

Minutes Of A Regular Meeting The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, January 12, 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 8:12 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	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Interim Village Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, Village Attorney Forest Miles, Police Chief Mel Easley, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreations Director Robert Graham, Cable Studio Manager Christel Allen, Economic & Community Development Director Kimberly Porter, IT Department Representative Jeff Kensey, 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 McGuire seconded a motion to approve minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees held December 8, 2009 as corrected to show that Trustee Larry Brown was absent throughout the meeting, and to approve minutes of the special/emergency meeting held December 29, 2009 to include questions regarding the levy from Trustee Griffin. He asked Manager Sevier what was the amount of the levy, and why did he change the levy from 4.9% to 5%.

Roll Call On Minutes:

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

Motion to approve as corrected carried.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E -1: Village Manager's Report

Interim Village Manager David Sevier reported that on Sunday, January 10th there was a Sweet 16 Masquerade Ball for resident Ashley Mack at the University Golf Club & Conference Center and the party was elegant and the young people were respectful of the facility; All staff evaluations will be completed by January 31, 2010, and he will be presenting to the finance committee the fiscal year 2011 budget in February. He asked that all residents interested in the budget process to check the date and attend the finance committee meetings. He also reported that Public Works had received their third and final vehicle for fiscal year 2010.

Trustee Oscar Brown thanked Mr. Sevier for the road repairs in Rosedale Subdivision, and asked for a status on road repairs on Regent Road, and when would that street be dedicated to the Village.

Mr. Sevier stated that he would take a look at the roads and get back to the Board.

Trustee Griffin commented that he requested an update and copies of all EEOC complaints more than a month ago, and asked for a status on his request.

Manager Sevier responded to Trustee Griffin that he would provide that information to him, and noted that as the complaints are decided he provides that information to the Board.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked Manager Sevier the new hours at the Golf Club.

Manager Sevier responded that hours are: Thursdays from 6p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and from 6p.m. to 12 midnight on Fridays. They will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays except for special events already scheduled and paid.

Trustee Griffin asked if the reduction in hours be reflected in reduced salaries.

Manager Sevier responded that fewer hours would mean less salary, however they are still accepting special events and management staff is still in place, and will be re-opening seven days a week in March, and are working on a marketing plan to market the restaurant.

Trustee Griffin commented that since November is the down side mostly for golf, would it be reflected this year where we closed in November rather than January. He also asked why was the golf club was left opened in November and December.

Manager Sevier responded that it would depend on the number of events booked in the months of November and December. The decision to remain open and have reduced hours in November and December was discussed with the Golf Advisory Committee and Staff for a sixty day trail period.

Trustee Covington asked for a status of lighting of the Marquee at Rosedale Subdivision.

Manager Sevier responded that the issue has always been bringing electricity to the sign. Mr. O'Donnell has been notified of the issue.

Trustee McGuire asked if the village would be responsible for running the electricity to that area.

Mr. Sevier responded that at this time he is not sure, but would check into the situation.

Trustee Covington stated that she had some other concerns that she would submit to Manager Sevier in writing.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that the levy was passed, and he does not believe that the numbers that were proposed are going to reflect any difference in the tax levy, and asked for a copy of the finished document.

Mayor McCowan asked for clarity on Trustee Larry Brown's request.

Trustee Larry Brown responded that he is asking for a copy of the finished document of what the tax rate will be that was submitted.

Manager Sevier responded that what was submitted to the Counties was an estimated percent on the tax levy, and not a tax rate. However, he can supply him with the signed documents that were submitted, but the tax rate will not be available until March.

Manager's Report – continued:

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if it is possible, according to the tax code to lower the rate, or ask for a different amount.

Manager Sevier responded that for the last four or five years the Village, when the tax rate comes in the Board has decided to rebate taxes back to the residents, thereby keeping the village portion of the bill lower, and it the intent to attempt to do the same this year.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor McCowan voiced his pleasure in having so many people in the audience, and to have a new Police Officer and two new Firefighter/Paramedic joining our ranks.

Swearing In Of Police Officer:

Accompanied by Mayor McCowan, Trustee Larry Brown, Police Chief Mel Easley and Fire & Police Commissioner Jimmie Young, Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the Oath Of Office to Police Officer Richard Brown.

Swearing In Of Firefighter/Paramedics:

Accompanied by Mayor McCowan, Trustee Larry Brown, Fire Chief Charles Exner and Fire & Police Commissioner Jimmie Young, Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the Oath Of Office to Firefighter/Paramedics Douglas Lippelt and Josue Lopez.

Mayor McCowan continued his report and congratulated Village Clerk Dee Jones for completing 39+ hours through the Municipal Clerks Academy and the combined efforts of the Institute of Government & Public Affairs and the Office of Continuing Education at the University of Illinois this past October. He also commented on the tax levy and commended Trustee Oscar Brown for his research on how this tax levy really works. Mayor McCowan stated that there was a misinterpretation of what was transpiring, and explained that State Law requires that a tax levy must be filed by a certain date, he asked that residents do not confuse a tax levy with the tax rate. He further stated that the special meeting scheduled for December 22, 2009 had to be rescheduled due to death and other issues relating to members of the Board. The emergency meeting was called, and there was no intent to raise taxes on residents in the Village of University Park, at least not on the municipality's side, and the tax rate has not increased over the past four or five years.

Mayor's Report – continued:

Trustee Covington asked if people who submitted applications previously, need to re-apply.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee McGuire gave an update on the 2010 Census Committee, including jobs available with the Census Bureau; a meeting of the Census Complete Count Committee will be held in February; She will be attending a meeting in Matteson on January 19th to prepare for the Census 2010 Kickoff; Mayor McCowan has approved placing the Census Logo, along with the slogan that was created by Trustee Larry Brown on the 2010-11 village vehicle sticker; A Chamber of Commerce meeting with local and industrial park businesses on February 12th at noon. Trustee McGuire commented on a job notice for workers for the census that the application process began January 4th and continues through the month of February. She gave the particular, required qualifications for the jobs and noted that additional information is available at www.censusjobs.gov. Trustee McGuire also reported on a trip planned to take students and residents to Springfield for Lobby Day on April 14, 2010. She stated that a lottery would be drawn for fifty to fifty seven residents, and residents drawn would have to fulfill the requirements to be selected. Sign up dates are from January 19th to March 19, 2010, and drawings would be held the 2nd and 4th regular Board meetings, with the final drawing held on March 23, 2010. Additional information is available by contacting Johnna Townsend at (708) 534-4237.

Trustee Covington reported that Federal Express had donated food and coats to University Park for the Coat drive, and since we do not distribute food, the food would be donated to Monee Township. She also reported that she is seeking signatures on a petition to help keep Oak Forest Hospital open.

Trustee Griffin read from the flyer of the services provided by the Will County Workforce Development Division.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Interim Village Manager Sevier reported that the Teachers Union had rejected the latest offer of 201-U School Board and as a result they are looking to reduce the staff by eighty-five individuals. He asked residents to come out and voice their concerns.

Reports Of Other Officers – continued:

Parks & Recreation Director Robert Graham gave the following report: Our new Fall/Winter brochure can now be view on our website and hard copies can be picked up at various locations throughout the village including Riegel Farm, Village Hall, and the Library during normal business hours.

Mr. Graham extended a special thanks to Converse Athletic for their sponsorship of our youth basketball program. I was able to get them to donate almost 100 pair of basketball shoes to our program for this season. The net value of their contribution totals \$8200; University Park Youth Basketball Program begins play on January 23, 2010 at 11 am at the Middle School; University Park Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues are currently registering participants for its upcoming season. Open registration is taking place at Riegel Farm during normal business hours. For more information on these updates and any other concerns, please contact our office at 708.534.6456

Trustee Covington questioned the status of the website.

Police Chief Mel Easley thanked the Board for providing such an excellent team of Fire & Police Commissioners, which has allowed the police department to hire officers to better serve the community. He also reported that during 2008 the Police Department answered 16,877 calls for service and in 2009 they answered 19,000 calls for service, and since the Truck Weight Enforcement has been in force they have collected \$13,100.00 in fines.

Fire Chief Charles Exner welcomed the new firefighter/paramedics to the village and reported that calls for service in 2009 were down by 113 from 2008, and that the fire department has moved into their newly renovated quarters.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that Early Voting is now available at Village hall and will continue until January 28th. she also reported that the Will County Clerk's Office would be conducting early voting every Saturday, and on the Martin Luther King Holiday, as well as open on the last two Sundays before the February 2nd Election. Clerk Jones strongly urges residents to take advantage of the early voting.

Mayor McCowan reported that the Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration would be held at Governors State University on Monday, January 18, 2010 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

F. DISCUSSION AGENDA

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: Second And Third Readings — Ordinance Amending Chapter 294 Entitled “Parks And Recreation Advisory Committee” To Merge Into Chapter 294 Certain Functions Of Chapter 295 Entitled “Youth Commission”; And, Revoking Chapter 295

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

Trustee Covington asked if this merger would include other programs, such as fencing, etc, and if the athletic associations are on base with the changes.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if the budget for these programs would be under Parks & Recreation and if background checks would be done.

Trustee Covington stated that she wants drug testing done on all individuals involved in the program.

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number 2010 - 01.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First, Second And Third Readings – Ordinance Amending Chapter 209 Of The Codified Ordinances “Freedom Of Information Act”

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

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

Motion To Approve Carried

Ordinance Number 2010 -02.

F-2b: Inducement Resolution Pertaining To The Proposed Thorn Creek Tax Increment Financed Redevelopment Project And Thorn Creek Residential Development [Thorn Creek P2 Up LLC]

F-2b: continued:

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

Trustee Covington asked for clarity on this item.

Manager Sevier responded that this would allow Thorn Creek Development to move forward in attempting to secure TIF financing.

Attorney Forest Miles stated that after this resolution is passed, the Engineer would bring back his findings and details.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if we did a TIF Qualifier, and stated that he does not want this to end up like CityScape.

Attorney Forest Miles stated that we did and it appears that the property might qualify as a TIF and the cost to the village is unknown at this time. He explained the process for moving forward and noted that the Board can shut the project down at any time if they feel the project is too costly. He also stated that he would bring back to the Board more details at the next meeting, and re-emphasized that this action only allows them to move forward in their pursuit of TIF financing.

Trustee Griffin asked for clarity on increment funding and asked if J.C. Lang would be doing the survey and the development plans for this project.

Trustee Covington asked there is any cost to the village and asked if all taxing bodies have been notified.

Attorney Miles stated that he would bring forward those issues at the next meeting; however, the village would probably get the money back once the property is developed.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington, and Roudez.

Nays: Trustees Griffin and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Resolution Number 2010 – 01.

F-2c: Resolution Approving A Statement Of Preliminary Terms Pertaining To Redevelopment Site No. 6 In Amended Redevelopment Project Area Number V [Clorox Services Company]

F-2c: continued:

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

Trustee Griffin noted that there are blanks on pages 2, 4, and 5 and asked if they would be filled in prior to execution.

Attorney Miles stated that all those blanks would be filled in when this item is brought back for approval of the plans.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried

Resolution Number 2010 – 02.

F-2d: Appointment – Golf Advisory Board

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves the appointment of Judge Michael Stuttley to the Golf Advisory Board. Term to expire December 31, 2012.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington, Griffin and Roudez.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Trustee Larry Brown.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2e: Bills Payable

Trustee McGuire 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 December 23, 2009 to January 12, 2010. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$	299,283.95
Road and Bridge Fund	\$	36,087.34
Town center Operations	\$	124.59
University Golf Club	\$	41,141.57
Capital Project Fund	\$	27,537.89
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	20,414.68
TIF I – Town Center Fund	\$	94.50
TIF II – Industrial Park Fund	\$	1,012.50
TIF III – Cicero Industrial Fund	\$	432.00
TIF IV – Governor’s East Fund	\$	2,715.00
Total	\$	428,844.02

F-2e: Bills Payable – continued:

Trustee Oscar referred to check numbers 68777, 68778, 68779, 68780, 68781 and 68782 payable for ATM at the golf club, and noted his concern for that amount of money now that the business is not operating regular hours.

Manager Sevier responded the checks are only used when the machine needs to be replenished. But to make sure there do not run out of money, the checks are cut in advance and kept in the safe until needed.

Trustee Covington asked the status of the garbage pick-up payments.

Manager Sevier responded that payments are coming in okay, but they have issued levies on some non-payment.

Trustee Larry Brown referred to check number 68759, and asked to know what is Foreign Fire Tax.

Fire Chief Charles Exner explained the process of how municipalities receive funds from insurance companies who do not comply with the laws and how a portion of those funds are filtered to the village to help offset cost of supplies for the fire department.

Trustee Griffin referred to check number 68707, payable to Blue Cross/Blue Shield and stated that this does not reflect savings as Mr. Sevier indicated it would; he referred to check number 68719, payable to CMT and stated that he wants a list of services provided; he referred to check number 68750, payable to JMA Architects and stated that he wants a cost status of the fire department renovation. He also asked if this bills payable list includes checks that were listed for the December 22, 2009 meeting.

Manager Sevier responded that he would get the requested information to Trustee Griffin relating to CMT and JMA Architects, and he thinks this bills payable list includes those from December 22nd but would check and report back to Trustee Griffin.

Motion To Consider Checks Separately

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Covington seconded a motion that the Board approves to consider separately check numbers 68779, 68780, 68781, and 68782.

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

Nays: Trustees McGuire and Roudez.

Absent: None.

Motion To Consider Separately Carried.

Bills Payable – continued:

Motion To Consider Approval Of Check Number 68779

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves payment of check number 68779 – Petty Cash Custodian – to replenish ATM at Golf Club,

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Check Number 68779 Carried.

Motion To Consider Approval Of Check Number 68780

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves payment of check number 68780 – Petty Cash Custodian – to replenish ATM at Golf Club,

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Check Number 68780 Carried.

Motion To Consider Approval Of Check Number 68781

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves payment of check number 68781 – Petty Cash Custodian – to replenish ATM at Golf Club,

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Covington, Griffin, and Roudez.

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Check Number 68781 Carried.

Motion To Consider Approval Of Check Number 68782

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves payment of check number 68782 – Petty Cash Custodian – to replenish ATM at Golf Club,

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, and Roudez.

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Covington, Griffin, and Larry Brown.

Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Check Number 68782 Failed To Carry.

Bills Payable – continued:

Roll Call On Main Bills Payment Motion, as amended to exclude payment of check number 68782

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

Motion To Approve As Amended Carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Travis addressed the Board and referred to written concerns that he submitted to the Board that included the following: Do you have an update on the progress concerning the repair of Riegel Farm's metal enclosed barn that was partially damaged in a fire. This building does not have a fire protection system, and the lack of such system puts the 80 plus year wooden barn and the homes located just 75 feet from both Riegel farm barns in danger; Will the Board establish a date for hiring a new village manager, this journey was started last April of 2009, and no progress has been made to date; When will the village move forward on the issue of quality water, this issue was mentioned only three times during the board meetings last year, and when will the Board appoint residents to the Golf Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Mary Truss asked if it is true that the village is being sued.

Dr. Barbara Jones-Jackson, Owner of Foster Care Institute – Illinois addressed the Board and gave an overview of the proposed Charter Public School. She stated that this school would be the only one in this area in the State of Illinois, and would provide emotional preparedness for academic readiness for foster care children. She asked the Board for any assistance it could provide in helping her move this project forward, noting that she is looking for a location to rent with the option to purchase.

H. BOARD CAUCUS

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 10:07 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 concerns of Mr. Travis, Mr. Sevier stated that repairs to Riegel Barn are completed and has been approved for occupancy for three months;

Mayor McCowan responded to Mr. Travis relating to the village manager position and stated that the Board will discuss that issue at an upcoming retreat, and that there are residents on the Golf Advisory Committee.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Mr. Travis relating to the water issue and stated that he has discussed this matter with Congressman Jackson and is looking to secure funding for the study.

Mayor McCowan stated that is also contacting the Governor's office for assistance in getting funding for a water study.

Attorney Miles responded to Mrs. Truss and stated that the Board is being sued, and he could not divulge any more information since the matter is in litigation. However, the charges are being fought vigorously, and we deny any wrong doing.

Mayor McCowan suggested that Dr. Jones-Jackson come in and speak with Manager Sevier to see what assistance the Village can offer, and also suggested that she contact Center Point at Governors State University.

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 10:43 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk

/drj