

# **Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustee For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, September 22, 2009 At #90 Town Center Drive, In The Village Of University Park.**

## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McCowan called this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:07 p.m. and noted that Trustee Covington had requested to attend the meeting electronically. The Board did not voice any objections to her request.

## **B. ROLL CALL**

Mayor:	Alvin R. McCowan	Present
Trustees:	Sharon A. McGuire	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Vivian E. Covington	Present (electronically)
	Keith Griffin	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Attorney Forest Miles, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Deputy Police Chief Mel Easley Gregory Box, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Fire Chief Chuck Exner, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Director of Economic Development Kimberly Porter, Parks & Recreations Director Robert Graham, Golf Club Manager Paul Blockoms, Communications Director Sherry Williams, and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

## **C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor McCowan led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

## **D. READING OF MINUTES**

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held Tuesday, September 8, 2009 as presented.

Ayes:	Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically), Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.
Nays:	None.
Absent:	None.

**Motion to approve carried.**

## **E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **E-1: Village Manager's Report**

Due to the absence of Interim Village Manager Sevier no report was given. However, Trustee Oscar Brown referred to page 52 of the 2007 Audit Report, under Risk Management, and asked for clarity on the position of the Auditors to issue a No Opinion on that matter.

Attorney Miles stated that the Village borrowed \$300,000.00 seven years ago and that debt was never repaid.

### **E-2: Mayor's Report**

Mayor McCowan reported that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has begun hearings for the Interchange at I-57 in University Park.

Director of Economic Development Kimberly Porter reported that at the IDOT Public Hearing held earlier today at Governors State University sixty-six (66) people attended to review and comment on the two choices for the proposed I-57 Interchange.

Mayor McCowan reported on progress of the Board and management relating to the concerns of residents of the Rosedale Subdivision as noted at the workshop held on September 8, 2009.

Attorney Forest Miles reported that he spoke with the Attorney for the Developer, and they are to review the Plat to see if it has been conveyed. Our engineering firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT) indicated that plans for the next phase are in place, and CMT, Attorney Miles, Jerry Townsend and Mike O'Donnell believe that the roadwork can be done before the Asphalt Companies shut down for the winter. He also re-emphasized the need for residents to consider a Commission to deal with maintenance issues on the property.

Accompanied by the elected officials, Mayor McCowan displayed a flag of the 2016 Olympic and noted that if Chicago is chosen to host the 2016 Olympics, University Park would be 1 of only 4 municipalities outside of Chicago to host one of the events.

Mayor McCowan introduced Mr. Richard Boykin of Barnes & Thornburg, LLP who gave an overview of the services they have provided the Village of University Park.

**Mayor's Report – continued:**

Mr. Boykin reported that since the beginning of their contract with the Village of University Park, they have worked hard and successful to improve the quality of life for University Park Residents, and began the process by meeting with Village Officials and crafted a Federal and State agenda that included Washington & Springfield Lobbying Day.

Mr. Richard Boykin stated that they were instrumental in positioning University Park Leadership to meet with Congressmen Jerry Costello, Debbie Halvorson, Danny Davis, and Senator Dick Durbin, State Senator Toi Hutchinson and State Representative Lisa Dugan. He noted that Trustee Covington led the initiative to create a separate zip code for University Park, and along with her perseverance, Barnes & Thornburg orchestrated meetings between Mayor McCowan and Congressmen Danny Davis, Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Postmaster General John Potter in Washington D.C., and they intervened when the postal services tried to back out of the commitment to University Park, and we now have our new Zip Code. He also noted that they were instrumental in the Village of University Park receiving funding for the following projects that will ultimately result in many jobs and economic development in the village: I-57 Interchange at Stuenkel Road - \$45.5 million; repairs & widening of University Parkway - \$13,019.00 Capital funding, \$4.8 million current funding; Cicero Avenue Beautification, road resurfacing; \$110 million to purchase land surrounding the proposed Abraham Lincoln Airport; Water Feasibility Study; and currently working with Trustee Oscar Brown to secure funds to rebuild Riegel Farm. Mr. Boykin reported on other projects that they are working on and stated the total amount of funding they have been instrumental in University Park receiving is \$169,855,536.00, and the cost of the services for Barnes & Thornburg is \$150,000.00 per year, which is a benefit to the village of \$169,705,536.00 and a record of success for Barnes & Thornburg. Mr. Boykin also noted that GSU has now acquired the services of their firm to assist them in securing funding for projects they are trying to move forward.

Trustee Griffin stated that with the money that the Board pays the firm of Barnes & Thornburg, he is not satisfied that he comes to the Board every six to eight months with a report. He also stated that he thinks the reports should be more detailed, to include the dates and time that he met with Senators, etc.

Mr. Boykin responded that at the end of the day, results are what are important; they have delivered; and they do not operate the way Trustee Griffin wants them to. He further stated that they will not give dates and the amount of time they spend with individuals in the performance of doing their job.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that he applauds all that Mr. Boykin has done, but he questions the amount he charges for his services.

### **E-3: Committee & Commission Reports**

Trustee Roudez reported that the Parks & Recreation Resource Center would be located at #70 Town Center Drive, and would include tutorial programs and after school programs. Additional information can be obtained by calling (708) 534-4327.

Trustee Covington reported that the IT Department and Commission have done a fantastic job with the new website, and invited everyone to view the new website.

### **E-4: Reports of Other Officers**

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend reported on the status of the responses to concerns raised by residents in the Rosedale Subdivision relating to the weeds and lights. He stated that they had begun cutting and removing the weeds and upgrades on the lighting. However, he noticed today that one of the lights is out, and he will have it replaced tomorrow.

Trustee McGuire asked if the Village has a schedule for repaving the streets and upgrading street lights.

Trustee Roudez asked Fire Chief Charles Exner for an update on the renovations at the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Charles Exner responded that renovations at the fire department are going well with a tentative date around Halloween, but a more realistic date of Thanksgiving.

## **F. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### ***F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

***F-1a: Resolution Accepting And Approving The Annual Audit Report For Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2007***

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically), Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Nays: Trustee Griffin.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve carried***

***Resolution Number 2009 – 31.***

**F-1b: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement With Loop Capital For Financial Consulting Services In Connection With The Proposed Issuance Of \$6,000,000.00\* Series 2009 General Obligation Bonds [\*Amount Of Issuance Is Subject To Change - These Bonds Are To Be Issued, Among Other Things, To Refinance Existing Debt]**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second and third readings of this ordinance.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Covington (electronically), Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Griffin and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried***

**Ordinance Number 2009 - 33.**

**F-1c: Resolution Authorizing The Retention Of Bond And Disclosure Counsel In Connection With The Proposed Issuance Of \$6,000,000.00\* Series 2009 General Obligation Bonds [\*Amount Of Issuance Is Subject To Change - These Bonds Are To Be Issued, Among Other Things, To Refinance Existing Debt]**

Attorney Miles noted that he had distributed to the Board a revised copy of the Letter Agreement which caps the amount of fees that the Bond Counsel can collect.

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves the revised copy of this resolution.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Covington (electronically), Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Griffin and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried***

**Resolution Number 2009 - 32.**

**F-1d: Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of A Letter To The Chicago Metropolitan Agency For Planning Supporting Aqua Illinois, Inc.'s Proposed Incremental Expansion Of The University Park Waste Water Treatment Plant**

**F-1d: - continued:**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this item.

Trustee Griffin stated that he would like for a representative from the Water Company to come out and talk with the Board and residents.

**Roll Call On Table:**

Ayes: None.

Nays: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically), Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

**Motion to Table Failed.**

Director of Economic Development Kimberly Porter stated that she spoke with the Vice President of Aqua Illinois Water Company who informed her that there is no need for them to meet-, because the date has passed for the letter that they requested.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved that the Board approves this resolution authorizing the submission of a letter to the Chicago metropolitan agency for planning supporting Aqua Illinois, Inc.'s proposed incremental expansion of the University Park Waste Water Treatment Plant. ***For lack of a second to the motion, the motion failed to carry.***

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**F-2a: Resolution Setting A Public Hearing Time And Date For The Proposed Special Service Area Within The Rosedale Subdivision Phase I, Phase II And Phase III**

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

The Board discussed other issues relating to this proposal.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this item.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically), Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**Motion to Table Carried.**

**F-2b: Bills Payable**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park has incurred for the last two (2) weeks from September 9, 2009 to September 22, 2009 in the following funds:

General Operation Fund	\$ 111,242.09
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Debt Service	\$ 485.00
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 2,589.118
Town center Fund	\$ 2,334.57
University Golf Club	\$ 59,749.76
Capital Project Fund	\$ 151,150.72
TIF I Town Center Area	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 344,551.32</b>

Trustee Oscar Brown asked for clarity on check #67530, and Trustee Larry Brown asked for clarity on check numbers 67567 and 67568.

Trustee Covington stated that she does not agree with payment of check #67510 to Barnes & Thornburg, and would like that item considered separately.

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves a motion to consider separately check #67510 to Barnes & Thornburg,

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Covington (electronically), Griffin, and Larry Brown

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown and Roudez.

Absent: None.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

***Roll Call on Approval to Pay Check #67510.***

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Covington (electronically), Oscar Brown and Roudez.

Nays: Trustees Covington (electronically), Griffin, and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

***Motion To Approve Payment of Check #67510 Carried.***

***Roll Call On Bills Payable:***

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically), Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Bills Payable Carried.***

## **G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Cameron, a resident of the Rosedale Subdivision, addressed the Board and commented that at the last meeting he was negative about Village Government, but since that time he has seen improvements in Rosedale and now feels that maybe the Village does care about residents. However, he agrees with Trustee Griffin that the village would be better served with Attorney Miles, and probably get the same results rather than paying the amount of money charged by Mr. Boykin.

Ms. Shawon Walters commented on the need for the extension of PACE bus service in the village. She commented that the last bus leaves the METRA Station around 6:00 p.m. and residents are then without public transportation. She stated that she would like to circulate a petition to be presented to PACE requesting that they extend the time schedule.

Mr. Steven Allen addressed the Board and commented that he commends Mr. Boykin and his firm for the fantastic work that they have done for the Village of University Park.

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor Elect, voiced her concerns that with the approval of the Bond Issue that the Board make sure that residents are clear on what happens to the money that results in this approval; Why is there a bill from Nicor Gas in the amount of \$1480.78 for #70 Town Center, since that property is vacant.

Mr. Robert Travis asked the Board what plans they have to prevent problems such as the ones experienced by Rosedale residents in other residential developments.

Mrs. Priscilla Baffour addressed the Board and voiced her concern that she was not contacted and informed about the after school program at #70 Town center before she invested her life savings. She stated that this action could have a devastating effect on her ability to be successful with her State of The Art Day Care Facility because three weeks after she opens her business, she discovers that the Village is her competitor.

Mr. Anthony Stevens, 100 Men Organization, addressed the Board and invited everyone out this Saturday to the University Golf Club & Conference Center for their meeting where the featured speaker will be Bronzeville's Historian Harold Lucas.

## **H. BOARD CAUCUS**

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 9:41 pm to 9:45 pm to allow the Board to caucus.

Mayor McCowan reconvened the Board meeting and the following responses were given to concerns raised by residents under general comments:

**Board Caucus & Board Responses – continued:**

**Note: Trustee Larry Brown left the meeting at 9:46 p.m. and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.**

Mayor McCowan responded to Ms. Heard regarding the bond and stated that he would pass her concern on to the Village Manager upon his return. Relating to the Nicor Gas bill, Trustee Roudez stated that the bill is from the previous tenant.

Responding to Mrs. Baffour, Trustee Roudez stated that the plans that they have for the Resource Center would not interfere with her business operation.

Attorney Forest Miles thanked Mr. Cameron for his comments, but stated that comparing him with Attorney Boykin is not appropriate because the work that Mr. Boykin does differs from the work that he does.

Kim Porter responded to Ms. Walters regarding her desire to circulate a petition for PACE Bus to extend service hours, and stated that once the petition is signed by residents, she would contact PACE and we would send a letter of support.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk