

Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustee For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, April 14, 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 8:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Alvin R. McCowan	Present
Trustees:	Sharon A. McGuire	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Vivian E. Covington	Present
	Jimmie D. Young	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Present
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Village Prosecutor T. Lee Boyd, Jr., Interim Village Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, IT Director Deryl Bolton, Police Chief Mel Easley, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreations Director Robert Graham, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Golf Club Manger/PGA Golf Pro Paul Blockoms, Economic & Community Development Director Kimberly Porter, Director of Communications Sherry Williams 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 Young moved, Trustee Covington seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 24, 2009 as presented.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington, Young, Roudez, and Larry Brown

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Motion to approve carried.

E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA

E -1: Village Manager's Report

Interim Village Manager David Sevier gave the following report: We received \$758,500 to resurface Crawford and University Parkway, going east behind Governors' State University. This was awarded to us by SSMMA via stimulus dollars. The project is expected to begin in fall of 2009.

I have received and updated report from Town Builder Studios, which I have given to you tonight. I met with our consultant yesterday and he is preparing for the Board a list of all projects, totally over \$83 Million, and indicating on each one, who the project has been submitted to, how much was requested, what the status is and when it is anticipated on being funded.

We have scheduled two tentative workshops for April 28th, The Cicero Avenue Project and a Budget Workshop

We have also tentatively schedule a project update workshop for May 12, when the consultant will be out to address the \$83 Million projects and provide each Board Member a copy with a status update. There maybe another workshop on that day as well, and the new University Park tax rate for Fiscal Year 2010 is 4.1731

Trustee Covington asked for a status on repairs to the town center sign and insertion of names of current businesses; status of the study for Thorn Creek Sanitary District; a breakdown on credit card charges; a copy of all contracts for contractual employees; asked if the village is reverting back to mileage re-imbusement for employees and requested copies of the complete transactions relating to the 2009 Ford that was returned including copies of checks involved.

Interim Manager Sevier responded that they are in the process of replacing the bulbs in that sign and putting names of current businesses in the Town Center up. Relating to the Thorn Creek Sanitary District, he stated that they attempted to refurbish the Water Station of Cicero avenue to see if they could make a pass into University Park, but found to be too costly and decided to abandon that project, because Thorn Creek Sanitary District does not have the capacity to cover University Park as it is. He also stated that he would have a breakdown on credit card purchases and put it in her mailbox, and work on her request relating to village contracts. Relating to mileage for employees he stated that he is not reverting back to re-imbusement for employees, however some of the facilities are sites away from the village and employees must use their personal vehicles in transaction of village business, and those employees are re-imbusement for mileage. He stated that he would provide Trustee Covington with the requested information relating to contracts and the 2009 Ford Expedition.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked when would we have an estimate for fixing the Town Center and repairing the Sign; if there had been any discussions, or if notices had been sent out regarding repairs to Madisen Lane and Kevin Lane in the Rosedale Subdivision, and how much is the bond to repair those streets, and if we had an estimate of the cost for repairs to those streets; asked if Mr. Sevier had obtained any cost estimates for roof repairs and painting of the Town Center.

Manager Sevier responded that notice had been sent to the Developer of Rosedale Subdivision, and he informed the Village in writing that repairs should be completed by the end of April. The Developer is in contact with Attorney Miles attempting to resolve one issue and will report back to the Board with developments. Relating to repairs to the Town Center, he stated that those repairs should begin as soon as the weather breaks, and they have the opportunity to inspect the roofs.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked who has the responsibility for Will-Center Road leading to and from the elementary school, and is that street on the list for repairs; When will the tree on Circle Drive, near 525 be removed; When will the Village purchase a Street Sweeper that was approved at the last finance committee meeting that he attended. He also requested copies of the check used to purchase the 2009 Ford Expedition along with all other documentation, and other checks, specifically check numbers 65548, 65549 and 65550 that were approved on the last Bills Payable List for the purchase of squad cars along with all documentation. He also requested copies of Village Ordinances dealing with purchases, bills payable, check signatories and a list of all personnel who are driving a village owned vehicle.

Manager Sevier responded that maintenance of the Road is the responsibility of the Village of University Park, however the hold up on getting that road paved is entangled with the Will County Forest Preserve District, and Attorney Miles is attempting to work out legal issues with the Forest Preserve District. Regarding to the removal of the tree, Mr. Sevier stated that now that the weather is breaking that will be taken of, and the purchase of the street sweeper was approved by the finance committee and the Board approved the concept by resolution, and he is now waiting for one more financial bid to come back before presenting to the finance committee for its recommendation of the best option. Relating to the other requests from Trustee Oscar Brown, Mr. Sevier stated that he would provide him with the information.

Trustee Larry Brown commented that at the finance committee meeting, they discovered that there is a reduction in the number of Rangers and Starters at the Golf Club from 45 to 20 and asked if this is feasible.

Manager Sevier responded that after a meeting with Mr. Blockoms, he is following his recommendation that they can manage with the decrease in Starters and Rangers.

Village Manager's Report – continued:

Trustee Oscar Brown asked why the ordinance he presented at the Board Meeting of February 24, 2009 had not been brought back on the agenda.

Village Clerk Dee Jones noted that at the Board Meeting of March 10, 2009, Trustee Oscar Brown apologized for bringing forth the ordinance and stated that he was withdrawing any consideration of that item.

Mayor McCowan asked for clarity on what ordinance Trustee Oscar Brown was referring to and stated that he would have to go through the proper channels, and the ordinance would have to be brought back in the proper format.

Trustee McGuire asked if there was an update from the Consultant regarding the items that were given to him, and if he is following and monitoring the progress of those request. She also asked if there is someone at the Village who can follow and monitor those projects, and what is our next step in pursuing those projects.

E-2: Mayor's Report

Mayor McCowan thanked all candidates who ran for office at the April 7, 2009 Election, and congratulated those who were elected. He also thanked those candidates who were not elected, but had served the Village for many years.

Mayor McCowan reported on a presentation given earlier tonight in a workshop by Mr. John Landis of 2016 Olympic Committee. He shared with the audience that when Chicago wins the bid for the 2016 Olympics, Governors State University in University Park has been selected as the site for the Shooting Events, and requested University Park to become a part of this event by signing an Intergovernmental Commitment Agreement. He noted that the Village of University Park is one of only four communities outside Chicago chosen as a site for the Olympics, therefore officials and residents in University Park must come together to form a Community Committee to begin planning for the 2016 Olympics, because this type of recognition can change the face of this town forever. Mayor McCowan reported that the Village has had four years with reductions in the Village's portion of taxes, which is the lowest in the last twenty years. He thanked Interim Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, the Finance Committee and Department Heads who have helped keep our finances in order.

E-3: Committee & Commission Reports

Trustee Sharon McGuire reported on the Economic Development Workshop held earlier tonight with Matt Cybulski of Will County For Economic Development where the three major areas of discussion centered on Retail Developers' Needs, Community Action, and General Retail Forecast. She expounded on the retail demographic forecast for not only University Park, but for the region, and how developers look at the roof tops, and buying habits in the region.

E-4: Reports Of Other Officers

Parks & Receptions Director Robert Graham reported that Volleyball instructional clinic begins April 22nd and is open to the all 4 – 8 grade school students, the Clinic will be held at Crete-Monee Middle from 6 – 7:30 p.m. for six weeks; Martial Arts Program begins Thursday, April 23rd and continues for five Saturdays. The kick-off day will be held at #90 Town Center Drive, but the remaining Saturday dates will be held at Riegel Farm. This is a family orientated program, so all are welcome to participate.

Parks & Receptions Director Robert Graham continued his report noting that the shopping trip to the Lighthouse Outlet Mall in Michigan City, IN is May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the cost is free, but seats are limited, therefore the deadline to secure your seat is April 24th; and the new Spring & Summer Brochure can be picked up at Village Hall, Riegel Farm, Coretta Scott-King Magnet School, Crete-Monee Middle School, and University Park Library. Additional information is available by contacting the office at (708) 534-6456.

Director of Economic Development Kim Porter reported on the report from Town Builders Studio noting that they are moving forward with plans for the Thorn Creek Development, and the Code Enforcement Department is out surveying the Village with emphasis on residential exteriors conditions and other code violations.

Trustee Covington asked for a status on Governors House Apartments and CityScape Development.

Ms. Porter responded to Trustee Covington and stated that Governors House has twenty-two units occupied and are working on completing the other units, and CityScape is in foreclosure.

Fire Chief Charles Exner reported that applicants are needed for the Fire Department and Police Department. Tuesday May 5th is the deadline for applications. He also noted that applications for Paid-On-Call Fire Fighters are available at Village Hall.

Trustee Larry Brown reported that the Fire & Police Commissioners is accepting applications for Entry Level and Lateral Police Officers.

Village Manager Sevier reported that Public Works is looking for summer help, and noted that the response has been low with University Park residents, and Thursday, April 16th is the deadline for applying for these summer jobs.

Mary Truss asked that employment opportunities are posted in high traffic areas, and not just on message boards..

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

Motion to Table carried.

F-2g: Bills Payable

Trustee Young moved, Trustee McGuire 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 three (3) weeks from March 25, 2009 to April 14, 2009 in the following funds:

General Operation Fund	\$ 240,395.98
Debt Service - Central Bond	\$ 75,061.25
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 21,389.79
Town Center Fund	\$ 2,977.70
University Golf Club	\$ 92,266.65
Capital Project Fund	\$ 12,857.77
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$ 8,814.98
TIF 1 - Town Center Area Fund	\$ 4,500.00
Total	\$ 458,264.10

Trustee Covington referred to check #65778 in the amount of \$6700.00 for pool repairs and asked if this item went out for bid. She also asked if the \$20,000.00 payment to the Auditors was the last payment to them. Public Works Director Jerry Townsend responded that this request for payment is for roof repairs done at the Pool last year, but the Contractor was never paid.

Manager Sevier stated that the finance department never received the bill and the vendor only contacted the village recently, and after an investigation, it was discovered that they had not been paid. Referring to the Auditors, Manager Sevier stated that once they complete the current audit, it is the request of the finance committee to consider other sources for this service.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to table payment to Town Builders Studio. Then withdrew the motion.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion to consider separately payment to Town Builders Studio, check #65875 in the amount of \$25,500.00.

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

Motion to consider separately carried.

Manager Sevier requested the Board's consideration in adding Check #065892, \$25,000.00 payable to Barnes & Thornburg LLP to the Bills Payable List.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion to add Check #065892 in the amount of \$25,000.00, payable to Barnes & Thornburg LLP to the Bills Payable List and consider it separately.

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

Motion to add to Bills Payable and consider item separately carried.

Roll Call on Check #065892 - Barnes & Thornburg LLP,

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Young, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.
Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, Covington, and Larry Brown.
Absent: None.

Motion to approve payment carried.

Bills Payable continued:

Roll Call on Check #65875 Town Builders Studio

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

Motion to approve payment failed to carry.

Roll call on Main Bills Payable Motion as amended to include payment on Check #065892 - Barnes & Thornburg LLP, and to exclude payment of Check #65875 Town Builders Studio

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

Motion to approve Bills Payable carried.

G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Gloria Barnett-Brookins addressed the Board and commented on the enormous amount of political sign throughout the Village during the last two elections, and asked if the Village has a sign ordinance. She suggested that if there is a sign ordinance, it should be enforced, and if not, the Board should consider adopting a sign ordinance. She stated that as a long time resident of this Village, she was embarrassed with the horrible display of signs.

Mr. Robert Travis congratulated all candidates who were elected at the April 7th election and asked to know when the Village Audits for 2003 through 2008 would be completed, and available for public viewing.

Mrs. Mary Truss addressed the Board and asked that job notifications for youth summer jobs be posted at the High School. She thanked all those who attended the League Of Women Voters of Park Forest Areas' University Park Woman of the Year Gala held at the Golf Club on March 28th and invited residents out for Community Networking at the University Park Library the 3rd Saturday of each month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ms. LaVerne Williams asked if the date for submitting applications for summer jobs be extended.

Mr. Milton Lynch asked for information relating to the number of University Park residents who are employed at companies in the Industrial Park. He also stated that over the past few years, his taxes have gone up, while his neighbor's taxes have gone down.

Mayor McCowan suggested that Mr. Lynch bring his tax bill into Village Hall and have Mr. Sevier review it with him, because the Village's portion has been reduced.

Ms. Johnetta Miller of the Rosedale Subdivision addressed the Board and thanked them for the attention given to the streets, and noted that street repairs have begun. She also thanked them for having the grass and weeds cut last year, and commented that the grass and weeds are beginning to grow again and asked that the matter is addressed.

Mr. Ray Jenkins asked if the Board will be looking at organizing an Olympic Committee, and if the third airport project is still a focus issue. Mayor McCowan responded that Governor Quinn has stated that he wants to build the airport in the south suburban area, and plans are moving forward.

Ms. Cynthia Hudson addressed the Board and gave an update of the Boy Scout Troops recent activities. She thanked Mr. Ellis and Mr. Blount for taking the boys on a Hike in Michigan on March 28th and April 4th where they were able to earn Merit Badges. She also invited the public out to Pilgrimage Church on Sunday April 19th at 10:00 a.m. for Boy Scout Sunday, where Mayor McCowan will be the featured speaker

H. BOARD CAUCUS

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 9:42 p.m. to 9:55 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 Mrs. Barnett, Mayor McCowan stated that the concerns relating to signage would be referred to the Code Enforcement Commission for review of the ordinance and then deal with a uniform sign ordinance.

Responding to the concern of Mr. Travis, Manager Sevier stated that Audits for years 2003, 2004, 2005, are complete; 2006 is waiting for Board approval before releasing; 2007 is in house and waiting for auxiliary; and 2008 is 40% complete.

Responding to request for an extension of deadline for applying for summer jobs, Manager Sevier stated that the time would be extended and notices would be sent to the schools and churches. Responding to the question relating to the number of residents employed in Industrial Park TIF Companies, Mr. Sevier stated that less than 1% of the Workforce in Industrial Park TIF Companies are University Park residents, but they are currently looking at each redevelopment agreement and will be addressing that issue; Relating to street repairs in the Rosedale Subdivision, Mr. Sevier stated that the Public Works Department is repairing the streets and billing the Developer for the work.

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS

May 1st is Career Day at Crete-Monee Middle School, those wishing to participate should contact Ms. C at 367-2415.

J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

L. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Young seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:24 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy R. Jones, CMC
Village Clerk