

**Minutes Of A Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, October 26, 2010 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 8:00 pm.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Interim Village Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, Village Attorney Forest Miles, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Deputy Police Chief Gregory Box, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreations Interim Programs Supervisor Nia Neva Jenkins, Golf Club General Manager Paul Blockoms, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, 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 Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees held October 12, 2010.

**Reading of Minutes- continued:**

Ayes: Trustees Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Trustees McGuire, and Covington.  
Abstained: Trustee Oscar Brown.

***Motion to approve Carried.***

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

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

Interim Village Manager David Sevier reported on the severe weather that we are experiencing and referred to a report from Fire Department Deputy Chief Brian Chellios, and explained the reason why the Village tornado sirens were not activated. He stated that a tornado watch was issued for our area at approximately 3:40 am by the National Weather Service. Monitoring of this situation began shortly after by the Deputy Fire Chief and members of the Fire Department that were on-duty at that time. At approximately 7:56 am, the Fire Department received notice of a tornado warning that was issued for northeastern Kankakee County and Eastern Will County. Preliminary reports indicated that communities that may be in the path of the tornado were Manteno, Peotone, Monee, Beecher, and University Park. A tornado was reported on the ground in the area of Will-Center Road and Peotone-Wilmington Road in an unincorporated area between Peotone and Beecher and that the tornado was moving east-northeast at approximately 40 miles per hour. The area of touchdown was south of the Village of University Park by a distance of roughly 6.5 miles. The overall motion of the storm system that created this tornado was pushing the tornado in a more easterly direction than it was in a northerly direction. Upon learning of the tornado, continuous monitoring of weather radar and storm spotting operations began. Members of the Fire Department at no time gained a visual confirmation of the tornado or that it was moving in any direction that would bring harm to Village residents or the Village of University Park. Considering all of this information, the decision was made to not activate the tornado siren. At the time of the tornado, weather conditions were severe in nature within the Village of University Park. We experienced heavy rain downpours and high winds. Our area remained under a High Wind Advisory until approximately 7:00 pm Wednesday night. The only significant damage that was noted was at the RACE CO Gas Station on Cicero Avenue. A portion of the gas pump area canopy was damaged. The initial assessment that was performed does not conclude that this damage was related to the tornado that touched down in the Peotone area, due to no other notable damage being found in the immediate area of the gas station.

**Village Manager's Report – continued:**

Manager Sevier continued his report stating that Baxter & Woodman, the Engineers working on the Cicero Avenue Project informed him that the Cicero Avenue Project has passed the State requirements and has been approved to move forward.

Mayor McCowan stated that he wants Baxter & Woodman to give us a timeline for the Cicero Avenue Project.

Trustee Griffin asked for a status of the audits.

Mr. Sevier responded that the Auditors have asked for a breakdown of TIF II last Friday, and the information is being compiled for them.

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

Mayor McCowan congratulated Shawon Jackson, a University Park Student attending the Illinois Science & Math Academy, for his honors and achievements.

**Proclamation Trick-or-Treat**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves a Proclamation Designating Halloween, Sunday, October 31, 2010 as "Trick-or-Treat" Day in the Village of University Park.

Ayes: Trustees Oscar Brown, Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Nays: None,

Absent: Trustees McGuire and Covington.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**E-3: Committee & Commission Report**

No verbal reports given.

**E-4: Reports Of Other Officers**

Deputy Police Chief Gregory Box reported that the Police Department would be hosting a "Violence In The Workplace" Seminar on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Golf Club beginning at 1:30 pm.

**Reports Of Other Officers – continued:**

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend reported that they have applied for a ITAP Grant, and that Baxter & Woodman are working on the Hickok Bridge Design; relating to the I-57 Interchange Project he reported that our Village Engineers Crawford, Murphy & Tilly met with, and had a productive discussion with an Aqua Illinois Water Company representative relating to Aqua's plan for getting water to the area west of I-57, and stated that the Aqua representative commented that they welcomed comments and suggestions that University Park residents made at the Open House that they recently sponsored, and will be working to address those issues.

Trustee Griffin asked the status of painting the Town Center exterior.

Mr. Townsend responded that due to severe weather lately they were unable to do more than they did, but hopefully they can move forward before bad weather moves in.

Mayor McCowan expounded on the Cicero Avenue Project, noting that the area is the entranceway into our Village, and needs the improvement project to begin immediately. He stated that the project will cost approximately two million dollars, however work can begin with the \$250,000.00 that was secure through Congressman Jesse Jackson, and move forward on the other major projects.

Interim Manager Sevier stated that the Cicero Avenue Project and the widening of University Parkway should be done by 2012.

Mrs. Jenkins, Parks & Recreation Interim Program Supervisor, reported on upcoming Parks & Recreation programs, noting that the Haunted Hay Ride would be October 29 – 31 at the Crete Club, and asked for volunteers to assist, she also reported that Co-ed basketball registration would begin at Coretta Scott King Magnet School November 2, 3, 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> and December 8, 9, 15 & 16, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; and a Free demonstration on Marshall Arts would be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Golf Club General Manager Paul Blockoms reported that the hours at the Urban Room would change beginning Monday. The new hours will be Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Thursday opens at 5:00 pm, with Jazz from 7:00 – 11:00 pm; Friday opens at 5:00 pm with Fish Fry, Steppers Classes from 6 – 9, and Steppers Set from 9:00 pm – 2:00 am; Saturday and Sunday opens at 9:00 am with Breakfast Buffets until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, and until 3:00 pm on Sunday. Cost for the breakfast buffet is \$9.95 per person. Additionally, the Pro Shop and golf club will be open daily, weather permitting. He also reported that Concerned Golfers would host the second annual Turkey Shoot for needed families in November, and asked for support from the community.

**Reports of Other Officers – continued:**

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that Early Voting for the November 2, 2010 General Election began October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Office of the Village Clerk, and would continue through October 28<sup>th</sup>, and that Nominating Petition Packets for the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election are also available in the office if the Village Clerk, with the filing period beginning December 13, 2010 through December 20, 2010. The Offices to be voted are: Mayor, Clerk, and three (3) Village Trustees, all full four-year terms.

**F. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**F-1a: 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 two (2) weeks from September 29, 2010 to October 12, 2010. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

**\*\*This item was tabled at the meeting of October 12, 2010\*\***

General Operation Fund	\$	75,851.17
Road and Bridge Fund	\$	15,369.46
Town center Operations	\$	2,164.58
University Golf Club	\$	36,340.48
Capital Project Fund	\$	7,992.43
TIF I – Towncenter Area Fund	\$	1,174.50
TIF II – Industrial Park Fund	\$	660.00
TIF III – Cicero Industrial Fund	\$	26,263.74
TIF II – Construction Project	\$	2,825.00
TIF IV – Governors East Fund	\$	<u>642.50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>169,283.86</b>

Trustee Larry Brown voiced his objection to paying the firm of Barnes & Thornburg.

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to consider separately check number 71333 (Barnes & Thornburg)

Ayes: Trustees Griffin and Larry Brown.

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Roudez and Mayor McCowan.

Absent: Trustees McGuire and Covington.

***Motion to consider separately Failed to Carry.***

**Roll Call on Bills Payable Main Motion:**

Ayes: Trustees Oscar Brown, Roudez and Mayor McCowan.  
Nays: Trustees Griffin and Larry Brown.  
Absent: Trustees McGuire and Covington.

**Motion Carried.**

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**F-2a: First Reading – An Ordinance Terminating Redevelopment Project Area No. II Of The Village Of University Park, Illinois And Related Matters**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves first reading of this ordinance.

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

**Motion To Approve Carried.**

**F-2b: Resolution Authorizing The Village's Legal Representatives To Intervene And Represent The Interests Of The Village Before The Will County Board Of Review**

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

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

**Motion To Approve Carried**

**Resolution Number 2010 – 31.**

**F-2c: Resolution Approving Will-Center Road Storm Sewer Outfall Contractor Payout Request No. 1**

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

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

**Motion To Approve Carried**

**Resolution Number 2010 – 32.**

**F-2d: Resolution Of Condolences Honoring The Memory Of Former Village Trustee Lewis E. Gibert For His Dedicated Service In The Village Of University Park**

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

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

**Motion To Approve Carried Resolution Number 2010 – 33.**

**F-2e: Motion To Renew the Village's Health Insurance Plan With BlueCross BlueShield**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves this motion.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that he wants Manager Sevier to keep the Board informed of the progression of this process.

Manager Sevier explained that he had a meeting with the Unions and Finance Committee and they agree to the switch in plans.

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

**Motion To Approve Carried.**

**F-2f: 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 two (2) weeks from October 13, 2010 to October 26, 2010. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$	89,002.10
Debt Service – Central Bond	\$	271,258.75
Road and Bridge Fund	\$	13,364.87
Town center Operations	\$	1,342.68
University Golf Club	\$	31,101.72
Construction Project	\$	3,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>409,270.12</b>

Trustee Larry Brown requested clarity on why we issued check #71465 for services covered under a grant. Mr. Sevier responded that after payment is made, we are reimbursed from the grant.

Trustee Griffin referred to check numbers 71455 -56 and asked for clarity. Mr. Sevier responded that the payment is for consultant fee for the Resource Center.

Trustee Larry Brown voiced his objection to paying the firm of Barnes & Thornburg.

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to consider separately check number 71457 (Barnes & Thornburg)

Ayes: Trustees Griffin and Larry Brown.  
Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Roudez and Mayor McCowan.  
Absent: Trustees McGuire and Covington.

***Motion to consider separately Failed to Carry.***

**Roll Call On Bills Payable Main Motion:**

Ayes: Trustees Oscar Brown, Roudez and Mayor McCowan.  
Nays: Trustees Griffin and Larry Brown.  
Absent: Trustees McGuire and Covington.

***Motion Carried.***

***F-2g: Resolution Of Condolences Honoring The Memory Of Mrs. Bernice Gross***

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

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Resolution Number 2010 – 34.**

***F-2h: Appointments***

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the appointment of Mr. Andre' Covington to the Finance Committee. His term will expire December 31, 2012.

**F-2h – continued:**

Ayes: Trustees Oscar Brown, Griffin, Roudez, and Larry Brown.

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustees McGuire, Covington.

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Robert Travis addressed the Board and stated that he wants all appointees to committees and commissions to be required to attend three meetings before being appointed, because the finance committee has five new members who are clueless to the finances of the Village of University Park; he wants to be provided with an expanded bills payable list; and stated that the finance committee was not provided with a copy of the new insurance policy.

Ms. Henry addressed the Board and voiced her concerns and discontent with issues in the Village of University Park including increased burglaries, foreclosed and vacant homes that provide a haven for teenagers. She stated that she wants to formulate a Watch Group to work with the Police Department. She also stated that she was a victim of a home invasion, and informed the police of three suspicious individuals in her area prior to the home invasion, and stated that she does not feel that we have enough police officers on the streets during day hours, and asked if the budget will allow for an increase in police protection.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson introduced Boy Scouts Gregory Box and LaVante Hudson and commented that as a Scout Leader she is appealing to residents to involve their kids in the Scouting Program. She gave a presentation on the programs that the kids are involved in.

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor, commented that she has concerns that volunteers are not being re-appointed to committees and commissions; that it is a disadvantage to new members who do not attend prior meetings; that she does not feel that we have good representatives on the finance committee; asked if there is any written documents or agreements in the Mayor's office that residents go through his office for jobs in the Industrial Park; stated that she was serious when she stated that she would like for the Mayor to call fifty Business Owners in the Industrial Park and get jobs for residents; and that she feels that \$10,000.00 per month is a lot of money to spend on a lobbyist.

Mr. Cleo Taylor, business owner in the Town Center, addressed the Board and commended Public Works for the immediate attention given to the lighting situation in the Town Center; he voiced his concern with the rash of burglaries, and asked to be invited to the violence prevention workshop; and requested an audience with the Board to discuss matters of concern that he and other business owners are experiencing, and he also thanked those members of the Board who attended the services for his father.

**General Public Comments – continued:**

Mr. Isaac Williams stated that he has been a victim of burglary and noted that those interested in becoming part of the watch group should contact them at [dru.henry@gmail.com](mailto:dru.henry@gmail.com).

Ms. Kenyatta Neal commented that she is a resident of the Hickory Creek Apartments and voiced her concern with the rash of break-ins and her concern for safety and lack of police protection. She stated that they have no contact from the Village in their area, and asked what can they do to assist in making this area safer and perhaps work with Richton Park because most of the damages done are from kids living in Richton Park.

Pastor Tatum invited everyone out on Saturday, October 30, 2010 for a Building Your Faith Harvest Praise Party at #90 Town Center Drive.

Retired Sgt. Major Wayne commented on the lack of policing and enforcing the curfew laws; rash of burglaries, and living in fear, and the lack of adequate police response to calls for assistance.

Ms. Myra Brown, resident of Hickory Creek Apartments, commended the Police Department for responding to a home invasion that happened while she and her daughter were home, and stated that she wants to be involved in the community and is willing to help with watch groups or whatever.

Assistant Site Manager at Hickory Creek Apartments stated that she and management are willing to assist, and that she can be the contact person. Her name is Fannie and the number is (708) 481-8100.

Ms. Patti Guinn stated that a way to stop the crime is to force businesses to hire residents to work.

## **H. BOARD CAUCUS**

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 9:22 to 9:33 pm to allow the Board an opportunity to caucus. The following responses were given relating to public comments:

Mayor McCowan responded to some of the concerns of Mr. Travis, Ms. Heard, Ms. Henry, Sgt. Major, and residents of Hickory Creek Apartments stating that requiring new members to attend three meetings prior to appointment is not a law, and that the new members to the finance committee are smart, intelligent individuals with backgrounds that will be an asset to the committee, and paired with seasoned members, he feels they will be fine; relating to the number of police officers on the streets, he noted that there has been an increase in the number of officers in the last few years.

**Board Caucus and Board Response:**

Mayor McCowan responded to issues raised relating to safety concerns, and the number of burglaries and stated that when he was made aware of the situation he directed management to send out alerts to village residents informing them of the potential dangers of residential burglaries, and how to best take precaution, and that he is concerned with the lack of communication getting to residents. However, the Board would not approve a proven communication person. He also thanked Ms. Henry for her efforts in organizing residents in her area in establishing a watch group, and encouraged other areas to perhaps consider the same thing. Responding to Ms. Heard relating to her negative, untrue statements he stated that he has never stated that residents have to come through his office to secure jobs, and his assisting two residents that he happened to run into is something he was glad to do and these were two qualified individuals who were unjustly discharged from a company working to come into this community; He also stated that Manager Sevier and Deputy Chief Box would be working with the group in establishing the Watch Group, and also look into the reasons for slow response from the Police Department.

Manager Sevier responded to a request for an expanded bills payable list and stated that the finance committee is provided with a complete detailed report, and that the finance committee decided not to discuss the new insurance coverage.

Responding to Mr. Taylor and Mr. Patel, Mayor McCowan informed them that there are no allowances for them to be heard in an executive session, so he suggested that they confer with Attorney Miles and Deputy Chief Box to discuss their concerns; and relating to the Lobbyist, he noted that since we have had the services of Barnes & Thornburg, we have received more funds than ever in the fifteen years he has been involved in this community.

Deputy Chief Box responded to a concern that there is only two officers on duty during day hours and stated that at all times, there is at least five full-time police department personnel on duty during the day, and that he also pays two part-time officers for additional police presence, and relating to curfew violators, and kids playing in the streets, he asked residents to call him personally, and he will work to resolve the issue.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

## **J. TRUSTEES COMMENTS**

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:23 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk

/drj