

The Regular Meeting Minutes Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, November 24, 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 8:13 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Interim Village Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, Village Prosecutor T. Lee Boyd, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Police Chief Mel Easley, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, IT Director Deryl Bolton, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreations Director Robert Graham, Golf Club Manger/PGA Golf Pro Paul Blockoms, Cable Studio Manager Christel Allen, Economic & Community Development Director Kimberly Porter, 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 Oscar Brown seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 27, 2009 as presented.

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

Motion to approve carried.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E -1: Village Manager's Report

Interim Village Manager David Sevier wished everyone Happy Holidays. After suggestion from Mayor McCowan he reported on the following projects: Rosedale Subdivision Project is now completed; he will meet with representatives from IDOT next week regarding construction of the I-57 Interchange; Roadway construction from Crawford Avenue to Governors State University will go out for bid in December, 2009. He then gave a financial power point presentation relating to the EAV, Bond Debt and other financial forecast, and noted that the taxes in University Park have not increased for the last four years and stayed at an average of 4%.

Trustee Roudez asked if enforcement cameras would be erected at University Parkway and Cicero to bring in revenue and reduce speeding.

Mr. Sevier responded that a study had been done, and currently there is not enough traffic to justify.

Trustee Covington asked the status of the weight enforcement program. Manager Sevier responded that the scales have been received, and officers have been trained, so the project would begin shortly.

Mayor McCowan explained the process of the EAV, and how this Board is working to keep it low for the residents. He also stated that passage of the Bond Issue would allow the Board more flexibility in dealing with the finances.

Trustee Covington asked if there would be a financial impact of the Village if the bond issue was not passed.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked the status for the dedication of Regent Road, and hours of operation at the Golf Club, and explanation for the change in hours.

Manager Sevier responded that a date for the dedication if Regent Road has not been set; relating to change of hours he stated that the Golf Club Advisory Committee and Management made the decision, and they will review the progress monthly.

Golf Club Manager Paul Blockoms commented that he is looking into cross country skiing during the winter months.

Manager's Report – continued:

Trustee Covington asked if the bond issue had passed at the last would it have had an impact of taxpayers.

Manager Sevier stated that with TIF I rolling off this year, he cannot say that University Park will see a reduction in the tax rate. However, it would have saved on interest paid.

Trustee Covington asked the status of lettering of village vehicles; suggested that a contest be held with students to design the vehicle sticker for next year; and asked the status of lighting for the marquee at the Rosedale Subdivision.

Manager Sevier responded that they are still getting price quotes for vehicle lettering; student contest for vehicle stickers is a decision that the Board should make, and he spoke with O'Donnell regarding the lights for the marquee, and was informed that getting electricity to the spot is the problem.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor McCowan introduced Shawon Jackson, a University Park resident who is a student at Crete-Monee High School, and represents the Village of University Park as a Youth Ambassador.

Shawon Jackson thanked the Board and community for the support he has received while pursuing his educational endeavors. He gave a brief synopsis of the things he has done since his last appearance before the Board. He noted that he now attends the Math Academy; has traveled to Washington D.C. where he met with many elected officials; and expounded on his working with and conducting industrial research at Argonne National Lab. He stated that during his travels he proudly represents the Village of University Park.

Trustee McGuire commented that she has found that a lot of students who represents their communities wear some type of clothing that shows where they are from, and asked if the Board could support Mr. Jackson by providing him with clothing that represents his involvement in the Village of University Park.

Mayor McCowan commended Trustee McGuire, Staff, and her Committee for the successful 2010 Census Luncheon, and offered condolences to Trustee Griffin in the loss of his granddaughter, and Clerk Dee Jones in the loss of her Aunt and close friend. He also reported that he was in receipt of the check from Richard Boykin and the firm of Barnes & Thornburg in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Coat Drive, and had also received a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Midwest Door Fixtures for programs for the village. Mayor McCowan stated that he wants programs outlined, brought back to the Board for approval and updates sent to Midwest Door Fixtures.

Mayor's Report – continued:

Trustee Covington reported that Mrs. Bobby Greer had donated four computers that were no longer usable for the school system to the Village for programs at Parks & Recreation. Trustee Covington stated that she would refurbish the computers.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee McGuire gave an update on the 2010 Census Committee luncheon that was held Friday, November 13th at the Golf Club noting that thirty-four local and industrial park businesses attended, and she believes this started positive dialog with the business community. She thanked the Mayor, Board, Staff and the committee for their assistance, and Kim Porter for the questionnaire she had prepared regarding the formulation of a Chamber of Commerce in the Village of University Park. She noted that representatives from GSU and Will County Economic Development Commission made presentations of the services they provide at no charge to residents and communities. Trustee McGuire suggested the Board's consideration in using something relating to Census 2010 for the Village Vehicle Stickers. She also reported that the Census Bureau is conducting digital 2010 boundary workshops and additional information can be obtained by contacting Johnna Townsend at 534-4237.

Mayor McCowan reported that he was contacted by a land owner regarding a site proposal from a company looking to re-locate their business operations that would create 180 new jobs. He noted that the company is looking at three other sites so details are confidential and this process is competitive. He also explained the importance of building relationships and marketing the community.

Economic & Community Development Director Kim Porter commented that she attends a lot of meetings and that being at the table building relationships with other officials is proving beneficial to the Village.

Trustee Covington reported on meeting she attended at GSU and the proposal to bring VA homes to the Village, and stated that she has someone from the Veteran Administration who will come out and make a presentation to the Board. She also reported that a Minister here in University Park donated seventy-four new coats for the Coat Drive. She announced that distribution will be December 5th at #90 Town Center Drive beginning at 11:00 a.m.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Police Chief Mel Easley extended condolences to Trustee Griffin and Clerk Dee Jones for their losses. He also reported on the assistance of Police Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Murphy, Deputy Chief Box, Investigator Jones, and Officer Whitaker relating to an incident in unincorporated Crete Township, as detailed in a letter of thanks from Will County Sheriff Paul Kaupas. Chief Easley read the letter of thanks.

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend reported that an STP Grant has been submitted to SSMMA for assistance in more roadway projects. He noted that this would be a 50/50 grant; he gave an update on the IDOT road project, and noted that they have take delivery of four plow trucks.

Parks & Recreation Director Robert Graham gave the following report: A hands-on Appetizer Idea Workshop will be held at Riegel Farm on Saturday, December 5th from 10a to 1p. It's \$10 per person and open to all ages 13 and up; Our Annual Chicago Bulls Outing, returns this year and is better than before. We have first floor (100 level) tickets available for the Chicago Bulls game on Saturday, December 19th at 7p.m. They will host the Atlanta Hawks at the United Center. These first floor tickets are \$65 each and will make a great Christmas Gift for the Bulls fan in your family; Also be on the lookout for our Fall and Winter brochure do out the first part of December. For more information on these updates and any other concerns, please contact our office at 708.534.6456. He also reported that Parks & Recreation employee Johnnie White is a patient at Ingalls Hospital, and requested prayers for Mr. White.

Golf Club Manager Paul Blockoms reported on the success of the first Turkey Shoot Giveaway. He thanked the Board for allowing the golfers to host the Turkey Shoot, noting the original target was to giveaway 100 turkey baskets for Thanksgiving, but due to the success they gave away 200 turkey baskets earlier today.

Economic & Community Development Director Kim Porter reported that applications for employment with the Census Bureau are being returned to Village Hall, she noted that we cannot accept applications, they must be submitted to the Census Bureau.

F. DISCUSSION AGENDA

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor McCowan informed the Board that he would be reversing the order of agenda items F-1a and F-1b, thereby reading F-1b first.

F-1b: **2nd Reading – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement And Easement With The Forest Preserve District Of Will County, Illinois In Connection With Improvements To Will-Center Road**

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-1a: **1st, 2nd & 3rd Readings – An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$6,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2009, Of The Village Of University Park, Cook And Will Counties, Illinois, And Providing For The Levy And Collection Of A Direct Annual Tax Sufficient For The Payment Of The Principal Of And Interest On Said Bonds**

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

Trustee Covington asked how much money would be available if this item is passed.

Trustee Oscar Brown referred to pages 4 and 7 of the agreement as asked why no dollar amounts or rates were included in the document.

Trustee Larry Brown asked why the amount of the bond was increased by \$500,000.00 since the original bond amount was \$6,000,000.00 in September, 2009.

Manager Sevier responded that the longer we wait, the more costly this becomes because interest market rates change from day to day. However, there is a not to exceed amount.

Roll Call On F-1a:

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

Motion to Approve Carried

Ordinance Number 2009 – 46.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First Reading – An Ordinance Levying Taxes For Corporate Purposes Of The Village Of University Park, Illinois, For The Fiscal Year Commencing On The First Day Of May 2010, And Ending On The Thirtieth Day Of April 2011

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approve first reading of this ordinance.

Manager Sevier noted that a Special Meeting and Public Hearing would be held on December 22, 2009 for public comments and for final action on this ordinance.

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

Motion to Approve First Reading Carried.

F-2b: Motion To Acknowledge Receipt Of The Treasurer's Report

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves this motion acknowledging receipt of the Treasurer's Report.

Trustee Larry Brown asked why the format did not list the collective amount for each individual.

Manager Sevier responded that this is the format designed for use by Will County.

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

Motion to Approve Carried.

F-2c: Bills Payable

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion to approve the listing of the General Operating Expenses that the Village of University Park has incurred for the last two (2) weeks from November 11, 2009 to November 24, 2009. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$	157,475.86
Debt Service	\$	270,061.25
Road and Bridge Fund	\$	27,492.57
Town center Operations	\$	647.70
University Golf Club	\$	55,727.31
Capital Project Fund	\$	38,844.50
TIF I – Town Center Fund	\$	9,525.55
TIF II – Industrial Park Fund	\$	196.15
TIF III – Cicero Industrial Fund	\$	40.50
TIF IV – Governor’s East Fund	\$	382.50
TIF V – Dralle Industrial Fund	\$	<u>1,019.25</u>
Total	\$	561,413.14

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Trustee Covington commented on payment to Barnes & Thornburg and asked if the Board could suspend services of contractual employees at any time until we need the services.

Mayor McCowan stated that he spoke with Mr. Boykin who is working of two specific projects.

Attorney Boyd explained the billing process where hourly fees versus flat rates. He noted that the more intensive the project it is more likely that a flat fee produces better results. However, if contractual work is performed, payment should be made.

Trustee McGuire commented that she had conversations with Senator Hutchinson who told her that Mr. Boykin had only spoke with her twice, and the funding for the capital projects were forthcoming because they were included in the Capital Bill that was passed, and that she feels we could get a reliable Consultant for approximately \$8,000.00 monthly, as opposed to \$12,500.00.

Trustee Covington stated that she concurs with Trustee McGuire, and that Congressman Debbie Halvorson told her that Mr. Boykin had never met with her relating to projects in the village. Trustee Covington also stated that we need to send our officials and department heads to Washington D. C. and Springfield.

Bills Payable – continued:

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that we need to look at cutting things that don't work and leave those that work in place.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if we have a current contract with Barnes & Thornburg.

Manager Sevier stated that check number 68297 will be voided because it was issued to the wrong entity.

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

Motion To Approve Bills Payable Carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Travis commented on the public hearing scheduled for December 22nd relating to the tax levy, and commented on the lack of support by village residents for programs and entertainment at the golf club; that other communities use the red light enforcement program, and asked the Board to move forward with water project.

Ms. Patti Guinn, Thornwood House Tenant Association President thanked Paul Blockoms and staff for the turkeys given away for Thanksgiving, and noted that there is a need for better lighting in front of Pk's.

Ms. Sandra Heard commented that she would like to see the ordinance that Trustee Oscar Brown proposed put on an agenda, and asked Mayor McCowan for details on what action was requested that he refused to put on an agenda. She also questioned the statement that there would be a loss of \$300,000.00 by the Board's original refusal to pass the Bond issue; she voiced her concern with cancellation of regularly scheduled finance committee meeting, and asked Mayor McCowan to inform her of what she said that was wrong. She also asked why public hearings were not held in the tax levy and budget in the past.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson thanked Paul Blockoms and the Golf Club for the turkey baskets; she gave an update on activities of the Boy Scouts from Pilgrimage Church and asked for volunteers. She also requested support for activities at the Golf Club.

General Public Comments – continued:

Mr. Anthony Stevens, 100 Men Association, Inc. thanked Police Chief Mel Easley and his staff for the excellent coverage for Congressman Bobby L. Rush; noted that the Turkey Shoot Thanksgiving Giveaway was fantastic and many families were blessed. He also asked for support from the community for programs that benefit the village.

H. BOARD CAUCUS

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 10:20 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. to allow the Board time to caucus. He reconvened the Board meeting and the following responses were given to concerns raised by residents under general comments:

Responding to the concern of Ms. Heard relating to public hearing, Village Clerk Dee Jones responded that Statue Status only requires a public hearing on the tax levy if there is an increase of 105% or more. Therefore, one is scheduled for December 22, 2009. However for the past few years, there was no requirement for a public hearing. She agrees that a public hearing should be held annually for the budget.

Responding to the concerns of Mr. Travis, relating to marketing the Golf Club Trustee McGuire stated that they are looking at advertising on local cable. Relating to moving forward on water project, Trustee Oscar Brown stated that the Board is looking at options for moving forward.

Mayor McCowan responded to concern of his refusal to place certain items on the agenda, noting that he feels personnel matters should not be handled in a public venue.

Relating to the \$300,000.00 Manager Sevier stated that the village abates back that money, and is not levying 1.5 million dollars. Relating to cancellation of finance committee meetings, he stated that meetings were not cancelled, but either moved back or ahead depending on circumstances.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn the regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 11:06 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk

/drj