

***Minutes of A Special Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Thursday August 28, 2012 At #90 Town Center Drive, In The Village Of University Park.***

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Covington called the special/workshop meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:37 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Mayor: Vivian E. Covington Present

Trustees: Elizabeth Williams Present  
Oscar H. Brown, Jr. Present  
Milton C. Payton Present  
Keith J. Griffin Present  
Joseph E. Roudez, III Present  
Larry B. Brown Present

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Attorney Stewart Diamond, Police Chief Mel Davis and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

**C. SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Covington stated that this is a special/workshop meeting of the Board of Trustees that was called at the request of Trustee Roudez.

***C-1: Will County Gang And Narcotic Unit Presentation***

Trustee Roudez referenced the reason he had invited representatives from the Will County Sheriff's Department to inform the Board and residents of the services that could be provided to the Village from Will County. He introduced Chief McDowell on the Will County Sheriff's Department.

Chief McDowell stated that they had been contacted by Trustees of the Village and asked to make a presentation of the services that could be provided to the Village from Will County and noted that he has worked with the Will County's Gang and Narcotic Unit for 25 years with concentration in the unincorporated areas in Will County; however, if requested by any municipality, they will assist with gang and drug problems when they can. He stated that they do not have the resources to answer all needs, and they will not go into a municipality without being requested for assistance.

Trustee Griffin asked if Will County had been contacted by Chief Davis asking for assistance with our gang and narcotic problems, and stated that he has no problem with Cook County Sheriff assisting, but wants Will County to take the lead if we need assistance.

Chief McDowell responded that they had not been contacted by anyone from University Park prior to the Trustees contacting them; that he met Chief Davis tonight.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked who would have jurisdiction if Cook County makes an arrest in Will County and Will County assists in the arrest.

Chief McDowell responded that Will County would have jurisdiction, because the case would be tried in the county of occurrence. He also stated that they frequently work with other county departments and there is no problem with jurisdiction.

Trustee Payton stated there had been attempts to repeal an Ordinance Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the University Park Police Department and the Cook County Sheriff's Department that had been approved by the Board. He stated that Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Griffin and Roudez wanted to repeal the ordinance, but that he, Trustee Larry Brown and Mayor are against of that ordinance; he asked Chief McDowell if Will County and Cook County ever work together, and if another resource was available to them at nearly no cost, would they take advantage of the offer.

Chief McDowell responded that it is always good to network and use whatever resources that are offered and available.

Trustee Griffin clarified the statement by Trustee Payton stating that he later asked to amend the ordinance to include Will County in the agreement.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that no time did he vote to repeal the Intergovernmental Agreement with Cook County, and asked if Will County assist in Cook County what agencies would they most likely work with.

Trustee Williams stated that she too voted to table the ordinance to repeal the Intergovernmental Agreement between the University Park Police Department and the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Trustee Roudez stated that the only reason the agenda item was titled to repeal the Intergovernmental Agreement was to get attention to get it on an agenda, because he wanted clarity of certain items in the agreement that were too vague.

Trustee Payton restated his previous comments and asked if there is a requirement for an Intergovernmental Agreement with Will County if assistance is needed in the Village of University Park.

Chief McDowell responded that there is no need for an Intergovernmental Agreement, just a request for assistance.

Trustees Williams and Oscar Brown restated their previous position and noted that they voted to table the item to repeal the referenced ordinance, but Trustee Payton voted against a table of the ordinance.

Trustee Payton stated that he and Trustee Larry Brown voted against a table because they wanted the item to go for a vote and have those Trustees on record.

Mrs. Mildred Morgan commented on a statement made by Mayor Covington at the meeting of August 16<sup>th</sup> that she stated were scare tactics and intended to insert fear into residents. She referred to a statement by the Mayor referencing lack of response by Cook County in the event of terrorist's attacks.

Mayor Covington referred to a letter from Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, stating that every city or village in the State received the same letter with an offer of support, and that she feels it is a win – win to have additional support in the event of need. She also stated that Mrs. Morgan took her comments out of context. She also asked for an example of the communities that Will County works with; asked to know who takes the lead and commented on new and innovative techniques that are available in Cook County.

Chief McDowell responded that they have assisted in New Lennox, Frankfort and other communities, and that the local agencies have jurisdiction.

A Lieutenant with the County Sheriff's Department clarified the boundaries for Will County assisting in any municipality and noted that they provide services from I-57 to the Indiana Stateline; that they work with Cook County and other Counties, but they will not patrol the streets in University Park. He explained that there is a big difference from County Patrol Units and the Gang & Drug Task Force. He also stated that in past years University Park had members of the police department on the Will County's Gang & Drug Task Force.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Williams seconded a motion to adjourn this special meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:06 p.m.

***Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk

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