

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

2
3 To Discuss Matters of Personnel According to the Open Meetings Act, Section
4 5ILCS120/2(c)(1); and to Discuss Matters of Collective Bargaining According to the Open
5 Meetings Act, Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(2); and to Discuss Pending Litigation According to the
6 Open Meetings Act, Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(11).

7 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Watkins to go into Executive Session at**
8 **6:06 P.M. to Discuss Matters of Personnel According to the Open Meetings Act, Section**
9 **5ILCS120/2(c)(1); and to Discuss Collective Bargaining According to the Open Meetings**
10 **Act, Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(2); and to Discuss Pending Litigation According to the Open**
11 **Meetings Act, Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(11).**

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

13
14 **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

15
16 **Motion by Trustee Blackwell, Second by Trustee Pennington to Close the Executive Session**
17 **and to go into Open Session at 7:15 P.M.**

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

19
20 **(The Board Meeting Commenced at 7:16 P.M.)**

21
22 **MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS**
23 **MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
24 **Held on June 16, 2021**

25
26 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, June 14th, 2021, was
27 rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held
28 on Wednesday, June 16th, 2021. The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was
29 called to order by Village President Sterling M. Burke at 7:16 P.M.

30
31 Present: Trustees – Watkins, Oliver, Pennington, Finley, Blackwell, and White
32 Village President Sterling M. Burke
33 Village Administrator/Deputy Village Clerk, Cynthia Saenz
34

35 Absent: None.

36
37 Village President Burke asked Village Administrator/Deputy Village Clerk Cynthia Saenz to call
38 the roll. Village Administrator/Deputy Village Clerk Cynthia Saenz proceeded with the roll call.
39 Present were: Trustee Watkins, here; Trustee Oliver, here; Trustee Pennington, here; Trustee
40 Blackwell, here; Trustee Finley, here; Trustee White, here; Village President Burke, here. We
41 also have in attendance, Chief Morgan, here; Building Commissioner John McDonnell, here;
42 Public Works Director Jim Landini, here; Finance Director Betty Zigras, here; Court Reporter
43 Faith Stine, here. And I am the Village Administrator/Deputy Village Clerk, Cynthia Saenz.
44 Village President Burke stated that we will start with the Declaration.

45
46 Village President Burke stated that “Beginning in March 2020, the Governor of Illinois issued a
47 series of State-wide Disaster Declarations related to public health concerns. Those declarations

1 remain in effect until June 28th, 2021. As the head of this body, I have determined that a full in-
2 person meeting, or a meeting otherwise conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act is
3 neither practical nor prudent because of the disaster. This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid
4 meeting, which will consist of all members of the Village Board and Department Heads
5 physically present at our regular meeting location. Alternative arrangements have been made to
6 allow the public to contemporarily hear all discussions and roll call votes, live via
7 teleconference. The call-in number is available on the agenda. Notice of these arrangements have
8 been given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The public may address this body
9 consistent with the rules previously adopted and recorded, and adopted by the Village President's
10 Order.

11
12 Village President Burke stated that the amendment to the Open Meetings Act during the Disaster
13 Declaration requires that we allow the public to observe the meeting. It does not require the
14 public to be given an opportunity to participate in the meeting, however, it is our policy to give
15 the public the opportunity to present comments to the Board. With that in mind, the public was
16 given the opportunity to submit comments by email." I think we did not have any comments. Is
17 that correct?

18
19 Village Administrator Saenz stated that is correct. Village President Burke stated that "All votes
20 shall be conducted by roll call. We are recording this meeting, and a verbatim record of this
21 meeting shall be made and maintained in accordance with the Open Meetings Act." Now, let's
22 get started with the meeting.

23
24 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

25
26 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Pennington to Dispense with the Reading**
27 **of the Minutes of the May 19th, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting; and to Approve the**
28 **Minutes of the May 19th, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting as Presented.**

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

30
31 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

32
33 **June Bills for Approval - \$235,408.12** – Village President Burke stated that next on the agenda
34 is the approval of the June Bills to the tune of \$235,408.12.

35 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Finley to Approve the Bills for June**
36 **2021 in the Amount of \$235,408.12.**

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

38
39 **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

40
41 **Report of the Village President:**

42
43 **Show you are Vaccinated, and Receive a Button at Village Hall** - Village President Burke
44 stated that everyone should have gotten the Village Alert that we sent out about the buttons.
45 Everyone here has been vaccinated, correct? Everyone stated yes. We can take a button too.
46 Please encourage the people in the community to come up to the Village Hall and show us their
47 card that they have been vaccinated and they will get a button.

1 Village President Burke stated that one of the purposes of this campaign is to let people know
2 that we are vaccinated, and at the same time encourage other people to do the same. The Village
3 is about 65%, 68% vaccinated. We are in better shape than most people in Illinois. There are all
4 different colors and shapes in the basket. We should try to wear these as much as possible to let
5 people know that this is important. He stated for those of you on the phone, the basket is being
6 passed around for the Trustees and the staff to get a button. We have already passed out some for
7 people who saw the alert.

8
9 **Openings for Police Officers with the Village of Olympia Fields** - Village President Burke
10 stated that we are down four police officers. We want to get a minimum of 50 people applying
11 for the job of being a police officer in the Village of Olympia Fields. We have not attained that
12 number in any way, shape, or form. We have asked to do some things that we have not done
13 before going through some non-traditional approaches to get people to want to sign up to take the
14 police test. The bigger the pool is, the better candidates we hope to get. He hopes that anybody
15 here, and anybody on the phone will take this as an opportunity to talk to family and friends, and
16 other people to let them know that the Village of Olympia Fields has openings in the police
17 department. In the past, some people felt that they would never be able to get a job in Olympia
18 Fields as a police officer. That's not the case.

19
20 Village President Burke stated that if you know somebody who is looking for a job, this is a
21 great place to work. Please pass that on to get people to want to sign up to take the test.

22
23 Chief Morgan stated that we did extend the application process. The application deadline is
24 going to be July 14th, 2021. Our testing date was changed to July 31st, 2021. We are going to give
25 the test in the afternoon. Orientation will start at 1:30 P.M. That way we are not going to
26 compete with other police departments that might be testing that day. We had ours scheduled the
27 first time at 9:00 A.M. We decided to go for an afternoon test time. We are hoping that this is
28 going to help bring the pool up to more qualified candidates. He is reaching out to Governors
29 State University, Prairie State, and a couple of other colleges to see if they will accept and
30 distribute our application to any graduates they might have had in their Criminal Justice classes

31
32 Village Administrator Saenz stated that the information regarding the testing and the applications
33 can be found on our website as well.

34
35 Trustee Watkins inquired of Chief Morgan how many people have applied for the job so far.
36 Chief Morgan stated that the reason we ended up extending it, is because we ended up with eight
37 people pooled for Olympia Fields. COPS and FIRE Personnel Testing Service is doing our test
38 for us. On the day that we had chosen, there are six other police departments that were going to
39 have a test the same day and at the same time that we were going to have it. That's why we
40 changed our date and we are doing it in the afternoon hoping that we can bring our pool of
41 candidates up.

42
43 Village Administrator Saenz inquired of Chief Morgan what is the normal, usual and customary
44 number for applicants. Chief Morgan stated that normal and customary use to be, they would say
45 that they bring in maybe 40 to 50 applications would get pooled for police department testing.
46 You lose 10% of that by incomplete applications, and probably another 5% to 10% don't show
47 up on the test date. The normal number is 50 applications for a test, or 50 applicants. He stated

1 that now with all the police departments that are hiring, the pool isn't there. You are trying to get
2 good candidates out of a very small pool of people.

3
4 Trustee Finley inquired of Chief Morgan what he is looking for when he said "qualified, and/or
5 good candidates."

6
7 Chief Morgan stated we have in our testing, just minimum qualifications. Our education
8 requirements, it has to be at least 60 college credit hours that you have to have. A lot of
9 departments are going to high school or GED. We've never had that as an educational
10 requirement. We've always had the college education requirement. I personally, think it is a very
11 good idea. The crimes don't get simpler. He stated fraud, financial crimes are getting more
12 difficult. College gives you very good computer skills and report writing skills. It just helps with
13 what police work is now today.

14
15 Trustee Finley inquired whether or not there is anything else. Chief Morgan stated obviously,
16 you have to be 21 years of age. You have to have a valid driver's license. You have to be a U.S.
17 citizen. No felony convictions. Eyesight has to be 20-20 corrected. That's basically it, and the
18 education requirement. There is also a thing for what they call a "Power Card." Anyone that we
19 hire and have to send to a police academy has to take a fitness exam. The "Power Card" makes
20 sure that you can do it before the Village invests money in you to send you to an academy. The
21 Power Card shows that you are physically fit.

22
23 Trustee Blackwell inquired of Chief Morgan how many openings there are. Chief Morgan stated
24 that we are down four.

25
26 Trustee Oliver inquired of Chief Morgan what the base pay is. Chief Morgan stated that our
27 starting salary is \$62,641.00.

28
29 Trustee White stated that I had an opportunity to sit down with Chief Morgan and discussed this.
30 He believes that we have identified some opportunities to swim in some other lanes where all the
31 other fishermen are not. Chief Morgan gave him the opportunity to look at the portal that not just
32 Olympia Fields, but every other Illinois Police Department is essentially using this one
33 repository. Everybody is literally there raising their hand saying, "Come work for us." It's
34 incumbent upon us to try some alternative methods that we are working on, and hopefully should
35 have a report out to you guys to share some information in the next couple of weeks about some
36 alternative ways one has to go about trying to attract some candidates.

37
38 Village President Burke stated that one of the things that I asked to be done with the CRC is to
39 do more outward marketing of the Village and have some events. We want to be able to do more
40 marketing to get to places that we hadn't gotten to before. He stated that Howard, being a
41 marketing person, that's why he had him sit down with the Chief to go through how we can do
42 this. Like Trustee White said, we don't want to be swimming in the same lanes as everybody
43 else, the traditional lanes. There are people that just know they can do this. Once you know that
44 you can do it, then we can get people to come here. The CRC is going to help us push out. That's
45 why we are pushing out the date to the end of July, so we have enough time to get things out in
46 the public spirit to let people know what we are trying to do.

47

1 **Approaching Retirement of Village Administrator Saenz** - Village President Burke stated that
2 all of you got a note from Cindy about her retirement. I've been out here talking to other people
3 about this job. I've been talking to other communities. We haven't nailed anything down. When I
4 get close to finding somebody, the Board will get an opportunity to weigh-in on that. He stated
5 that Cindy has got to the end of September.

6
7 **Trinette Britt-Johnson, President of the Park District** - Village President Burke stated that
8 Trinette got voted in as the President of the Park District yesterday. She has two new jobs. One is
9 Administrator for the whole district. She is also now the President of the Board of the Park
10 District. There are things we want to do with the CRC, as well as the Park District with Trustee
11 Watkins. There are things that they are going to be doing that we want to jointly do together. He
12 stated that having Trinette being President is going to help quite a bit with us being able to speed
13 up trying to get some of the events and things that we want to do. They already do programming.
14 That programming will have both of our names on it when possible. It is going to be very
15 important that we all work together on that.

16
17 **Report of the Village Administrator:**

18
19 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she does not have a Formal Report this evening.

20
21 **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

22
23 **James Landini – Public Works Director**

24
25 **Update – Road Resurfacing** - Mr. Landini stated I have a few updates for you. The first is the
26 Road Project update. I just received a MFT Authorization Expenditure Form from our engineers,
27 Baxter & Woodman, for the preliminary engineering for the Road Projects. That will be
28 presented at the next Board Meeting for approval. In the meantime, we can get started on the
29 engineering for the Road Project and Swale Project. We're hoping to get that going in the next
30 couple of weeks, and hopefully go out to bid in a month, month and a half, and then that project
31 will be underway. I'll continue to update that as the Board Meetings progress and let you know
32 where we are on that.

33
34 **Update – Graymoor Force Main Project** – Mr. Landini stated that the next update is the
35 Graymoor Force Main. This is pretty good news on this one. We just got a Change Order from
36 the contractor which will give us a \$45,513.00 credit. That's already going less than what we are
37 expecting to spend based off of what they found in their investigation in their inspection holes.
38 They uncovered older inspection holes that they can use instead of constructing new pits along
39 that line. That should save us as of right now, \$45,513.00 on the project. We are on schedule. We
40 are bypass pumping currently right now into Flossmoor. We are looking for a July 6th completion
41 date on that project. He stated barring any bad weather, that looks to be a pretty firm completion
42 date for that project. Once that is done, we won't have to worry about that line for about 60 plus
43 years.

44
45 Village President Burke inquired of Mr. Landini how much we are spending on this. Mr. Landini
46 stated I don't have the exact number what the overall project bid came in at. It was \$770,000.00,

1 something like that. But now, less \$45,000.00 off of that. I believe we budgeted \$890,000.00 for
2 that. We are significantly under budget on this project right now.

3

4 **Update – Status of the Meter Exchange Program** – Mr. Landini stated that the final update is
5 the Meter Exchange Program. I’m still looking at the August target date to complete all meter
6 exchanges. In the last couple of weeks, we were able to get in 50 plus meters. We have not found
7 any pushback in making appointments from the residents. We have another 25 meters scheduled
8 for the next four working days to be put in. We are just moving along at that pace. It looks like
9 mid, to the end of August, we should have that completed. There will be some days where we
10 can’t install based on random emergencies that come up. As it looks right now, it is moving
11 along well.

12

13 Trustee Oliver stated that one of the road constructions that you are planning on is the 207th in
14 the Olympia Fields East area. Is it possible we might be able to enjoy the new blacktop before
15 the snow hits? Mr. Landini stated yes, that is the goal. Trustee Oliver stated that I want it to look
16 nice before you all start plowing the street and then it goes back to the way it was. Mr. Landini
17 stated it will be several years before that takes place. We are looking to have all of that
18 completed in the fall, or before winter for sure. Once we hit wintertime, the temperatures will
19 dictate putting down asphalt. We are looking to have all of that completed prior to that.

20

21 Trustee White inquired of Mr. Landini with regard to that project, do you guys have a typical
22 communications plan that you guys typically roll out to make residents aware of upcoming
23 projects and how they would likely be impacted?

24

25 Mr. Landini stated for any project where we will be disturbing the surface, the contractors will
26 put out in the areas where they are going to be a timeframe. Usually, a week to two weeks ahead
27 of time. Signage will be up a week ahead of time as well. I don’t believe that any detours will be
28 necessary with this project. If that should arise through the engineering, or however the
29 contractors are working, all that stuff would be at least seven days in advance of the project
30 starting. We don’t anticipate no access to driveways or anything like that. That’s something that
31 by all means, if we can put it in there, residents will always have access to their home during
32 construction.

33

34 Village President Burke stated that I think part of what he is asking about is, and you and I talked
35 about this today. The more we communicate to the public about what we are doing, we did this
36 with the COVID, we did this with the buttons, we need to push out to the public as much as
37 possible. I know that Terence has attended the Beautification Committee. He is very excited
38 about this communication piece is really important. Village President Burke stated that Howard
39 has the possibility of doing Community Relations communication with anything that we have
40 going on from the police, public works, and anything that you have Betty, or that anyone wants
41 to talk about. We need to publicize that.

42

43 Village Administrator Saenz stated now that we have the capabilities of sending out the eblasts,
44 which is something that has just come about within this last year, it only costs us about \$5.00 to
45 do an eblast. The more information that you have, as soon as you have it, you can get that
46 information to Gladys, then she can send out the eblast. That way we will keep people informed.
47 As we send out eblasts, we find that people are talking. So, we do have a few. It may not be a lot,

1 but we have a few people that actually register and subscribe, which is what we want. As soon as
2 you have information from the engineers, along with the road signs and everything, we should
3 just fall into that mindset that we are going to do an eblast to notify the residents.

4

5 Trustee Pennington inquired whether or not we have ever considered another layer of adding
6 blogging to our communication roll out. Village Administrator Saenz stated remember with the
7 BMW Championship Tournament, we had a Facebook Page for a week. Then we took it down
8 because we didn't feel that the marketing company was actually putting out the right information
9 and nobody was monitoring it. I had a phone call with them last week. They want to revisit that.
10 That is something that we will be discussing, the reactivation of the Facebook Page and possibly
11 Twitter or Instagram, or something like that. Again, there has to be thought put into that because
12 somebody has to monitor it and make sure that the information is getting out there, and the right
13 information and not just pictures here and there and things that don't relate to the Village. We
14 have to do some planning on that.

15

16 Village President Burke stated that is what the CRC is going to be doing. Community Relations
17 is internal and external. As things come up, things that we want people to know about, Howard is
18 going to be working with some other people who live in the Village that are good at doing that
19 kind of stuff so it is not just one person. It's not just a committee, but we want to flood the world
20 with information about Olympia Fields.

21

22 Trustee Howard stated one of the things that I am going to be working on, it kind of falls in line
23 with this last thought. You have to have resources. The other part of it is, we want to work with
24 setting up a platform system, whereby as you have projects, regardless of what the department,
25 the system will send an email however you want to share it. We can get shared visibility into
26 everything that is upcoming, so that we can work on the communications plan when we have
27 enough time to actually figure out how you need to review it, who needs to review it and see it,
28 and then figure out what channel you are going to use to get the message out. Our goal is to have
29 that plan wrapped up over the next month or so.

30

31 Trustee Finley stated considering the planning, the perspective, I think it can be beneficial
32 particularly with public works. There is a difference in saying we're digging a hole. Watch out
33 traffic. And saying here's the benefit to you. You usually will do those types of things in order to
34 improve the lives of residents. We must also say in our message, then you will be able to, or
35 whatever it is. So, we can translate the improvement so that people will feel better about having
36 to bear with us about the whole thing.

37

38 Village President Burke stated there was a pop-up party this weekend on Western Avenue. A
39 couple hundred cars. A guy put it up on Facebook or something. People from all over the city
40 came in. Graymoor was flooded with people. I was out there. Scott was out there. We brought in
41 the police from the Heights and from Flossmoor. We started ticketing people and having cars
42 towed. We got it all busted up. The guy did not do a permit. One of the things we may want to
43 get out is, if you are going to have a party, if you are going to have an event, and especially if
44 you are going to charge money for it, you have to get a permit. If it is just a birthday party or a
45 graduation party, which there is going to be a lot of, you can do that. But we probably need to
46 put something out to the public through the eblast that here's what the rules are. Here's what the

1 Ordinance says what you can and what you can't do. There was a lot of people calling about this.
2 Thank you, Jim.

3
4 **TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORTS:**

5
6 **Planning & Zoning Commission/Human Resources – Trustee Blackwell –**

7
8 **Planning & Zoning** – Trustee Blackwell stated I will defer to the Village President to give an
9 update on Planning and Zoning and what has happened. He has since come off of there, of
10 course. Larry Green is leaving the state. He is moving. He is off of the Planning and Zoning
11 Commission, as well. The President has appointed Hilde Betts who has been there for sometime
12 now. Very astute and very capable as to the new Chair.

13
14 Village President Burke stated that there are two people we are assigning to the Commission
15 tonight. Trustee Blackwell stated I won't steal your thunder on that. And, of course, we have
16 discussed the pending litigation in Closed Session earlier.

17
18 **Human Resources** – Trustee Blackwell stated so far as HR, right now I asked Cindy, and she
19 and Gladys have been more than accommodating to supply me with the Collective Bargaining
20 Agreements with both Unions, inasmuch as they are both expired. Those Collective Bargaining
21 Agreements are still binding on the Union as well as the Village, until such time as a successor
22 agreement is entered into. I am in the process of reviewing those with the Personnel Manual and
23 the Employee Handbook, just in order to get some semblance of what typical types of HR
24 scenarios that we have to deal with and try and better understand what we have and what is going
25 on. I know we have some employees who are not Union. He stated and working with the
26 President to move forward with our first meeting, hopefully, before the summer is over. Once I
27 meet with the newly appointed Chair of the HR Committee, I would strongly encourage that we
28 have a regular meeting schedule because of the nature of HR, and the importance and
29 significance of personnel and staffing to our operations.

30
31 Village President Burke stated that Cindy has done a lot of work along with Mr. Murphey, about
32 what we can and what we can't do from an HR standpoint about determining who has been
33 vaccinated and who hasn't been vaccinated. You probably need to do a brain dump with Cindy
34 so she can bring you up to speed on what you can and what you can't do about that. It is shifting
35 sands about asking people about whether or not they have been vaccinated. The NFL and Major
36 League Baseball, they are all fighting right now about whether or not they are going to ask
37 people or make people get shots.

38
39 Trustee Blackwell stated I'm glad that you raised that. I reviewed what Cindy had sent out. She
40 pretty much followed the CDC Guidelines on the questions that she asked. I'm looking at it from
41 a legal perspective. I did a little bit of review of HIPPA. HIPPA is the balancing point, the
42 tipping point to determine to what extent you can require individuals to disclose their medical
43 information period card blanche. The vaccination is a personal matter in a sense that it is a
44 medical procedure that you undertook on your own will. Just to try and figure out what that
45 balancing point is. The way HIPPA reads from my understanding, is that the interest of the
46 public regarding whether or not you were vaccinated versus your personal and individual privacy
47 has to be weighed. The way I'm figuring this is that in most circumstances, like what she sent

1 out, I think it was totally legitimate. The public interest is typically going to outweigh your
2 individual right to privacy insofar as you are engaging in certain types of communal or public
3 settings.

4

5 At the Baylor Hospital in Texas, the CEO is requiring that all of the employees be vaccinated. If
6 you aren't vaccinated, and you don't get your vaccination within a certain period of time, you are
7 given two weeks leave to proceed with the vaccination. If you don't show some paperwork, or
8 some indication that you have taken the first vaccine or what have you, then you are asked not to
9 come back. You are kind of automatically fired. The CEO was on NPR and they were asking
10 him the legality of it. He felt very comfortable with it. He said just like today, if you are going to
11 work at Rush Hospital, you have to have a flu vaccination to work there at Rush and U of I, and
12 any of the hospitals. He used that analogy and said that people kicked about that. Baylor
13 University Hospital was one of the first to start the requirement that you have a flu vaccination
14 before you can continue working in the hospital. So, they are going to prevail on the COVID
15 vaccination ultimately for most settings.

16

17 Village President Burke stated that Cindy has done exhaustive research on this. Trustee
18 Blackwell stated I would like to find out what she found because it's new. Village President
19 Burke stated that you need to talk to her about it. Rizzo from the Cubs had not taken it. So, the
20 Cubs had to stay within the bubble, the whole team, because he and a couple of other guys on
21 that team have not done it. This is a real touchy situation. Trustee Blackwell stated it is a big
22 deal. Village President Burke stated that the more eyes we have on it the better it is going to be.
23 Trustee Blackwell stated that he will work with Cindy and we can put our heads together about
24 this.

25

26 **Public Works/Beautification Committee – Trustee Finley –**

27

28 **Public Works** - Trustee Finley stated I would like to lead with Public Works and then go into
29 Beautification. Trustee Finley stated I had my first sit down as liaison to Public Works. It was
30 really good, particularly because I had been trained as liaison by the Building Department. I took
31 the thinking and the learning from one environment to the next. The most intelligent thing to do
32 is to sit down with Jim and ask him, "What do you do, and how do you do what you do?" And
33 trying to understand what the impact on the Village life and residents would be because of that
34 answer. We had a great conversation.

35

36 Trustee Finley stated that he did come up with some information that I thought would be great to
37 document at this meeting. When you think of Public Works, he let me know that you are talking
38 about oversight, what they maintain. They maintain 100 miles of sewer and water mains. If you
39 line all that up, that's between here and Bloomington, with another two miles added on. Just get
40 the scope. She stated 525 fire hydrants. One water pumping station. Two water towers. Twelve
41 sewer lift stations. Twenty-four sewer pumps. Four drinking water pumps, and 45 miles of road.
42 Roughly, 90 miles of right-of-way. 1,900 water service connections, and meters. Thirty miles of
43 drainage swales. Thirteen vehicles. Two heavy equipment machines. Two riding mowers, and
44 various other small pieces of equipment that require maintenance. All of that is done by a staff of
45 six laborers and two managers, and an array of contractors that they call on at will.

46

1 Trustee Finley stated I was thinking that if we can think of the Building Department as the
2 Village's skeletal system, bones which stand us up, then we can think about Public Works as the
3 circulatory system pumped by a heart. That is Public Works. He also let her know that
4 everything that they do starts underground, which is different from building, which is on top. But
5 everything that we do starts underground and is primarily unseen. In looking at what Village's
6 know about Public Works, I would think there is probably very little at all because they don't see
7 where the work is. They don't see what the maintenance is. They just see the problem.
8 Something is leaking. The water is not going a certain way or something like that. I'm hoping
9 that over time, we start to become more aware of the big massive system that is working in their
10 best interest to make sure that the quality of life that we are looking for is actually doing what it
11 is suppose to do, and the way it is suppose to do it. And there should be some recognition of that
12 too. You can't do that if you don't know what the system looks like. I'll be looking down holes,
13 and see about sewers, and getting the weeds off the fire hydrant, so the fire department knows
14 they don't have to go all the way someplace else to get water that they need to keep us dry. It is
15 an impressive operation. I feel fortunate to have it laid in place. There are some improvements he
16 wants to see, that means that we want to see. We will be talking about those as the year goes on.
17 It's a heartbeat of the Village, Public Works. Trustee Finley inquired of Mr. Landini whether or
18 not he had anything to add.

19
20 Mr. Landini stated no. I think that sums up a little bit of what we do. It's not necessarily a bad
21 thing that people don't know about what we do. It means we are doing our job. I appreciate that
22 sentiment.

23
24 **Beautification Committee** – Trustee Finley stated I attended my first Beautification Committee
25 Meeting. It was their first meeting in a while. These are the things that stood out that we really
26 wanted to make sure that the Board heard. Even with COVID coming back, they had their first
27 clean-up day this past April. There were 50 residents volunteering. That's more than they have
28 ever had volunteering for clean-up. The communities that they took care of were Graymoor on
29 Kedzie, Western Avenue, the train station, CVS, Lincoln Highway, and Suburban Woods. It
30 shows that the Village is on point, and that people are ready to start figuring out how to do things
31 again.

32
33 Trustee Finley stated that they planted a tree on 207th in the center median. They will be doing
34 landscape viewing for awards the week of July 12th. The hanging baskets in the Village are up.
35 They are on Kedzie Avenue and here at the Village Hall. We had a good meeting with the
36 arborist, Daryl. Both Daryl and Terence came to the Beautification Committee Meeting. Terence
37 volunteered to come to each of the Beautification Committee Meetings, to make sure that he gets
38 the efficiency between beautification commitments and what it is that Public Works can do to
39 support that. It doesn't have to wait until somebody calls and can you help. He will have
40 something to say about how they do what they do so there is a more even flow between those.

41
42 Trustee Finley stated that the Beautification Committee approved awards up to \$1,000.00 each in
43 four of our neighborhoods. That is in The Greens, Arcadia, Maynegaite and Graymoor. The grant
44 application process is still open to all of the other neighborhoods that for whatever reason have
45 not participated in it. If you live in any of those that have not participated, you can let the HOA
46 Presidents know.

1 Village President Burke stated that we need to get something out about that. It was in the
2 budgetary process on that. We wanted to try to get this done before springtime. We just jumped
3 from winter to the summer all of a sudden. We need to get to the bottom of why we don't have
4 more people doing that.

5
6 Trustee White stated that we had talked about applying. The HOA had started the application. I
7 will call and find out.

8
9 Village President Burke stated that we have to go back and talk to whoever the HOA Presidents
10 are and see what is going on. If money is being left on the table, why is that? Then they want to
11 know why they aren't getting help from the Village. Well, we gave you money to do something.
12 That's above and beyond the Tree Planting Program.

13
14 Trustee Blackwell inquired how many HOAs are there? Village President Burke stated 14.
15 Trustee Blackwell stated and only four have applied to get the \$1,000.00. There is up to
16 \$10,000.00 on the table. Trustee Finley stated that your project doesn't have to cost \$1,000.00. It
17 can cost up to that amount. It could be \$500.00 or \$300.00. Trustee Blackwell stated, and if it is
18 approved, they get the funding to do that. And who does not need that? Trustee Finley stated I
19 don't know. Trustee Blackwell inquired whether or not a Homeowners Association can get it
20 twice. Village President Burke stated no, once a year. Trustee Blackwell inquired whether or not
21 that is something that we can eblast, and say that Homeowners Associations that have not
22 applied could get potentially up to \$1,000.00 if your project is approved. Village Administrator
23 Saenz stated yes, we can do that.

24
25 Trustee Finley stated that we also want you to know that Olympia Fields is part of the Green
26 Committee of the Southland. The Beautification Committee is asking all residents to be plastic
27 free to support their campaign for the month of July. Here is a flier that tells you what you should
28 do to avoid plastic. It includes things like bring your own shopping bag instead of the bags from
29 the grocery store. In the City of Chicago, they make you pay for bags, so people are transferring
30 over to bring their own bags. Buy loose and in bulk. Ditch straws. Don't use straws. Village
31 President Burke stated they have paper straws. Trustee Oliver stated that they have metal ones
32 too. Trustee Finley stated use cloth diapers. Make your own cleaning products. Not too long ago
33 we didn't have recycling bins. So, for the whole month of July, dedicate yourself to no plastic.

34
35 **Public Safety/Police Pension – Trustee Oliver –**

36
37 **Public Safety -** Trustee Oliver stated that our Public Safety Committee has finally rolled out the
38 first annual Public Safety Committee Report. This report right now is just for us. It is the intent
39 that elements of it will be made available for the public. We wanted you guys to have first crack
40 at this before we do anything with it. I'm very proud to indicate to you that every person on this
41 Committee participated in this report. We have some former firemen. We have former law
42 enforcement. We have a couple of HR people on the Committee. We have a number of
43 exemplary residents who have helped us to shape and provide this report to the Village. Trustee
44 Oliver took advantage of his background in Emergency Operations. The Emergency Operations
45 Plan was thoroughly reviewed. The report is ready to go. The summary of my report means
46 nothing if we don't have tabletop exercises from time to time to actually see what happens in an
47 emergency in this Village Hall. As part of my work, I also am involved with the emergency

1 planning for a building that we are in. We have periodic fire drills, where you can either evacuate
2 in place. You don't have to leave the building, but you leave a certain section, or you evacuate
3 out of the building. These drills you do a couple of times a year. It really bodes well with the
4 State and the County because they know that you have some kind of plan that is not just sitting
5 on a shelf. I'm not sure if I've heard very much about what these other communities do regarding
6 their Emergency Operations Plan. It is mandatory that we all have one. The question is, in an
7 emergency like what just happened in Rockville, what would we do? And how would this roll
8 out? It's important.

9
10 Trustee Oliver stated that our plan talks about what happens in a hazmat material kind of
11 situation. That's just one of the things that we kind of dealt with regarding Emergency
12 Operations. We also took a critical look at a lot of the police policies and procedures. Each one
13 of the Committee Members wrote certain elements about their thoughts and what actually is.
14 What you have before you are what is really in place. It is only a tip of the iceberg. We are not at
15 all wanting the public to think that this all the most important information about public safety,
16 police work, and that kind of thing. This is just something that we will be using as a template as
17 we move forward. One of the things that is a little bit different is the Public Safety Committee
18 now is Chaired by a resident, me. In the past, it was always Chaired by the Police Chief. In this
19 way, we get more input in terms of what is really important in the Village as we see it. And
20 particularly in a time where the police are undergoing such scrutiny. And in most cases,
21 rightfully so. The unique thing about Olympia Fields is we don't have any of that. The report that
22 we want to raise to the residents is we have an opportunity to be a team, where it's not just the
23 police trying to do whatever police work is about. It's what does the Village given the set of
24 circumstances that we are in, how do we partner with the police to maintain one of the most
25 safest communities in the country? We want to maintain that here. It will only work if we all get
26 in the boat and row. One of the things that we are going to be trying to continue to promote are
27 things like the use of these cameras that people have in their homes. We can link that in the event
28 that there is criminal activity and allow the police to use that, that helps.

29
30 Trustee Oliver stated Code Red, we need to improve how many people are connected with Code
31 Red. The more people we get to connect with this process, the better and the safer we will
32 continue to have this community working. I could go on and on about this. He stated that
33 because this is the first where we are raising these kinds of issues for the Village Board, I think
34 that when we put this out for the Village residents it will be a better understanding of what it is
35 that our residents and the police are trying to do to keep their community safe.

36
37 Village President Burke inquired of Trustee Oliver whether or not his plan objective is to send
38 this out to everybody, or put it on the website, or put a chapter in the newsletter, or what is the
39 plan?

40
41 Trustee Oliver stated I will leave it with you to review and examine before we do anything else
42 with it. I want to make sure that you and the Board feel comfortable with the content and the way
43 that this has been delivered to you. And then yes, any and every way that we can get this
44 information out to the community at large we will do with the CRC, whether it's the element that
45 goes into the monthly newsletter, or whether it be on the website. We understand that people find
46 communications in so many different ways. As we know, something that we are very
47 comfortable with in terms of being informed, someone else is using some other way to get their

1 information. We have to use whatever information we can, all of the tools. The first part is for
2 you to review it and take a critical look to see if there is something that you feel uncomfortable
3 about or need more information.

4
5 Trustee Oliver stated now, to get back to the Emergency Operations Plan, this is not something
6 that needs to be ironed out here tonight, but the Emergency Operations Plan talks about an
7 individual who is the Emergency Manager or something like that. The Chicago Heights Fire
8 Department is looking for a copy of this. They are ultimately going to end up signing off on it
9 just like Jim and all of the Department Heads here have to sign off on it. You are supposed to do
10 that annually. When there are reviews or amendments to it, they have to sign off on that too. So,
11 someone has to keep this as a living, breathing document. The Emergency Operations Plan is not
12 here. That is something that we will need to roll out to everyone so at least you know what it is.
13 It use to be like 300 and something pages. It's now down to 163. It spells out in great detail what
14 happens.

15
16 This Emergency Operations Plan which the report talks about, is something that they have used
17 as a template from NIMS (National Incident Management System). This incident command
18 system really lays out in an emergency who does what. Really all it is, is a coordinated effort. In
19 our Emergency Operations Plan if someone from the media wants to come in and talk to
20 someone, I know there is a pecking order. The Plan spells out who is that Public Information
21 Officer. When there is an emergency, again we have to kind of know what everyone is suppose
22 to be doing. In our roles as Trustees, we don't have much to do. There is something called "The
23 Continuity of Governance." If for some reason the President is not available who then is that
24 person who steps in, et cetera, et cetera? It is important that every one of the Trustees should at
25 least be familiar with the NIMS 100 course online. It is about a three-hour course. There's a test
26 at the end. I'm not suggesting that you take the entire course or take the test. In my job I had to
27 do it and take a few others. You should be aware of what that is. They use that same incident
28 planning not just for police work and what happens in an emergency, but all over the country. It
29 is the same language conducted in the same manner all over the country. It is a template.

30
31 Trustee Blackwell inquired what do we do now in a given emergency? For instance, you have
32 tornadoes, you have situations with fires that may erupt and carry-on house to house, even
33 though we are kind of spread out. You have situations where if the President is not there to call
34 the shots, do Department Heads have a plan to know what specific area they are responsible to
35 handle in the event they don't get any audible calls from the President saying, "You need to go
36 here and do that, or do that." I'm sure it is based on any given situation. We can sit up and
37 hypothesize of all the potential tragedies that could occur in any given Village. What is the
38 current procedure? I know you put this together. We don't have your actual Emergency Plan per
39 se in front of us, but just an outline. But what do we do now?

40
41 Village President Burke stated that he asked about this about three years ago. I was told Chicago
42 Heights had it. I went to Chicago Heights and they took out a book of how to break into cars and
43 stuff like that. I said, "I am looking for the Emergency Plan for Olympia Fields." We wound up
44 getting a plan from Homewood or someplace like that. We kind of put it together. Then it needed
45 to be edited. Cindy went through it. She had it for a while. Village President Burke stated I
46 played around with it. The police department had it. It is much better than what we had before.
47 But it's not in final form. It should never be in a final form. One thing we could do is make sure

1 that everybody on the Board gets a copy of it. Trustee Oliver stated okay. Village President
2 Burke stated and that everybody on the Board is familiar with what goes on. Village President
3 Burke stated what was driving him at the time was what happens if one of those trains blows up
4 on Vollmer Road and shuts down the Village? Where do people go? Where do the people who
5 live here go? Trustee Blackwell stated right. Village President Burke stated that Kelvin brought
6 up the point that we need to have a desktop process. Suppose there is an active shooter in this
7 Village. We need to have access. Trustee Oliver stated that it is a much thinner book now.
8 Village President Burke stated that every Board Member should get a copy of that book and go
9 through it to the point that you can at least make some suggestions. We don't need nine million
10 cooks in the kitchen. At least people could have a 10,000-foot level concept of what's in the
11 plan. If there is something that you think that we need to add, that is what his job is with the
12 State, he knows how to do that. The police have a pecking order of how they got to go through it.
13 He stated Cindy sends messages out. Believe it or not, the Board never use to get notified when
14 there was a big deal going on with the police department. We now get notified. Cindy sends out
15 emails to everybody to let people know, if not, it's the Chief. They contact me and I approve it or
16 whatever. Sometimes I do a Code Red. Sometimes the Chief does a Code Red. There is an
17 existing pecking order. Everybody here should at least know what exists today. And if we need
18 to make changes, this is a living document, and then we can go from there. Trustee Blackwell
19 stated okay. Thank you. I appreciate that.

20
21 Trustee Finley stated that one of the notes that I see here in the report says, "Mutual trust
22 between Olympia Fields Police Department and Village residents is critical to maintain public
23 safety." I'm assuming there were some rich conversations about what types of things engender
24 trust in the Village and the police department. It made her remember this note that
25 PricewaterhouseCoopers is seeing a business opportunity in teaching leaders how to be
26 trustworthy and transparent at the same time. They have created something called a "Trust
27 Leadership Institute" or something like that. I bring it to you because our police walk amongst
28 us. I don't think that they are generally thought of as "us." Some of the distance between the
29 perspective and feelings about who they are and how they are might cause problems, and maybe
30 we should be much more connected than we are. As an example, I needed to ask directions from
31 one of our police officers who was coming out of the building here and going to his truck. Eddie
32 and I were in our car and we couldn't find something. I said, "Well, the policeman, he knows
33 where it is." We turned the car around and started rolling up there. Then I said, "Eddie, roll up
34 slow. Don't upset him." It's that kind of worry and concern about what might be the response
35 that needs to come down a notch or two in order for some of these connections to more easily
36 happen. I don't know how we do that. I think this comment on trust sends a flare up.

37
38 Trustee Watkins stated I think at one point they discussed diversity training for the police
39 department. She stated talking about trust, and just with everything that happened with Black
40 Lives Matter, I think at some point we had talked about diversity training for the police
41 department. I don't know if that is still a conversation, or if it can happen. I know that some other
42 Villages and municipalities do have it. Maybe that is something we can look at.

43
44 Chief Morgan stated that there is various training for officers every month. There is the online
45 training or we actually send them to classes. It's all spelled out. It's basically online for the
46 Police Training Institute on what mandates that training covers for a month. Diversity is covered
47 a lot. A lot of cultural is in there, just about every month. There might be in this training six

1 different things that are touched upon that are mandates by the State. Our officers do get all their
2 training.
3

4 Chief Morgan stated that one of the things in this that Trustee Oliver did is it talks about training.
5 I think it turned out very nice. I know the police department does take everything in here
6 seriously, the training, our policies, everything. I think what Trustee Oliver has done through the
7 Police Committee; is they have shown that. They have shown that the police department has
8 been doing things right.
9

10 Trustee White stated I don't want to minimize the importance of the diversity training. At one
11 time there were a couple of police officers that were assigned as delegates to each of the HOAs.
12 Trustee Pennington stated "The Halo Program." Each time our HOA has held our events, we've
13 always had the guys there. The best way to improve that relationship is by interacting. We need
14 to make them feel welcome to come and hang out. I know each time they come without
15 hesitation. They hung out with us at our picnics maybe for a couple of hours at a time until they
16 had to take off or something. I think that is a good way to really try to develop that relationship
17 that you might see and I would kind of expect for a Village of our size as well.
18

19 Village President Burke stated that he can tell you that police officers don't pass up a free meal.
20 Every time I've been to anything they have had at the HOAs, they are there. I'm just agreeing
21 with what you are saying that they do come. That is a great way. What we may need to do is
22 there are certain people assigned on the Halo Program, maybe they need to switch up every now
23 and then and get different guys. People know the officers that are patrolling their neighborhood.
24 They know them. Over the years, we've had gas leaks, and Lopez was in the middle of the street
25 talking to people about planting flowers and stuff. The guys, they know the neighborhoods.
26 Knock on wood that we don't have a bunch of police officers that are renegades or rogues, or
27 nothing like that. I think we could do a better job of rotating people through so they get to know
28 people. This is a good start.
29

30 Village President Burke stated so the question becomes, what do you want us to do with it now?
31 The liaison is supposed to take stuff from the Committees and bring it back to the Board, and
32 then we discuss it like we are doing right now. Do you want this to be publicized? Do you want
33 to distribute it? What do you want to do?
34

35 Trustee Oliver stated we want all of that. But before we do a thing, I want to make sure that the
36 Board feels comfortable with the content of it. Yes, we have a bunch of eyes and ears on it. We
37 are close to it. We have a passion behind what we have done. We need critical eyes to look at it
38 to say, "Wait a minute. Maybe this shouldn't be part of the report, or there's a little bit more
39 work that might be needed."
40

41 Trustee White stated what I think might be helpful is tell us when you would like that feedback.
42 Trustee Oliver stated maybe this is a topic for tonight's meeting. I'm not sure. I thought we may
43 be going on summer hiatus. I would like it within 30 days.
44

45 Village President Burke stated I think right now, the summer recess will be in July. Just because
46 we are not meeting, that does not mean that people can't send it back to you with their changes.

1 This is an easy read. People can go through this. Trustee Oliver stated I would like it by next
2 Wednesday.
3

4 Trustee White inquired of Trustee Oliver whether or not he could send it to us in a digital format.
5 It would be easier for him. That is his preferred way to make comments. Trustee Oliver stated
6 okay. He stated once it's vetted, I would like it to be distributed in any and all ways that we can.
7

8 Village President Burke stated I can think of three or four things as a group here. Part of the
9 comments coming back from everybody is content and also what the roll out suggestions are.
10

11 Trustee Blackwell stated just taking a brief look, because I haven't had a chance to read
12 everything in here. It is short enough to cover pretty quickly for a review. He stated just a couple
13 of things. One, I don't see any pictures of residents or people besides you. Part of this whole
14 communications thing between residents and the officers, you need to put them both there. So,
15 you need some pictures of some people maybe talking to the police, or interacting, or pointing to
16 where a body is, or any programs that are out there.
17

18 Village President Burke stated you are doing staff work right now. Send it to him. Trustee
19 Blackwell stated no, I want to tell him now because I might not even do any review. Village
20 President Burke stated you are taking everybody else's time up. It is almost 9 o'clock. Just send
21 it to him. Trustee Blackwell stated thank you, Mr. President. The other thing that I saw that stuck
22 out was, there is all this talk about carjackings. That's not in here as one of the incidents.
23

24 Trustee Oliver stated because what the report says towards the back which has a lot of data, both
25 from police calls as well as fire calls, we looked at the most prevalent issues and carjacking is
26 not one of those prevalent issues at least for right now. Trustee Blackwell stated I was just
27 curious as to why. I know that's one of the concerns that people were talking about. Trustee
28 Oliver stated and what the report is basically also trying to suggest is if you are looking for
29 information about what kinds of issues are happening in Olympia Fields, talk to the Public Safety
30 Committee. Trustee Blackwell stated all right. I'll get you any more comments that I have.
31

32 **Police Pension** – Trustee Oliver stated the only thing I can say about the Pension Committee is I
33 did have an opportunity to speak with the Chair, but they call them "Trustees." Members are
34 called "Trustees" on the Pension Committee. I spoke with Officer Lopez. We have a meeting
35 scheduled for this Friday at 10 o'clock. We are going to cover some matters about what the
36 Police Pension Board is all about. The next scheduled meeting is not until July.
37

38 Village President Burke stated I think there are four members that are police officers. Some are
39 retired. There are two people that I appoint. And then there is Stan. Trustee Oliver stated I didn't
40 see his name. Village President Burke stated no, you won't. He's the Treasurer. The biggest
41 block of money that we put into anything other than salaries after the Police Department is the
42 Pension Fund. He stated Stan, as the Treasurer, he looks at this stuff. We've had meetings in this
43 room where we actually go through and try to figure out how to manage this and make it better.
44 We have strategies. The point I'm trying to make, is that the pension belongs to the police
45 department. We have an obligation to fund it. We get two people that can vote on it. When it
46 comes time to determine who gets a pension and who doesn't, the Board is the one that makes
47 that decision. That's the whole thing in a nutshell. He stated Stan is involved simply because he

1 and Betty are looking at our money. Right, Betty? Ms. Zigras stated yes, we are. Village
2 President Burke stated you should attend all the meetings. The way it works, that Committee,
3 they are the ones that we talked about earlier in our Executive Session, they are the ones making
4 a decision about whether or not somebody goes on disability. We are heavy in that we are five,
5 six people. Nobody else around here has but two. That needs to be looked at. But Stan, and two
6 members that we've appointed at large, and the rest of them, or four.

7
8 Chief Morgan stated that Esteban is the President. Sean Barry is the Treasurer or Secretary or
9 something like that. And we have one retired officer on there. I believe, that's Tom Henderson. I
10 think that's it.

11
12 Ms. Zigras stated by State Law the President is allowed to appoint two. Village Administrator
13 Saenz stated and you only have one appointed right now. We discovered that when we were
14 working through the other issue that we discussed. Village President Burke stated that he will get
15 that done by the next time around.

16
17 **Finance/Building Department – Trustee Pennington** – Trustee Pennington stated I do not
18 have a Financial Report this evening. Ms. Zigras stated that the April Year-End is being prepared
19 now. The Auditors will be here in two weeks.

20
21 **Park District/Library Board – Trustee Watkins** –

22
23 **Library Board** – Trustee Watkins stated that on Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, the Library Board
24 President Howard Robinson requested that the Village of Olympia Fields present recognition for
25 the library's Past President, Diane Pierson for her years of service, and present a Death
26 Resolution for Pat Kelly. Village President Burke requested information and the Presidential
27 Proclamation will be completed by the next Library Board Meeting.

28
29 Village President Burke stated I can give that to you probably tomorrow or the next day and you
30 can present it at that Board Meeting. Trustee Watkins stated that will be great. Village President
31 Burke stated that we got information but it wasn't everything. Diane was the President. The
32 information they gave us never said she was the President. We had to do some research on that.
33 You will get that in the next day or two. You can go and present it to them at the next Board
34 Meeting. Trustee Watkins stated that will be great.

35
36 Trustee Watkins stated that the next Library Board Meeting will be in person here at the Village
37 Hall on Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021, at 7:30 P.M.

38
39 **Park District** – Trustee Watkins stated I met with the Park District's Executive Director, Jesus
40 Vargas, on Monday, June 14th, 2021. We had a great discussion. I'm excited about the future of
41 the Park District. Mr. Vargas wanted Trustee Watkins to say tonight that the Summer Camp has
42 started and will run until August 5th. The Park District is taking weekly registration for the
43 Summer Camp. The Park District is offering Extreme Hip Hop Classes on Tuesdays. They are
44 accepting drop-in registrations for that class.

45
46 Trustee Watkins stated that the Olympia Fields Park District meets the third Tuesday of every
47 month at 6 o'clock P.M. As Village President Burke mentioned earlier, they appointed Trinette. I

1 love this whole communication thing. One of the things we talked about when we met is more
2 collaboration between the Village and the Park District. I'm excited about that. The meetings are
3 still being held on Zoom. The Park District is opening under Phase 5 Guidelines. Rental capacity
4 is back to normal. Planning has begun for "Movie in the Park." That is scheduled for August
5 2021. More details will follow. I will report on that next month.

6
7 Trustee Watkins stated that there is a local Chicago initiative to support the Illinois Monarch
8 Butterfly Project. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, (MWRD)
9 passed a Resolution on February 6th, 2021, supporting this project. Trustee Watkins reached out
10 to the MWRD Commissioner Kim Du Buclet. We are thinking about partnering with the Park
11 District. They have extra Milk Weed Seeds. Butterflies feed off of them. That's how they
12 survive. They are going to donate several to the Park District. She is excited about that.

13
14 Village President Burke stated that anything that they are doing, or they want to do, it looks like
15 it will include both of our names on it and then we can broadcast that as a joint project. We are
16 willing to do that. They always wanted us to give them some money. Trustee Watkins stated this
17 is a donation. Village President Burke stated I meant in general. They get 5% of the tax dollars.
18 We get 11%. We can't give them blocks of money out of our budget. What we can do, is things
19 that we thought that we might want to do, and things that they may want to do, that may be able
20 to come out of the CRC Budget. They can work with them to advertise or whatever and work
21 together. The more stuff that we do together, just like the Park Forest Library is the Olympia
22 Fields Library. Anything that we can do that's together, we are leveraging our efforts.

23
24 Trustee Watkins stated I totally agree. Collaboration is key. One of the things we did talk about
25 is the students and the people that come to the Park District are not from Olympia Fields. A lot of
26 them come from outside of Olympia Fields. They don't have the resources that we have at the
27 Village. One of the things that the Director brought up is the email addresses that we have here at
28 the Village, they don't have. He was wondering if we can share the information with them, so
29 when they are sending out information we are actually communicating directly with our
30 residents, as opposed to people outside of Olympia Fields. That was one of the requests.

31
32 Trustee Watkins stated and then moving forward into 2022, as we look at doing more
33 collaboration, we were talking about Farmers Markets. We are doing the movies in August. I
34 think it is going to be great.

35
36 Village Administrator Saenz stated I met with Jesus a couple of months ago. He sent Village
37 Administrator Saenz a list of all of their projects that they are looking to do and also a lot of the
38 community type events. There were quite a few events on the list that CRC had talked about last
39 year working to complete that we weren't able to do because of COVID. She stated some really
40 exciting things. He wasn't looking for the Village to pick up the tab on those things. He really
41 wanted us to collaborate and work together. I'll send that list tomorrow to Trustee Watkins and
42 Trustee White. He really wanted to move forward with those things. She told him that we would
43 take a look at them when we looked at the budget again to amend the budget. There are some
44 events that we have in our budget, that they will not be moving forward with but they have new
45 initiatives.

46
47

1 **Educational Commission/Community Relations Commission – Trustee White –**

2

3 **Educational Commission** – Trustee White stated that a few months ago, I put a challenge to my
4 fellow Commissioners about actuating some positive change. I felt like we were doing a lot of
5 wheel spinning. Chairman Veazey kind of challenged the group to come up with some initiatives
6 that we could actively support. Trustee White brought a suggestion to the group that got a decent
7 response that we are going to look into exploring. I wanted to try to find a way that the
8 Educational Commission actually positively influenced the Village’s reputation around
9 education, and provide some opportunities not only for the students that go to 227 and Arcadia,
10 but also for a lot of our kids that are going to private schools.

11

12 Trustee White stated I’ve been looking for a program for about a year and a half. I found
13 something that I’m pretty excited about. It’s called “The First Program.” The First Program is a
14 world-wide robotics program stated by the guy that invented the Segway. It’s an interesting
15 concept. They’ve taken the typical approach to sports and created this competitive atmosphere
16 where kids starting as early as age six start building robots with Legos. He stated by the time
17 they are in high school; they are building robots that are doing things like grabbing a basketball
18 and throwing it in a hoop. They are literally filling up arenas with these competitions. I met with
19 the Regional Director to get some ideas in terms of what does it actually take to get this program
20 up and running. We did find out that 227 has something of a robotics program. I informed the
21 Commission that I still want to move forward with this one, because I think it is something we
22 can make distinctively branded as Olympia Fields. I also think it’s an opportunity for us to find a
23 way to connect students that may not be necessarily going to 227 with students that are going to
24 227. It will give us an opportunity to really get the Village’s name on a positive stage as it relates
25 to education. This organization has helped students get over \$80,000,000.00 worth of
26 scholarship money. Just some really fascinating stories.

27

28 Trustee White stated that right now we are still in the discovery phase, in terms of getting
29 something implemented. The one hurdle that concerns me about getting this program off the
30 ground where I may need some support from the folks here, is the importance of having a
31 centralized location. You think about like a Karate School. The students have a centralized place
32 where they can go and keep their equipment. It’s similar to this. There’s a ring, kind of like a
33 boxing ring, but the rings keep the robots in place. They have all their supplies and everything
34 that goes with it. That is going to be our biggest hurdle. I’m absolutely positive that we can gain
35 fundraising to help support it. I’m absolutely sure we will get student involvement. They had the
36 same program in Homewood. It is standing room only. He tried to get his son in there about three
37 years ago. They were filled up.

38

39 Trustee White stated that the other thing that excites me about this program, they have tons of
40 videos on You Tube. Just look up “First Robotics.” I noticed that for the most part, female and
41 minority students are somewhat underrepresented as to be expected in tech fields. This program
42 is actively bringing in both. When you listen to the founder of the program, he says this is
43 something that we’ve got to do. I think it is a great opportunity in terms of the demographic in
44 Olympia Fields to give them a situation that will be beneficial and to their development as well.
45 That’s something that is in the works. There will be more to follow I think by the next time that
46 we meet.

47

1 **Community Relations Commission** – Trustee White stated that with regard to the CRC, I
2 mentioned earlier that we are going to be working on putting together, both the processes and the
3 platform so that we can easily consume this information that everybody might have. I want to
4 make it as simple as possible for you guys to share all that information that you have. I want to
5 roll out what the Communications Plan is going to be in terms of what channels we are going to
6 use, how we coordinate with you guys and the newsletter and what other means that we might
7 have.

8
9 Trustee White stated that the other thing that I’m kind of excited about, but I’m also a little
10 scared of, we decided that we wanted to do something to bring the Village together. We want to
11 do something that allows the Village to have its own thing. Homewood has their festival and
12 God knows how many other things. We wanted to see if we could squeeze something in before
13 this season is up. The idea that we came up with is “The Olympia Fields Barbecue Cook Off.”
14 We have not figured out the exact name yet. We are aiming for somewhere in August. That’s
15 why it is important for me to get the list of what you guys got planned, because obviously we
16 don’t want to butt heads. Right now, I’m working on getting some rules together. We are going
17 to try to get coordination with the HOA Presidents. We want to kind of make this a competition
18 between the HOAs, where each HOA will send two or three representatives. It’s going to be a
19 little bit of friendly competition. A lot of good food. We are going to get some musicians to
20 come and play.

21
22 Trustee Watkins inquired and you are trying to do this in August? Trustee White stated I’ve been
23 planning events since I was 14. I’ve done bigger stuff in a shorter amount of time.

24
25 Trustee Watkins stated I have a suggestion for a name. What about “The Taste of Olympia
26 Fields?” Trustee White stated that I like where you are going with this. My thing is, let’s make it
27 ours. That name is, I think, Chicago. Trustee Watkins stated “Olympia Fields Eats,” or
28 something.

29
30 Trustee White stated that one of the things that we said was like, “Hey, everybody. Let’s go
31 away and come up with some name options. We can figure that out. The idea is, by the time we
32 get ready to start doing our communication, we have whatever we are going to call it together.
33 Whatever ideas you might have, please do send them our way. I’ve been throwing stuff around
34 trying to figure out something. I haven’t really found something. The first one I came up with I
35 was trying to play off of the Olympia Fields Greek theme is “The Barbecue Olympics,” or
36 something like that. I’m not really feeling that one, as the kids say. If you have ideas, please
37 share them. Our goal is to have it sometime in August. It’s something where we don’t have to
38 worry about gathering a lot of resources ourselves in terms of a bunch of equipment. Each of the
39 HOAs will have it.

40
41 Village President Burke inquired of Trustee White whether or not he could think about doing it
42 after Labor Day. Trustee White stated I think that is a possibility. I told the team we can’t do it
43 Labor Day weekend. Village President Burke stated that it will start cooling down a little bit with
44 people trying to cook around a barbecue pit.

45
46 Trustee White stated that this one I’m pretty excited about. I think it is something that is going to
47 evolve over time. Right now, I don’t foresee us doing it the way that I would like to do it,

1 because we are aiming to get it done this summer. We want to hit the ground running with
2 something. I think it will be a great way to create some internal competition between the HOAs,
3 and at the same time get everybody together. I'm looking forward to sending out the emails to
4 tell the HOA Presidents to find out who your best Grill Masters are and have them ready by that
5 time.

6
7 Trustee Watkins stated I have a quick question. The structure of the CRC, I have always thought
8 about this, just maybe having the HOA Presidents on the CRC as a Committee Member, or even
9 setting up a Subcommittee where it consists of the HOA Presidents. So, that way, they are there.
10 They are a part of the discussions. They are part of the meetings.

11
12 Trustee White stated that is one of the things that is on our pseudo chart right now. I was texting
13 with Carl before the meeting, and we agreed that we definitely want to emphasize in terms of
14 what I communicated to you guys, is reaching out and coordinating with the HOA Presidents is a
15 tactic that we definitely are going to use moving forward. He stated whether or not it is in an
16 official capacity or not, I can just tell you the commitment is there to make it a part of our
17 communication and planning process in terms of what we do. Watch out for your emails. I'm
18 going to share information with you guys in terms of how you guys can share with me whatever
19 it is that your specific groups, teams, organizations, might have on deck that we might want to
20 make sure that the public is aware of. That will be forthcoming sometime in the next couple of
21 weeks. Other than that, stay tuned.

22
23 Trustee Finley stated that I have one thing for you, Howard. I just forwarded you the email.
24 When you were giving the Educational Commission Report it occurred to me. Michael Archbold
25 is a Business Teacher in Rich Township at 227. He has founded a program called
26 "IncubatorEdu." It is an entrepreneurship class that allows the students to be a product and
27 service and walking them through the startup process. The idea is to start to send up massive
28 numbers of young people with some experience in starting their own business. He is looking for
29 cooperation and alignment for what he still needs. They need coaches and mentors to work with
30 the students. He is trying to find a linkage and a way to ask the Village to source its talent pool.
31 Trustee White stated absolutely. Trustee Finley stated that he's passionate. He's smart. He's
32 exhausted. Trustee White inquired of Trustee Finley whether or not he lives in the Village.
33 Trustee Finley stated that he teaches in the Village. I don't know if he lives here. I did not ask
34 that question. It sounds like it is your thing.

35
36 Village President Burke stated there is a lot of really good stuff going on. I am going to try to
37 speed things up.

38
39 **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

40
41 Trustee Oliver stated I will be brief because of the time. Several years ago, there was a State
42 Senator who donated some monies in Olympia Fields East in which they built some flower pots,
43 or stands along 207th. There are five of them. I've taken it upon myself to take care of a couple of
44 them. In the process, the police recently got a call from a Group Home. There's a Group Home
45 right across the street from me. One of the guys there, Darvel, left and had to be brought back.
46 Trustee Oliver is working with Darvel to water some of the plants. We bought some plants. We
47 bought some flowers. We want him to just water them. What that ultimately ended up being is,

1 sort of a dominoes affect. I'm glad that everyone is here. I want to quickly help me to figure out
2 whether or not this is something I should be doing, or discouraged from doing, or what have you.

3
4 Trustee Oliver stated I bought him some cones because of the high traffic route along 207th.
5 There's a lot of speeding. Thankfully, the Chief has brought that trailer to help people monitor
6 their speed, but they still speed. They still speed along 207th. I bought a couple of cones so when
7 Darvel comes out, traffic may slow down a little bit. I bought him a little vest, one of those safety
8 vests so that people can see from a distance. He is taking this very, very seriously. But the
9 domino affect about that is, I started thinking why isn't there a sign along 207th that says, "Slow
10 Children at Play," because the Park District is right down the street. We now have two houses on
11 207th which are Group Homes. I don't know what the term should be. There should be a sign that
12 also says either, "Children at Play," and/or "Disabled." I don't know what the term is suppose to
13 be, whatever that politically correct term might be. That should be somewhat prominently
14 displayed along 207th. So, that might slow down people too.

15
16 Trustee Oliver stated the bottom line here is, I found out from talking to the Beautification Chair
17 that there is this \$1,000.00 that is available. When you said that anyone can apply, I want to
18 make sure.

19
20 Village President Burke stated you can't. It doesn't go for signs. It's green stuff. Trustee Oliver
21 stated what made me think about trying to really beautify this area, is because I know that our
22 blacktop is coming real soon and I have to get that ready, so that when it is laid it is going to be a
23 thing of beauty along 207th. They really are in disrepair. It's suppose to be maintenance free kind
24 of bushes and flowers up in there, but it is anything but. Everything is growing in there. I want to
25 continue this. The good thing about it is, the Group Home, I spoke with the manager, and they
26 are all excited about having this guy do this work. He is so excited about doing it because he
27 wears the vest. I'm going to take a picture of this. He wears a vest. He puts the little cones out.
28 He waters the flowers. He thinks that now he is a member of the community. They are mentally
29 challenged. He is doing a wonderful thing. He feels like part of the community. I don't know if
30 that is something that anybody else, or any other Group Home could do. But I don't think it has
31 ever been explored. I bring that up to you, because you'll know Darvel. He needs something
32 constructive to do. I think I've kind of got something like that going with him. I don't want
33 accidents. I don't want the Village to ever be held liable. That's the reason why I'm doing this on
34 my own. I just want to let you know what's going on.

35
36 Trustee Watkins stated historically signs don't work when you put those slow down signs.
37 Trustee Oliver stated it worked for a moment, because when I came here to the Village, I noticed
38 there was one along my route. Trustee Watkins stated she is talking about when you look at the
39 stats, where the numbers show that the signs don't work. Trustee Watkins inquired what about
40 maybe speed bumps. Trustee Oliver stated no. They don't want speed bumps anywhere around
41 here because they still have to shovel the roads. There goes my new street. Mr. Landini stated
42 that the speed bumps will tear up the snowplows and the street.

43
44 Trustee Blackwell inquired whether or not he could respond to what you have proposed. It
45 sounds as though you, in an individual capacity on your own, not as a Trustee per se, has stepped
46 up to assist this gentleman to do some things for beautification which is good and fine. He stated
47 for liability purposes, I think it would be not in the best interest of the Village Board of Trustees

1 to particularly sanction that activity, such that he would be wearing a yellow vest out in a street
2 where you indicated people speed, irrespective of the sign saying, "Don't Speed. Handicap," or
3 whatever the sign says. Because we could potentially, and you can check with Murphey on your
4 own, because I don't want to tie up your meeting, Stoney, to see what potential liability we
5 would be subject to in the event he is ran over and killed. I hate to put it that bluntly, but people
6 do get killed from cars, just ran over, just because they are out in the street doing something
7 because you have a lot of crazies out there.

8

9 Trustee Pennington stated it is vicarious liability. Trustee Blackwell stated I think it would not be
10 appropriate for you particularly, but for us to sanction that. We can say this is a really great thing
11 that you are doing, but you have to do it on your own because the Village may not want to step
12 up to the level of liability that would be involved or entailed from sanctioning that activity.
13 That's just my two cents.

14

15 Trustee Oliver stated that I kind of anticipated that. So, I am glad you brought it up. Village
16 President Burke inquired what is the ask? Trustee Oliver stated can we get a sign? A couple of
17 signs. Village President Burke stated that's not a problem putting a sign up. Trustee Oliver stated
18 thank you. That's all I have.

19

20 Mr. Landini stated I think it's a good thing you did to get this person involved and have some
21 responsibility and everything. As somebody who has been on well over 1,000 job sites in the
22 road, just be extra cautious, a couple cones and a vest. I've been on job sites where 50 cones,
23 flashing lights, lanes blocked, and a car drove into our water main break. Just time of day
24 awareness. If you are out there kind of supervising, whenever you think precautions are in place,
25 most drivers don't. Always think somebody is coming across. As long as you have that
26 awareness, that will help. I've seen a lot of bad things, and just be super aware.

27

28 Trustee Oliver stated that's why they fine people on the highways, what is it \$10,000.00 per
29 event or something like that? But I understand.

30

31 Trustee Finley stated I think he needs a safer assignment. He should be engaged but make it
32 safer.

33

34 Village President Burke stated what you could do, is in front of their house, put planters and stuff
35 and let him work there on their property. Basically, do something like that. As the resident
36 lawyer said, he is giving you a heads up on this. Trustee Oliver stated he did, and I took it
37 seriously.

38

39 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

40

41 Village President Burke stated that we didn't have any Public Comments.

42

43 **NEW BUSINESS:**

44

45 Trustee White stated that I would like to bring up a concern that I think might be better suited in
46 Executive Session. We are talking about defense measures and protecting the Village. He stated
47 Kelvin put this wonderful report together. I think there are some concerns around cyber exposure

1 that I think definitely needs to be addressed. I've identified a couple of issues just based off my
2 own knowledge. And I think considering today's environment, I think all you need to do is look
3 at the news to see the number of incidents that have transpired. You talked about gas prices
4 earlier. The gas prices shot up because of a cyber incident.

5
6 Village President Burke stated Betty, we talked about this the other day. Staff, Stan, and Willis,
7 are going to meet to talk about the requirements for this new ERP System, and included in it
8 needs to be requirements that have to do with security, because it probably is going to be in the
9 Cloud. What kind of security and stuff is associated with it right now? Right now, we have
10 servers that are physically here. You are talking about somebody hacking it, and having the
11 building burn down, we don't have any offsite stuff. The security piece of it, we'll get your input
12 on that. That's got to be an issue that we need to factor in.

13
14 Village Administrator Saenz stated that we do have storage in the Cloud. We have backups in the
15 Cloud as well. Mr. McDonnell stated so if the building burnt down, we have backup.

16
17 Trustee White stated I want to emphasize something. I cannot understate how important this
18 issue is. It's taking down cities much larger than Olympia Fields in terms of how it has impacted
19 them, ransomware. We've got to look at it. We need an emergency response plan around this
20 issue specifically. If you go to the FBI and the Federal sites, right now, it's one of the top three
21 threats to any organization. I think there's some level of escalation that we can take with regards
22 to preventative measures. I cannot understate the importance of moving on this as quickly as
23 possible. We are hearing stories literally almost every other day especially over the last three
24 months or so, in terms of how this has impacted businesses of all sizes and governments of all
25 sizes. Atlanta got hit a couple of years ago. It goes beyond just a single system.

26
27 Village President Burke stated that we know of a couple of towns around us had to pay ransoms.
28 So, we are aware of it. Duly noted.

29
30 Village Administrator Saenz inquired of Trustee White whether or not he saw the email. Trustee
31 White stated yes and thank you for sending that. One major concern I think I have with what you
32 sent was what I did not see in there. I think the importance of security is really understated, at
33 least the information that you shared. There is some information I can share with you guys in
34 terms of I hate to say "basic," but some really basic things that we can do to start fortifying the
35 Village and protecting the Village. Similar to the organization that Kelvin mentioned, there's an
36 organization called "NIST, National Institute for Standards and Technology," I believe is what it
37 stands for. They actually have a set of protocols for small businesses and small organizations,
38 kind of like a checklist of things to check. I will share the information in terms of what I have
39 observed as well. There were some things that our existing IT support should be addressing.

40
41 Village President Burke stated like I said, we plan within the next week or so to sit down and talk
42 about this ERP new system and what we think we need to tie everything together, the security
43 piece of it. There are servers that we have. I personally don't open up no TikToks. I don't mess
44 with Twitters, Facebook. All that stuff is floating through to what people put up. We have some
45 filters on the front end of the server that kind of looks at stuff, key words, and things like that.
46 But to get to the extent that you are talking about, I don't know. I don't know if you know,
47 Cindy, or not.

1 Village Administrator Saenz stated that I don't know all of the security. Trustee White
2 mentioned in his email to me, he asked some questions that I was able to answer with input from
3 our IT Consultant and Supreme Technologies, which is who we use. He actually suggested
4 possibly meeting with them. I think that would be a good idea. I'm not sure that the Board is
5 even aware of this, but we do have coverage for cyber incidents. We have that. There is a
6 platform out there, a portal. There is information available so that we can create a plan. But we
7 do not have a plan currently.

8
9 Trustee White stated I'm glad to hear that we have a cyber policy. I don't know if you guys
10 remember CNA Insurance that use to be in the big, red building downtown. I led the market for
11 the cyber product. I'm not sure who our coverage is with. A lot of times the commercial
12 insurance will offer services like free PIN testing, or free cyber assessments as part of your
13 coverage because it obviously helps them. That might be worth asking if they have any of that
14 available as part of our coverage. It helps them minimize their risk.

15
16 Village Administrator Saenz stated that there are tools that we have access to, that they will help
17 walk us through creating a plan. It is monitored 24/7. In the event that we have a breach, we just
18 reach out to them. Trustee White stated all that free stuff, we need to take advantage of it. It is
19 absolutely invaluable. Village President Burke stated good idea.

20
21 Village President Burke stated that we are going to do the traditional hiatus in July, summer
22 break. We won't have a meeting in July.

23
24 Trustee Watkins stated so the next meeting will be in August. Village President Burke stated yes.
25 Village Administrator Saenz stated that the anticipation will be that it will be a full meeting in
26 person with the public. Trustee Watkins inquired will it be a Monday? Village Administrator
27 Saenz stated that the date is on the calendar. Village President Burke stated that he kind of likes
28 the Wednesday thing because if Murphey needs to be here. We have two months. Right now, it is
29 on the schedule for Monday.

30
31 Trustee Blackwell inquired Murphey can't be there on Mondays? Village President Burke stated
32 that he has like 15 different Boards. Trustee Blackwell stated I know. We are going to need a day
33 where he can be available because of the Closed Session issues. Village President Burke stated
34 maybe for that August meeting. This is not to say that we can't call a Special Meeting to get
35 together to have a discussion about what we talked about in Executive Session. We need to do
36 whatever is necessary to put a stake in the ground on that one. Trustee Blackwell stated that is
37 what I was thinking. Village President Burke stated right now, we won't have a scheduled
38 meeting in July. The next scheduled one is going to be scheduled as required.

39
40 **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

41
42 **Appointment – Martin Stratton to the Planning and Zoning Commission** - Village President
43 Burke stated that you had a chance to read through it. Martin Stratton is a new guy. He lives in
44 like the third house from the entrance to the Country Club. He has taken his place and
45 completely rehabbed it. It is absolutely gorgeous. It looks like something right out of a magazine.
46 He is a Facilities manager over at Victory Apostolic Church. He also worked with the city in the

1 Department of Planning and Development and Land Acquisition and doing various zoning and
2 planning stuff with the city.
3 **Motion by Trustee Watkins, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Candidacy of**
4 **Martin Stratton, Jr. to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Two-Year Term Ending**
5 **in the Year 2023.**

6
7 **Appointment – Kenneth F. Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission** – Village
8 President Burke stated the next one is Kenneth Smith, a lawyer. You need lawyers on the
9 Planning and Zoning Commission. We have one lawyer that use to be on there. And another
10 halfway lawyer over there with Bill. He has expressed an interest to be on the Planning and
11 Zoning Commission.

12 **Motion by Trustee Oliver, Second by Trustee Pennington to Approve the Candidacy of**
13 **Kenneth F. Smith to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Two-Year Term Ending in**
14 **the Year 2023.**

15
16 Village Administrator Saenz stated that she needs to do a Roll Call Vote for the Approval of
17 Martin Stratton and Kenneth Smith for Planning and Zoning.

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

19
20 **ADJOURNMENT:**

21
22 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Blackwell to Adjourn the Board**
23 **Meeting at 9:22 P.M.**

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

25
26 Respectfully submitted by Faith Stine.

27
28
29
30