

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, January 24, 2012 At #90 Town Center Drive, In The Village Of University Park.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Covington called this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:17 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Vivian E. Covington	Present
Trustees:	Elizabeth Williams	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Milton C. Payton	Present
	Keith J. Griffin	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Manager Lafayette Linear, Village Attorney Ivan Tomic, Village Treasurer Devon Dilworth, Police Chief Melvin Davis, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Finance Director Gloria Gibson, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Golf Club Restaurant Manager Pam Jackson, IT Jeff Kensey, and Village Clerk Dorothy R. Jones.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Covington 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 Board of Trustees held January 10, 2012 as amended by Mayor Covington to reflect her changes as noted, and submitted as follows: **Page. 2. of 13 – Alleged to invite the Congressman. I also thought I made a comment after his statement. I will review the tape on that one.**

Page 4 of 13 – Pargh. #3 It was in a form of a question not a statement. I ask the question not stated that his question.

Reading of Minutes – continued:

Page 4- 13 Pargh. #6 Trustee Roudez did not ask he stated he did not want the attorney to answer the question.

Page 5 of 13 Paragh#2 The Collector collected \$74,000.00 when I asked what was done in the past of late rent Kelly stated she was told not to bother the tenants

Page 5 of 13 Mayor’s report Pargh. #1 last sentence I stated we were reviewing the TIF agreements as well.

Page 9 of #13 last sentence I asked Trustee Griffin to please submit the interested parties forms. The ones he would like on his committee. (I was sure I made that statement) maybe in was in my comments. I will review to make sure.

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

Motion to Approve Carried.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E-1: Village Manager’s Report

Village Manager Lafayette Linear reported that he had met with Linmark Training Company relating to various workshops and training modules for staff that would include human resource issues, workplace safety, sexual harassment, changes in State and Federal laws and other modules, and that he would be meeting with another vendor before selecting a company; He continues his efforts with representatives of the Department of Employment Security in an attempt to reduce the Village’s cost of unemployment insurance from 100% to 10%, and that they are challenging some benefits that have been filed; The Auditing Firm should be out within the next week, and he stated that he feels that they are lagging behind and have not issued an opinion relating to the 2009/10 financial audit. He stated that there are only three opinions that the auditing firm can issue, and that he will insist that they issue some type of opinion.

Trustee Griffin commented that last Friday he was informed that Village Hall was closed, and asked the reason for the closure, and asked why Jeff Kensey was at the meeting and not the IT Director.

Manager's Report – continued:

Manager Linear responded that due to the impending snow storm, office staff was sent home around 2:00 p.m.

Trustee Griffin stated that he commends Public Works for a good job in snow removal and making our street drivable; and asked why a Grand Opening was scheduled for January 16th for the Kids Health Club when the agreement had not been finalized.

Trustee Payton responded to Trustee Griffin relating to the Kids Health Club stating that the grand opening would be held at a later date, and that a tour was given to those interested on January 16th. He also noted the urgency to proceed with the Kids Health Club, stating that Dr. Robinson has a Grant to assist us, but is running out of time for the grant. He also stated that he had requested that the TV's be mounted.

Trustee Oscar Brown thanked Public Works for their efforts in the snow removal, and asked if the TV and Wi-Fi systems had been installed at the Kids Health Club.

Manager Linear responded that they had not been installed because they are looking at another location in the Town Center for that project.

Mayor Covington thanked Manager Linear and his staff for trying to clean up the messes that he inherited.

Manager Linear thanked Mayor Covington and Trustee Griffin for their assistance and help to Public Works during the latest snow storm by delivering beverages and food, and encouraging staff.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor Covington congratulated Chief Exner, because she was informed that our Fire Chief Charles Exner had been elected President of the South Suburban Fire Investigation Task Force. This Task Force is comprised of 108 fire and police agencies, including FBI, ATF, Cook and Will County State's Attorney. She also reported that State Representative Lisa Dugan would be joining State Representative Anthony DeLucca at the University Golf Club on Friday, February 10, 2012 for the Senior Health Forum, and noted that Representative Dugan informed her that she was so humiliated by the past administration, that she took the 2.5 million dollar grant she had for University Park, and gave it to Kankakee to build a recreation center.

E-3: Committee & Commission Report

Trustee Payton reported on the numerous positive comments he has received acknowledging the success of the Family Fun Day "Don't Sit, Get Fit" that was held on Martin Luther King's Day, January 16, 2012 at #90 Town Center Drive, following the King Celebration at GSU.

Committee & Commission Report – continued:

Trustee Payton thanked all those who volunteered, noting that we could not have done this event without volunteers. Thanks to the Public Works Department, Village Staff, Board Members, Students from GSU Fitness Center, South Suburban Gymnastic and Dr. Robin Washington of GSU for working with the Village of University Park. He noted that this would become an annual event, perhaps some changes will be made relating to dates. The committee is looking at some years on MLK Holiday, and some years during Black History Month. He also noted some of the amenities at GSU that are available to our residents at minimal cost, such as the fitness center, and swimming. He also commented that Mayor Covington meetings constantly with GSU President Mammon working at building a partnership between the Village and GSU.

Manager Linear announced that Fire Chief Charles Exner, and Police Chief Melvin Davis left the meeting to investigate a gas leak at the Health Department, and reported that the matter was resolved without danger to anyone.

Village Treasurer Dilworth reported on the most recent Finance Committee meeting commenting on the report from the Independent Auditors which he stated showed several irregularities from the prior administration. He stated that he and staff are working to bring deficient operations and practices to the finances of the Village. He also stated that the Finance Director gave the Finance Committee members their duties and limitations.

Mayor Covington reported that we are now recognized in the Chicago Southland Magazine.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Police Chief Melvin Davis reported that the Police Department received 446 calls for service over the last two weeks and 30 incident reports were taken. He also stated that there have been no burglaries since he instituted new procedures. He congratulated Chief Exner for his election, and Jerry Townsend and staff for the efficient manner that they removed the snow during the last big snow.

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend thanked his crew for the outstanding job that they did in the snow removal, and thanked the Board for their support, with special thanks to Mayor Covington and Trustee Griffin for bringing beverages and food to his employees, to Trustee Larry Brown for shoveling out the area for his Committee meeting, and to the police and fire departments for their help with plowing areas around the Village Hall area.

Golf Club Restaurant Manager Pam Jackson reminded everyone that the restaurant opens daily at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast; Saturday and Sunday Brunch, and the Golf Club now has an indoor practice range for golfers during the winter months.

Reports Of Other Officers – continued:

Fire Chief Charles Exner stated that he is humbled with his election as President of the Fire Investigative Squad, and reported that the Fire Department received 1,539 calls, and they responded to 953 calls for service last month. He commended Mr. Townsend and his staff for the great snow removal job, and asked residents to please shovel out the areas surrounding fire hydrants, and if they are unable to shovel, please contact his office.

IT Staff member Jeff Kensey reported that the IT department is upgrading all Outlooks and converting e-mails to Microsoft Exchange Servers.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that the Fire & Police Commissioners held oral interviews for 43 candidates this past Saturday, and spent more than ten hours doing that process. He thanked those volunteers for their dedication and service.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that February 21, 2012 is the last day to register to vote before the March 20th Primary. She also reported that Early Voting begins in her Office on February 28, 2012.

F. DISCUSSION AGENDA

F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F-1a: Second Reading - An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement Between The Village Of University Park, Pace, And The Suburban Bus Division Of The RTA For The Leasing Of Vehicles To Meet The Public Transportation Needs Of The Village Of University Park

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

Trustee Griffin asked if there would be a cost for the insurance.

Mayor Covington responded that with this option, there would be no additional cost to the Village for insurance; that she is working with a professional in travel, who has volunteered her talents and service to assist in this project, and that she would hold a workshop before third reading.

Trustee Payton stated that he would like the Finance Committee members invited to that workshop.

Trustee Williams asked if there would be a cost for this service, or if it would be free.

F-1a: - continued:

Mayor Covington responded that there would be a minimal fee, probable around two dollars round trip.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that he feels that the Board should hold several workshops with community members in a Town Hall settings at different locations including Thornwood House and Industrial Park to get input about the type of service and hours needed and the service areas to be included. We should take time to examine other popular transportation systems, and look into an IGA with the Township to see if that would reduce our cost, and delay any decision until a plan is in place.

Mayor Covington stated that she would call a workshop to further discuss these issues.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Carried.

F-1b: First, Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Accepting The Agreement For Professional Consultative Services Between The Village Of University Park And Kids Health Club.Com

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

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if training would be provided for employees of Parks & Recreation Department.

Trustee Griffin asked who would run the facility after the contract with Kids Health Club expires.

Manager Linear responded that our Parks & Recreation staff would be trained and then train others.

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion to Approve Carried

Ordinance Number O2012 - 02.

F-2: NEW BUSINESS

F-2a: First Reading – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Option To Purchase Agreement Between The Village Of University Park And Community Supportive Living Systems, Inc., An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this ordinance to a Workshop.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if the other items of interest discussed earlier could be included in the workshop.

Mayor Covington noted a calendar distributed to the Board, and asked that Board members circle dates that would be convenient for them to attend, so she could schedule the Workshop.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion Carried to Approve Table to Workshop

F-2c: Bills Payable

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry 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 January 11, 2012 to January 24, 2014. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 283,807.25
Road & Bridge	\$ 24,436.22
Towncenter Operations	\$ 2,028.24
University Golf Club	\$ 20,353.78
Capital Project Fund	\$ 8,784.79
TIF III – Cicero Industrial Fund	\$ 46,481.83
Total	\$385,892.11

Trustee Griffin referred to check numbers 75601, 75606 and 75657 and requested clarity.

Finance Director Gibson responded that check number 75601 is for two payments to East Com; check number 75606 and 75657 are TIF rebate of taxes payments.

Roll Call On Bills Payable:

Ayes: Trustees Williams, Oscar Brown, Payton, Griffin, Roudez and Larry Brown.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Motion To Approve Carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Carolyn Prince, volunteer for Fun Day commented on the success of the event, stating that she felt like she was attending a musical, with the excitement of the kids.

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor commented that the Assessor's Office would be hosting a Workshop on Thursday, January 26, 2012 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and would be dealing with tax exemptions, tax bills and assessments. Additional information is available by call (708) 534-6023. She also commented that the new finance director is doing a great job in addressing issues and questions from the Finance Committee.

Mayor Covington thanked Ms. Heard for the great job she is doing as Assessor, and stated that it is refreshing to have an assessor who attends our Board Meeting. She asked if Ms. Heard could take the information to Thornwood House for those individuals who cannot attend the workshop.

Rev. Anthony Stevens addressed the Board and Residents as a member of the Oversight Committee at Crete-Monee High School and noted that a Parent University had been established to help parents understand and address educational needs of our students. He informed the public that on January 31, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. the Parent University would be addressing topics relating to academic success; life after high school; District 201 resources and other topics of interest that impact our kids. He urged residents to attend this important meeting.

Mayor Covington commented that she attends almost all of the meetings, and that she too is a member of the Oversight Committee, and that she constantly asks residents to attend the school board meetings.

Ms. Deborah Stroud commented that now that she is a Deputy Voter's Registrar, that she has been targeting young people, those just, or about to turn eighteen years old, and that she is looking at doing some on-sight registration.

Ms. Yvette Flowers commented that she is a relatively new resident who operates her own business known as Executive Serve, and asked to know how she could become a business partner with the Village. She also referred to a house on Regent Road that appears to be vacant with a vehicle in disrepair, and asked Chief Davis for a response.

H. BOARD CAUCUS

Mayor Covington suspended the meeting from 8:23 to 8:25 to allow the Board an opportunity to caucus. The Board returned and the following responses were given to general public comments.

Village Manager Linear responded to the concerns of Mr. Flowers stating that once she obtains a business license her information would be included in our data base.

Police Chief Melvin Davis responded to the concerns of Mr. Flowers relating to her concerns on Regent Road and stated that he was aware of the situation, and would have the vehicle removed, and clear the area.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board move into executive session for purposes of personnel at 8:56 p.m.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:13 p.m. and resumed the regular meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:14 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk*

/drj