$2,112,665.00, while actual realized revenue was \$2,520,015.00. He stated that  
42 with respect to Water Fund expenses, Water Fund expenses for this period were unfavorable to  
43 Budget projections by \$26,012.00. The projected expense budget for March was \$1,941,579.00,  
44 actual incurred expenses were \$1,967,591.00, or 1% over Budget Plan. He stated  
45 notwithstanding this unfavorability, the Village shows an operating surplus in the Water Fund  
46 revenues to expenses of \$381,339.00.

47

1 Trustee Pennington stated that with respect to the Sewer Fund, Sewer Fund revenues for this  
2 period were favorable to Budget Plan by \$176,705.00, or 11% of the Plan. Budgeted revenues  
3 were projected at \$1,461,250.00, while actual realized revenues were \$1,637,955.00. Sewer Fund  
4 expenses were favorable to Budget by \$71,202.00, or 4% of Plan. He stated that \$1,267,236.00  
5 was budgeted for the period. The Village incurred \$1,196,035.00 in actual expenses. This  
6 resulted in an operating surplus in the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$247,906.00. He is sure that  
7 everyone can see that our expenses are well within line, and our finances for this 11-month  
8 period are above expectations.

9  
10 Trustee Pennington stated that in the Board Packet is the report of cash balances for the period of  
11 March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The second page of the overleaf you will see that our book balance at  
12 December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, was \$11,548,873.04. Our book balance at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, has increased  
13 by 4%. It is at \$12,015,385.54. He will round it up to \$12,015,386.00. This is our book balance  
14 as reflected in that report. You will also see that our balance by financial institutions is  
15 \$12,033,054.95. That is the figure that Betty had referenced early-on in her report.

16  
17 **Human Resources/Police Pension – Trustee Thomas –**

18  
19 **Human Resources** – Village President Burke inquired of Trustee Thomas whether or not she  
20 had anything to report. Trustee Thomas stated no, because there is no hiring, and as far as  
21 Human Resources she has no report.

22  
23 **Police Pension Fund** – Trustee Thomas stated that as far as the Police Pension she has no report.  
24 She is just an advisor. Our representative reports to the Board. There is nothing to report.

25  
26 **Beautification/Library Board – Trustee Watkins** – Trustee Watkins stated that, of course, the  
27 Beautification Committee and the Library Board Committee did not meet this month due to  
28 the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Orders and, of course, for the safety of our Committee and our  
29 community.

30  
31 **Beautification Committee** – Trustee Watkins stated that since being appointed to the  
32 Beautification Committee, the concerns regarding the upkeep of Vollmer Road between Kedzie  
33 and Western owned by the County have been ongoing. One of the first meetings that she had was  
34 with Commissioner Deborah Sims in June of 2019. Chief of Staff to Deborah Sims, Aeria  
35 Charles, scheduled cleanup on Vollmer between Kedzie and Western, which was completed on  
36 the weekend of June 19<sup>th</sup>, and again, in September of 2019. They have not cleaned up since then.  
37 Hopefully, they will come back out.

38  
39 Trustee Watkins stated that she received a phone call from Pamela Mills, Administrative  
40 Director at the Department of Transportation and Highways, and Ed Tully who is the  
41 Maintenance Field Chief, also from the Department of Transportation and Highways. Chief  
42 Tully contacted her about initiating an emergency repair under the viaduct on Vollmer. Mr. Tully  
43 stated that he wanted to address the water settlement, the potholes, and pavement issues. Chief  
44 Tully thought that starting on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> would be good timing because of the reduced  
45 traffic on Vollmer due to this Pandemic. Chief Tully's request is for the road to be closed starting  
46 May 4<sup>th</sup> for a maximum of three days. She spoke to Chief Morgan and Jim Landini today  
47 regarding that. She didn't know if they wanted to add anything, just to make sure that everyone



1 was on the same page. Trustee Watkins stated that she thinks it is a great idea. They have  
2 funding to do it. There are no out-of-pocket costs for Flossmoor or Olympia Fields. Trustee  
3 Watkins stated that if Chief Morgan or Jim Landini want to add anything, feel free to do so. She  
4 knows that Jim got an email from the Village of Flossmoor and they are very excited to move  
5 forward on the project.

6  
7 Mr. Landini stated that he did speak to Ed Tully after he spoke with Trustee Watkins. Mr.  
8 Landini stated that Mr. Tully stated that they would have the road shutdown between 7:00 A.M.  
9 and 4:00 P.M. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. If they get done earlier, they may not need to  
10 go as deep into Wednesday to get everything done. They will put up notification signs tomorrow.  
11 Trustee Watkins stated that sounds perfect.

12  
13 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she received a call from the Village Administrator in  
14 Flossmoor today. They are excited as well, only because this is going to be an opportunity for  
15 them to handle some projects on their side of the street, but more importantly, we can finally get  
16 that area cleaned up. The only thing is, that again, COVID-19, it is too bad we could not have  
17 had this happen when we had all the volunteers available. She spoke with Jim earlier today too.  
18 The Public Works crew will take care of it. It was a good opportunity for us to be able to partner  
19 with them as well on this project. Trustee Watkins stated perfect. Trustee Watkins thanked  
20 Village Administrator Saenz.

21  
22 Trustee Oliver congratulated Trustee Watkins. Trustee Watkins thanked Trustee Oliver. Village  
23 President Burke stated wonderful.

24  
25 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

26  
27 Trustee Oliver stated that he knows that right now we are only handling emergencies throughout  
28 the Village. He inquired if a resident suggests that they have significant water that is standing in  
29 their yard as a result of the flooding or whatever, is that something that we are going to be  
30 attending to?

31  
32 Mr. Landini stated yes. We are taking all calls and checking out many situations that are arising  
33 in the Village. Public Works is operating fairly normal. We're on split shifts. We are handling all  
34 emergency and necessary work, and then any calls that come in we are social distancing in the  
35 practice. We have responded to calls with ponding in people's backyards, and given suggestions  
36 of what they can do. If it has anything to do with our drainage system, we have been out this  
37 week clearing some blocked drains and things like that. We are fully attentive to any situations  
38 that arise from the residents.

39  
40 Trustee Oliver stated that he wanted to give you a shoutout because you had one of your guys at  
41 Tenuta Court during the heavy flooding yesterday. Our street floods pretty badly. It's not that  
42 anything is blocking it. It is just what it does. They were out there raking leaves out of the  
43 culvert. It was nice to see them out even though it was raining hard and that kind of thing. Thank  
44 you very much. Trustee Oliver stated that he will send Jim an address that he hopes he will get a  
45 chance to take a look at. Mr. Landini stated okay, absolutely.

46  
47

1 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

2  
3 Village President Burke opened Public Comment at 7:21 P.M. Village President Burke stated  
4 that anyone that sent in comments, which we did not have any comments on today's meeting, but  
5 if they did, we will get back to them as soon as we possibly can. Village President Burke closed  
6 Public Comment at 7:22 P.M.

7  
8 **NEW BUSINESS:**

9  
10 **Update on Census 2020** - Trustee Watkins stated that there is no New Business. Trustee  
11 Watkins stated that she just wanted to swing back around to Census 2020, because she believes  
12 that it is very important. She is going to send the information to Trustee Finley.

13  
14 Trustee Watkins stated that she has the updated numbers for Olympia Fields. So far, we have  
15 reported 60.3%. In 2010, our reporting was 76.5% which was one of the highest in all the  
16 Villages.

17  
18 Village President Burke stated that they have not implemented or started doing any door-to-door  
19 knocking. Everything that we are trying to do right now is to minimize them having to go knock  
20 on people's doors while people are taking this hiatus and staying inside. The whole Census is  
21 being pushed back to the middle part of August. We have a lot of time. We don't want to leave  
22 any one way unused. Any and all help that we can get is going to be greatly appreciated.

23  
24 Trustee Watkins inquired is a5 our marketing company, are they going to do any training for  
25 staff with Zoom, or WebEx, or other platforms for us so that we can train other people. Really,  
26 this is just the beginning. This is the first wave of COVID-19. The second wave is coming. The  
27 thing about the strand it is not going to go away. It is going to be here with us for a while. She is  
28 interested to see how we are going to transition into the virtual world.

29  
30 Village President Burke stated that is part of the pivoting that we want them to help us with is to  
31 recommend the right social media approaches and the technologies that we can use. It is not only  
32 for the Village, but for the Board. It is not only for the staff, but for the Board, as well as the  
33 Village as a whole. He stated yes, that is something that is going to come with time.

34  
35 Trustee Finley stated that talking about the virtual transition, when she was here in this house by  
36 herself sick, her oldest son bought the ring system. He set it up in her bedroom so that he and her  
37 husband could see her. It's something that she wouldn't have wanted before suddenly became  
38 essential. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been any internal eyes on her because she would have  
39 been in there by herself. She thinks that this is an opportunity to talk about different kinds usage  
40 of what technology can do to help keep us safe. Trustee Watkins stated that she agrees.

41  
42 Trustee Watkins stated that she just wants to recognize Trustee Matz on her efforts in passing out  
43 masks to the seniors. She wanted to recognize Trustee Matz for doing that. Trustee Watkins  
44 stated that she received several phone calls from individuals that received masks from her.  
45 Trustee Watkins stated kudos to you Trustee Matz for getting that done. That's significant.

46

1 Trustee Matz stated that she appreciates that acknowledgement. She stated that not only is she a  
2 senior at 57, but our hardest hit, our senior living facility, even though they immediately locked  
3 down over there, none of the residents had masks. She made sure that every resident in there had  
4 at least two masks. She made sure that where she can identify where a cluster of seniors live,  
5 which is the Traditions and Wysteria, she made sure that they had masks. There are things that  
6 we can do to help each other out. Like she said before, “We are our brother’s keeper.” She  
7 appreciates that acknowledgement in Trustee Watkins saying that. Trustee Watkins stated kudos  
8 to you.

9  
10 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

11  
12 **Resignation – Edward McKinney from the Planning & Zoning Commission**

13  
14 **Resignation – Beverly Sokol from the Community Relations Commission**

15  
16 **Resignation – Eloise Houston from the Community Relations Commission**

17  
18 **Resignation – Lionel Barnes from the Community Relations Commission**

19  
20 **Resignation – Arlene Stevens from the Community Relations Commission**

21  
22 **Appointment – John Bradshaw to the Planning & Zoning Commission**

23  
24 Village President Burke stated that Ed McKinney has moved.

25 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, to Accept the Resignation of Edward McKinney from the**  
26 **Planning & Zoning Commission; and Authorize a Letter to be Sent on his Behalf from the**  
27 **Village Board of Trustees.**

28  
29 Trustee Thomas inquired since there is a list of those, can you read them and then call for the  
30 vote, or do you have to take the vote on each one of those names.

31  
32 Village President Burke stated that he can call for a vote for all of them. Trustee Matz inquired  
33 whether or not you could repeat that. She apologized, but her dogs were barking and the doorbell  
34 was ringing and she didn’t catch it.

35  
36 Trustee Thomas stated that there is a list of names of people that resigned. She inquired whether  
37 the names could be read, and the reason given, and then be voted on instead of doing a vote for  
38 each one.

39  
40 Mr. Murphey stated that you can take a single vote. It is fine to take a single vote.

41  
42 Trustee Matz stated that she knows at the last meeting that we had, she had mentioned to the  
43 Village President that when someone resigns that a Letter of Resignation be submitted so that we  
44 know for sure that this is their wishes. If you look at the emails that were sent, only two people  
45 resigned. She stated that Miss Houston and Mrs. Sokol stated that because of COVID-19, they  
46 would like to take a sabbatical, which means that they did not say that they resigned. She doesn’t  
47 know how they fall into that lump of Resignations, when clearly in their email it didn’t say that.

1 Village President Burke stated that we are taking it. He talked with our Village Manager, and he  
2 spoke with the Chair of the Commission, and he spoke with the liaison. Their position was that  
3 during this time, if someone decides that they didn't want to do whatever the Commission was  
4 trying to do, and they wanted to take this position to take sabbaticals or whatever, if they wanted  
5 to come back after this, they could come back and reapply. We have a letter stating that they  
6 wish to stand down or resign. We are taking any stand down or sabbatical as a Resignation at this  
7 time.

8  
9 Trustee Thomas stated that she wanted to ask a question of Mr. Murphey. She doesn't have an  
10 issue if we are saying that they are not acting. She thinks it should be properly categorized as you  
11 have a letter to resign, or they submitted a letter to go on sabbatical, and then an executive  
12 decision was made by the Village Manager and the President that she heard him say that you  
13 categorized them as Resignations which is different things. She stated that for the purpose of  
14 records being transparent and being honest, she thinks you have to put those in the proper  
15 category just for ethics and morals. If they didn't submit a letter and say, "I resign," and  
16 submitted a letter instead saying, "I would like to take a sabbatical," she doesn't know what the  
17 Ordinance allows. Does the Village Manager have the power to say you said you want to take a  
18 sabbatical because of COVID, your health, or whatever, but we are automatically going to  
19 categorize you as a Resignation? She just doesn't understand how that goes. Counsel Murphey  
20 can give me a presentation on telling me it doesn't matter; or it is all the same.

21  
22 Mr. Murphey stated that he thinks it is perfectly fine to footnote, or make a note that it is  
23 reflected as a sabbatical with potential to return.

24  
25 Trustee Thomas stated okay, that's different. Trustee Matz stated that the potential to return is  
26 not to reapply. She stated that when you resign you reapply. She stated that with that being said,  
27 the potential to return, once again, it is just a sabbatical, they want to take a breather and then  
28 they are going to return when they feel that breather is over with. So, it's not a Resignation.

29  
30 Trustee Watkins stated that she thinks that with the COVID-19 a lot of seniors are afraid to come  
31 out at this time. It doesn't mean that they don't want to contribute, or be a part of the  
32 Commission. It just means that they can't do it at this time.

33  
34 Mr. Murphey stated that he doesn't know how many fall within each category. Trustee Thomas  
35 stated that she wished you could tell us that to make a decision. Village Clerk Drella Savage  
36 stated that she looked at the documents. She believes that there were two asking for a leave of  
37 absence. There were three resignations and one appointment. She doesn't have the documents  
38 right in front of her, nor her iPad up. She believes that there were two requesting a leave of  
39 absence. Three resigning and one appointment. Trustee Matz stated that was Eloise Houston  
40 asking for sabbatical and Bev Sokol.

41  
42 Trustee Finley stated that she wanted to speak to the business of asking for a sabbatical. She can  
43 certainly understand why people would have wanted to ask for a sabbatical. She is not aware that  
44 we even have a provision for sabbaticals, and 2. Simply because you ask for it, doesn't mean that  
45 is the action that we will take in light of someone's declaration that they are not prepared to  
46 serve. Particularly, at a time like this when we need all hands-on deck. She is asking that the  
47 Resignations and Appointments as presented, be exactly what we do. The position here isn't to

1 do anything to denigrate or not respect what people have done, but it is to allow us to move  
2 forward with what we must do.  
3

4 Trustee Matz stated that what she is saying that, she thinks that we have to be a little more  
5 empathetic to the situation at hand. She knows that we may not have anything written. This is an  
6 unprecedented time. There are going to be a lot of things that may come up, and policies and  
7 procedures are created based on situations.  
8

9 Trustee Thomas stated that you can be so heartless, by the grace of God go I. She asked one  
10 simple question. What can or can't be done. You take that position and pull out the Ordinances  
11 to try to identify what the authority is. Her question was this. If you are going to vote, categorize  
12 them properly based on what the taxpaying, dedicated resident of this Village said. The one that  
13 she knows is here is very dedicated. She asked to take a sabbatical. If you are going to terminate  
14 her, categorize it on the record what she asked for. That's all she asks. She didn't ask to debate  
15 who is right or wrong. She asked one question. She heard counsel Murphey say, that it is okay to  
16 take a single vote and you can categorize it. This heartless conversation makes my heart grieve.  
17 Trustee Watkins stated that it's not empathetic.  
18

19 Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. Murphey if a person were to take a sabbatical, are we able to add  
20 a person to the Commission in that person's place, or does that person still hold their position  
21 while they are on this sabbatical?  
22

23 Mr. Murphey stated that this is all new territory. He thinks that we have a situation where there is  
24 competing interests. As Trustee Finley said, we have to keep all hands-on deck. On the other  
25 hand, sabbaticals are open-ended. Typically, in the workplace, somebody will say, they want to  
26 take a two-month sabbatical or a one semester sabbatical. An open-ended sabbatical, is very  
27 difficult to keep government moving forward. He thinks on balance, if somebody wants to bow  
28 out, that in effect is a Resignation. Don't you think?  
29

30 Trustee Thomas stated that when we say, "We need all hands-on deck," we have staff doing the  
31 work. Those individuals are volunteering on a Committee. A lot of times what they say it doesn't  
32 matter anyway. She is trying to understand that. We say, "all hands-on deck." We have  
33 employees working. She is not debating whether they are going to come back or not. In a job,  
34 people would ask for a Leave of Absence. They would exercise those laws, and it protects them.  
35 Most of the time under FMLA. This is not the situation. She has one question. Can we  
36 appropriately designate, be honest, be transparent, if we are audited, they did not ask to resign?  
37 She is getting to the politics of this. They said, "Take a sabbatical." Now, you said, "Take a  
38 sabbatical." The President in his ultimate authority said, and the Village Manager, "We are going  
39 to turn that sabbatical request into a Resignation." Document that is what you did. Document  
40 your actions for the record, and then put it to a vote. That's all she is asking.  
41

42 Village President Burke stated that it's getting ready to be put to a vote. He stated that he thinks  
43 that he has the authority to replace people and put people on these Committees with a vote from  
44 the Trustees. He can take somebody off of a Committee, and call it a Resignation, and then we  
45 will take a vote. If the vote comes out that it's a Resignation, it's a Resignation. He has the  
46 authority to put people on Committees. And he has the authority to take people off of  
47 Committees.

1 Trustee Matz inquired if we could have clarification on that statement please, from the attorney.  
2  
3 Mr. Murphey stated yes, the Village President has the authority to remove members of Advisory  
4 Committees, which these all are. The Village Board could, in effect, overturn that decision, but it  
5 would take the vote of four Trustees to do it.  
6  
7 Trustee Matz stated so the Village President can remove a person off of a Committee or  
8 Commission that did not resign. Mr. Murphey stated yes, correct.  
9  
10 Trustee Thomas stated again, we are skipping over the one point. Document in the record. She  
11 stated Faith, type in the record, “Trustee Thomas said that resident Houston and resident Sokol,  
12 submitted letters requesting a sabbatical. A decision was made to convert those into Resignations  
13 so that we can move forward.” She is not talking about your power or your authority. We know  
14 that you are King almighty. You reign with a lot of power. She asked one question. Can you  
15 document it properly what they asked for, and document your actions? Since you have the  
16 authority, document your actions. You follow that.  
17  
18 Village President Burke stated here is what we are going to do. We have three resignations. The  
19 two people who are asking to take a leave, or whatever you want to call it, we will circle back  
20 and review whether or not that is the appropriate thing to do. We are going to give them a binary  
21 question. Do you want to resign or do you want to stay? The way this happened was, he asked  
22 the Chairperson, he asked the liaison, and he asked Cindy. He stated that John Murphey has just  
23 given us his legal opinion. How should we treat this? Because there is a question on them, we  
24 will take these three individuals who have given us a letter that says that they are resigning and  
25 we will vote on that right now. We will table the other two. We will iron this out with the  
26 appropriate documentation, and then we will move on. Trustee Matz and Trustee Thomas both  
27 stated thank you.  
28  
29 Village President Burke stated that right now, three individuals have said that they wanted to  
30 resign. One is Edward McKinney, Lionel Barnes, and Arlene Stevens.  
31 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Accept the Resignation of**  
32 **Edward McKinney from the Planning & Zoning Commission; and to Accept the**  
33 **Resignation of Lionel Barnes from the Community Relations Commission; and to Accept**  
34 **the Resignation of Arlene Stevens from the Community Relations Commission; and**  
35 **Authorize a Letter to be Sent on their Behalf from the Village Board of Trustees.**  
36 **Roll Call:                   Ayes (6-0)                   Motion Carried.**  
37  
38 Village President Burke stated that Eloise Houston and Bev Sokol, we will table that until the  
39 next meeting, and we will get clarification and documentation as requested.  
40  
41 **Appointment – John Bradshaw to the Planning & Zoning Commission** – Village President  
42 Burke stated that next is the Appointment of John Bradshaw to the Planning & Zoning  
43 Commission of which we are short a person to have a quorum. John has a construction company.  
44 They are doing construction at O’Hare and Midway Airport. They are rebuilding parts of the  
45 airport. He is well-suited to be able to provide technical assistance to help us with our Building  
46 and Planning Department.  
47

