

Minutes Of A Regular Meeting The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, October 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 8:02 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Alvin R. McCowan	Present
Trustees:	Sharon A. McGuire	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Absent
	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 Prosecutor T. Lee Boyd, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Deputy Police Chief Gregory Box, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreations Interim Programs Supervisor Neva Nia Jenkins, Economic & Community Development Director Kimberly Porter, 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 McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the special and regular meetings of the Board of Trustees held September 14, 2010 and minutes of the regular meeting held September 28, 2010.

Reading of Minutes- continued:

Trustee Covington noted that she abstains from voting on September 14, 2010 because she was not at that meeting.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

Abstained: Trustee Covington (September 14, 2010 only)

Motion to approve Carried.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E -1: Village Manager's Report

Interim Village Manager David Sevier gave the following report: Paving is complete on Hickok, Loves Lane, Sierra Court, and a small section of Samson. This was done via our MFT project; He informed the Mayor and Board of Trustees that I just received the renewal quote for our Medical Coverage and am happy to announce that we received only a 5% increase over last year as compared to the average between 10 and 15%. Even though we only received a 5% increase, I have scheduled a meeting with insurance committee to discuss the possibility of changing the plan, not the carrier, because we have exceeded the ceiling of where I think we should be for our insurance coverage in spite of the fact that 93% of all employees pay into the health plan. The 7% represent the HMO single coverage that the Village pays for. It is my recommendation that we seek another option that will keep us under the ceiling for our health coverage overall. I will be bringing this to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting and will be sharing this with finance committee on Monday, October 25, as the renewal date is November 1. It is my hope that the Board accepts my recommendation as opposed to the current renewal being offered.

I would like to talk about the lower assessments that have been done by the assessors' office. Let me share this article with you. **The County Assessor says property tax assessments will be reduced.** "Their idea of a reduction is raising taxes through the roof, then hugely reducing them when you file a complaint. But the reduction is based on the proposed increase. I guess we're supposed to be thrilled they are not bankrupting us, just sucking the blood from us slowly while trying to look like our savior. The Board of Review is a joke. It's a way of saying, look what we did for you, instead of a 250 percent increase, we are holding it to a mere 25 percent."

Village Manager's Report – continued:

Manager Sevier continued his report stating that the one thing that University Park has in its favor regarding the reduced assessments is that it has a TIF that will be coming off the tax roles. As I explained to the Board last year, we will need to levy more than the 5% in order to capture the new growth from the TIF. This would enable us to offset some of the dollars lost from the assessments being lowered, the \$15 Million Working Cash Bond that the School District is seeking and also allow us to recovery some of the dollars from the fire station renovation. I do caution that if we take this method, we will definitely increase the tax rate. If we choose to take only a portion of those dollars above, we may be able to hold the tax rate steady or increase just slightly over \$4.00, but let's make sure we pass the levy for more than 5% and then let's wait until February to determine the tax rate. One thing is clear; the TIF could help offset the shortages that are being funding due various tax increases.

Last week, I held an all staff meeting to read the Political Activity Policy to everyone in attendance and provided each and everyone who wanted one a copy. The policy reads. That is the information that was shared with staff regardless of what some of you may be hearing.

Finally, when a union employee, especially, is released from service to the Village, we need to allow the complete process to take its course to ensure that all options have and will be exhausted prior to a final determination.

Trustee Covington asked if the policy referred to is the one that is in conjunction with federal guidelines, and requested that Manager Sevier write a memo to all employees explaining the process; she asked the status of marking of village vehicles.

Trustee Roudez voiced his concern that there are no minority contractors working on the road projects in the Village, and asked the process for becoming certified for those jobs.

Trustee Larry Brown asked for a status of the audits, noting that previously Mr. Sevier stated that the Lawyers for the Company were reviewing the document. He asked why expend overtime money for a meeting when it could have been done in memorandum form.

Interim Village Manager David Sevier responded that he called the mandatory meeting to avoid denial of receipt of the information, this way he was assured that all employees received the information.

Trustee Covington asked for information relating to the licensing process.

Village Manager's Report – continued:

Village Clerk Jones responded that there are different processes depending on the type of license requested. However, once approval by investigative, code enforcement and other required departments or agencies is given, if fees are paid the license should be issued. Clerk Jones asked if Trustee Covington had specifics, and suggested that she contact her Office so the matter could be better addressed.

Trustee Griffin stated that residents want to know when is Clorox coming to town, and how do they apply for those jobs.

Mr. Sevier responded that he was instructed to keep that information under raps.

Mayor McCowan responded that the Clorox Company is under construction, and the final agreement has not been completed, and some information is not yet available to the public. However, both Clayco and USAA Realty have been advised to consider hiring University Park residents, and that he is working on scheduling a meeting with those company officials and asked that residents and Board members work together to help ratify this agreement.

Trustee Covington stated that her last copy of Industrial Park businesses shows that only 6 University Park residents are employees in the seventy companies.

Trustee McGuire asked Mr. Sevier if he would elaborate on the process for the increase in the tax levy in a workshop. Mr. Sevier stated that he would schedule a workshop in early November, 2010.

Mayor McCowan explained the TIF Process and what happens when a company rolls off that TIF, noting that in order to capture all of the benefits, we have to make sure that we levy high enough.

Trustee Covington voiced her concern that the Library and other taxing districts would get their fair share.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor McCowan yielded the first portion of his report to Ms. Joann Alexander, Director of Southland Senior Services.

Ms. Alexander addressed the Board and public and informed them that Southland Senior Services which provides transportation has lost funding, and transportation services for seniors and disabled residents in Monee Township, including residents of University Park will be discontinued until the next budget year unless major financial backers are found.

Mayor's Report – continued:

Ms. Alexander explained that United Way discontinued their support of the facility; Monee Township cut funding in half, and the State is far behind in payments. She also noted that she came to the Board at the request of Mrs. White and members of the University Park Senior Citizens Committee, and residents of Thornwood House who knows the value of these services.

Mr. Martin Alexander addressed the Board and shared an experience that he and a neighbor had relating to employment in the Industrial Park noting that they are Certified Union Cement Finishers, and were hired for two days then driven out. He stated that he saw Mayor McCowan and relayed his plight to him. Within twenty minutes, his former Forman called the both of them and informed them that they were to report to work, and remain until the project was finished. Mr. Alexander stated that he wanted to come to the Board meeting and shake the Mayor's hand for making a phone call to management that resulted in jobs for him and his neighbor.

Mayor McCowan congratulated Trustee McGuire for putting together such a successful Business Meeting, bringing together local, industrial park, and other business leaders to assist in our endeavors to bring the Resource Center to fruition. He stated that while other communities are losing jobs, University Park is blessed to have an opportunity to train our residents for new jobs that are coming to this community.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee Covington reported on the events booklets from Parks & Recreation, and informed the public that the Special Events/Human Services Committee would be hosting the Annual Coat Drive in November, and applications are available throughout the community.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Deputy Police Chief Gregory Box reported that the State had amended the Juvenile Act to address the law regarding misdemeanors for ages 17 and under and the law regarding felonies for ages 17 and over; the Police Department will only post Wanted Posters for individuals ages 17 and over. He congratulated Officer Mickey McNair and Wife on the birth of their baby, and reported that they had apprehended the young men responsible for the residential burglary on Farmview.

Trustee Covington commented on a recent burglary of a vacant home in her neighborhood.

Reports of Other Officers – continued:

Mayor McCowan asked if the Village is notified of foreclosed or vacant properties.

Director of Economic & Community Development/ Code Enforcement Kim Porter responded that occasionally lenders send notices.

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend reported that the MFT Road Program should end within the next two weeks; He asked residents to bag leaves, and not rake them into the streets where they can clog the sewers; asked residents to report street light outages by calling (708) 534-4823, and reported that four Public Works Employees have completed Chain Saw Safety & Maintenance Training.

Mrs. Jenkins, Parks & Recreation Interim Program Supervisor reported on upcoming Parks & Recreation programs, noting that the Haunted Hay Ride would be October 22 – 23 and October 28, 2010, and asked for volunteers to assist.

Golf Club General Manager Paul Blockoms reported that the Concerned Golfers would host the second annual Turkey Shoot for needed families would be held in November, and asked for support for the community.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that Early Voting for the November 2, 2010 General Election began October 11th in the Office of the Village Clerk, and would continue through October 28th, 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: Third Reading – Ordinance Amending Section 222 Of The Administration Code, Specifically Section 222.03 Entitled "Payment Of Bills"

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves to Lay this item on the Table.

Roll Call on F-1a:

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

Motion To Lay On Table Carried.

F-1b: Third Reading – An Ordinance Approving The University Park Employee Policy Manual

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves third reading of this ordinance.

Trustee Covington stated that she would like to have a workshop on this item prior to voting on it.

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to Lay this item on the Table to a workshop.

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

Motion To Lay On Table Carried.

.F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: Appointments

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the following appointments:

Code Enforcement Commission; Devon Dilworth – 2 year term

Economic Development Commission; Darrin Johnson – 2 year term.

Finance Committee; Takoya Davis for a two year term; Jacelia Kelly for a two year term; Virnita Martin for a two year term; Renita Streater-Rhodes for a four year term; and Bertina Richards for a two year term and Danny Sigers Associate Member.

Information Technology & Cable Communications Commission; Noland Jacobs – 2 year term.

Public Services & Utilities Committee; Darrin Johnson – 2 year term.

F-2a: Appointments – continued:

University Park youth & Recreation Association: Noland Jacobs – 2 year term, and Danny Sigers – 2 year term.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

Motion To Approve Carried.

F-2h: Bills Payable

Trustee McGuire moved, Trustee Roudez 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:

Bills Payable – continued:

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	\$	642.50
Total	\$	169,283.86

Trustee Griffin asked for clarity on why the check register total differs from the invoice approval list total.

Manager Sevier responded that the check register total shows actual checks cut, and the invoice approval list total list invoices, some of which are not paid.

Trustee Covington asked for clarity for check #71311 – Marie Barksdale.

Manager Sevier stated that these two payments are for consultant services for the Resource Center.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.

Nays: Trustees Covington, Griffin, and Larry Brown.

Absent: Trustee Oscar Brown.

Motion Failed To Carry.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Travis addressed the Board and referenced a list of concerns that he had e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting and stated that some of his concerns had been addressed at the workshop, and in the meeting earlier tonight. However, he still would like answers to his concerns relating to (1) Village lighting, do we have a set drawings showing the existing street lighting pole locations? (2) Have the village ordinances been update to reflect he changes over the past two years. (3) Is the village planning to improve the bike trails, Need to improved lighting. (4) Status of the propose Riegel Barn complex sprinkler system. This question was asked a few months ago, the response was that a fire alarm system will be installed. Lack of a fire extinguishing system will continued to leave the houses located next to the Riegel Barn complex in danger. Is the village going to install a sprinkler system?

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor asked if the Board would be holding a tax levy workshop prior to bringing it for a vote; asked criteria for appointments to Committee and Commissions and if the new members to the finance committee would be making decisions relating to the budget and levy, or if the present members would be involved in the process.

Mr. Cleo Taylor, business owner in the Town Center addressed the Board, noting that he is a twenty-one year businessman in the Village of University Park, and suggested that he did not receive an invitation to the Business Meeting hosted by Trustee McGuire. He voiced his concern with the lack of lighting in the Town Center, because it results in loitering in the dark areas; He explained the delay, since July, 2009 in completing the expansion of his business; noted his concern with the lack of Police patrol and interaction with businesses and residents. He also informed us of the arrangements for his father who passed away this past Sunday.

Mrs. Marilyn Crockett addressed the Board and asked if they are working to annex land to the Village, and commented that they need to work out their problems; she commented on a pile of dirt at Brittany Woods and asked that the matter is resolved.

Ms. Rosemary Nettles addressed the Board, and asked if the Harvest Lane area is on the list for cleaning of sewers.

Mr. Marvin Alexander commented that he would like to see the Board come to one accord and get on the same page in taking care of the business of the Village.

General Public Comments – continued:

Ms. LaVerne Williams addressed the Board, and thanked them for the beautiful resolution recognizing the memory of her grandfather. She asked the process for appointments and asked if the bills would be paid, and if there is some other process the Board could use for paying bills.

H. BOARD CAUCUS

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 9:50 to 9:55 pm to allow the Board an opportunity to caucus. The following responses were given relating to public comments:

Responding to some of the concerns of Mr. Travis, Manager Sevier stated that Trustee Oscar Brown is working on that project trying to secure funds for that multi-million project; relating to the Sprinkler System he stated that an alarm system has been installed, but there was a problem with the alarm company, but the matter is now resolved.

Relating to the workshop for the levy, Mr. Sevier stated that there would be several discussion at finance committee meetings; relating to the lighting problem in the Town Center he stated that the lights were replaced less than two weeks ago, but he will have the problem addressed, and regarding more police presence, he stated that he will discuss that with Deputy Chief Box. Relating to the dirt piled at Brittany Woods he stated that he would have Public Works and Code Enforcement look into the problem and work on a resolve, and regarding payment of bills he stated that since the bills payable list was not passed, he can only pay those emergency bills, such as utilities, etc.

Relating to the updates of the codified ordinances, Village Clerk Jones stated that all updates would be sent to the Codifier in January, which would allow for updates through 2010.

Mayor McCowan responded to the question relating to land annexation stating that these are sensitive issues, and the Board understands and agrees that information is not discussed in public until the process is mostly completed; relating to committee/commission and Board appointments, and if present members of the finance committee would be involved in decision making, he stated that some of the present members would be retained, but the new members would begin to actively fill the positions to which they were appointed.

Relating to the bike trails, Trustee Griffin stated that he is working on grants to fund the project.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. TRUSTEES COMMENTS

K. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:05 pm.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk

/drj