

# The Regular Meeting Minutes Of The Board Of Trustee For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, August 25, 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 8:00 p.m.

## B. ROLL CALL

Mayor:	Alvin R. McCowan	Present
Trustees:	Sharon A. McGuire	Present
	Oscar H. Brown, Jr.	Present
	Vivian E. Covington	Present (Electronically until 8:12)
	Keith J. Griffin, Jr.	Present
	Joseph E. Roudez, III	Absent (arrived @ 8:02)
	Larry B. Brown	Present

Also present were Interim Village Manager/Finance Director David Sevier, Village Attorney Forest Miles, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Director of Information Technology Deryl Bolton, Police Chief Mel Easley, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Fire Chief Chuck Exner, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Village Collector Kellye Kidd, Director of Communications Sherry Williams, Director of Economic Development Kimberly Porter, Director of Parks & Recreations Robert Graham, Golf Pro/General Paul Blockoms, 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 that the Board approves the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

Ayes: Trustees McGuire, Oscar Brown, Covington (electronically,) Griffin, 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 Sevier gave the following report: First of all, I would like to especially thank the Park and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Golf Course and all other departments for their outstanding efforts in assisting Trustee Covington and the Human Services Special Events Committee with the Annual Family Fling on Saturday, August 15, 2009. It was a wonderful day for a wonderful event.

In addition, the Golf Course was very busy this past weekend, they handled a number of events this past week starting with Thursday, the Mayor's Cup, Friday, the Tru-Vine Golf Outing along with the Steppers Set, Saturday, the Mayor's White Party, and a two-day golf tournament held by the Two-setters, we grossed over \$40,000 in revenue over that four day period. But most importantly is that the staff at the Golf Course was exceptional. They were very organized and prepared for every event. This is truly a testament of us moving in the right direction.

We always encourage residents and volunteer to let us know how we as a Village and employees of the Village are doing to meet the needs of the residents. I have received two letters this week, one from a resident and one from an intern that was working within our Parks and Recreation Department.

As we compare ourselves to surrounding communities, we can truly say that we are not experiencing the same issues, such as Tinley Park, where they are experiencing double digit declines in revenues over last year, we the Village of University Park is not experiencing any major short flaws in revenues over last. In fact, we are 27% higher in general fund revenues over this same period last year. Net general fund revenue, revenues minus expenditures, is 64% higher than the previous year. We do caution that we must make sure that we are managing every dollar we receive to ensure that we reach our goal of staying with budgetary limits.

Finally, I have shared with the Board via email earlier today, the process of refunding our bonds. Based on the information provided to them, I am requesting that we move forward with the bond process, so that we can meet the tax levy deadline in December of 2009. The Mayor has requested that a workshop be scheduled to discuss fully past Bond Issues and this current Bond Issue to ensure that the finance committee and the residents are fully informed about what the purpose of this current bond is and how it will be closely monitored to avoid some of the mistakes of the past.

Due to the background noises coming from the location of Trustee Covington, she stated that she would end her electronic attendance of this meeting, but asked if the Board planned to table the budget, because she has concerns that have not been resolved.

## **E-2: Mayor's Report**

### **Swearing In Of Police Officer:**

Accompanied by Mayor McCowan, Trustee Larry Brown, and Police Chief Mel Easley, Village Clerk Dee Jones administered the Oath Of Office to newly hired Police Officer Ustad Jaco. Mayor McCowan welcomed him to the Village.

## **E-3: Committee & Commission Reports**

No verbal reports given.

## **E-4: Reports of Other Officers**

Communications Director Sherry Williams reported that they are taking applications for the next Young Broadcasters Class, and that they also received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant in conjunction with School District 201-U,

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported on the success of the University Park Senior Fun Day and thanked those that attended with special thanks to Trustees Griffin and Oscar Brown, Fire Chief Exner, University Park Fire Fighters, and Police Chief Easley for the monetary contributions.

David Sevier commented on report of Communications Director Sherry Williams, noting that the Village and School District 201-U have been working together on issues to benefit both the school and village and was once again successful in obtaining 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grants for the Young Broadcasters and the Parks & Receptions Department.

## **F. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### ***F-1: UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

**F-1a: Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Adopting the Budget for FY 2009/2010.**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion to approve second and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that he is not of this budget, because it is different from the budget presented at the workshop, and does not reflect the changes recommended by the Board.

**F-1a continued:**

Manager Sevier responded that the only change since the workshop was the inclusion of insurance.

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

Trustee Larry Brown re-stated his earlier position in the budget, and that he is not in favor of this budget, because it is different from the budget presented at the and does not reflect the changes recommended by the Board. He stated that there have not been personnel cuts, but a shifting of individuals, and this will not work, he also stated that inflated salaries must be addressed.

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

**Motion to table failed to carry.**

Trustee McGuire stated that she still have concerns that the large salary bumps received by certain departments heads in 2007-08 had not been reduced in this budget before they received a 2.5% increase. She also commented on her concerns regarding spending, even though the Village of University Park is in the Black, but with a medium income of \$50,000.00 we need to curtail spending and decide whether or not we need certain services, such as a professional Lobbyist, because in her conversation with our State Legislators they stated that the Village would receive millions of dollars for major infrastructure, not necessarily because of what our lobbyist has done, but because of the 2016 Olympics. She stated that she did not intend to diminish the efforts of anyone, but we also need to take a look at the Fire Department's budget and how to control spending, and look at the possibility of a Fire District, where most of the members are paid on call volunteers.

Trustee Griffin stated that his concerns are the same as Trustee Larry Brown, and asked why the Board did not get a complete profit and loss statement for the Golf Course.

Mr. Sevier responded to Trustee Griffin and stated that the report was not prepared by the Village, but a member of the Golf Club Advisory Committee and did not contain the last month figures.

Trustee Roudez stated that the Board needs to stay on course and pass a budget.

Trustee Oscar Brown called the Question.

**F-1A – continued:**

**Roll Call On Main Motion:**

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

**Motion to Approve Failed.**

**F-1b: First, Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of A Resolution For Improvement By Municipality Under The Illinois Highway Code; Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement For Federal Participation With Baxter & Woodman, Inc. To Prepare All Preliminary Engineering (Phase 2) Requirements For The Installation Of Streetscape And Lighting Elements To A Portion Of Cicero Avenue Between Steger Road And University Parkway; And A Local Agency Agreement For Federal Participation**

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

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

**Motion to approve carried**

**Ordinance Number 2009-31.**

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

**F-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Amendment To The Letter Agreement With The Par Group Public Management Consultants, LLC**

Mayor McCowan asked for a table of this item because the consultant working on this project is no longer with the PAR Group, and the Company also wants to change the terms of the Agreement.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this ordinance.

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

**Motion to Table Carried.**

**F-2a continued:**

Trustee Roudez stated that the advertisement for the Manager's position stated that the individual does not have to live in town, and he wants the Village Manager to live in the Village of University Park.

Manager Sevier stated that there is no ordinance that states that the Village Manager can reside outside of town.

Mary Truss stated that this a democracy and the Board should abide by the rules, whatever they are.

**F- 2b: First, Second and Third, Readings – Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement With Loop Capital For Financial Consulting Services In Connection With The Proposed Issuance Of \$6,000,000.00\* Series 2009 General Obligation Bonds [\*Amount Of Issuance Is Subject To Change - These Bonds Are To Be Issued, Among Other Things, To Refinance Existing Debt]**

Village Attorney Forest Miles addressed the Board and stated that this item and item F-2e are being presented tonight to move the process along with the time schedule, and that he would have the Letter Agreement by the next Board Meeting. However, if the Board was not comfortable a table of these items would be appropriate.

The Board discussed the need for a workshop on these items prior to taking any further action, and that a table would be in order.

**Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this agenda item.**

**Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the motion of Trustee Larry Brown to include a table of items F-2b and**

**F-2e: Resolution Authorizing The Retention Of Bond And Disclosure Counsel In Connection With The Proposed Issuance Of \$6,000,000.00\* Series 2009 General Obligation Bonds [\*Amount Of Issuance Is Subject To Change - These Bonds Are To Be Issued, Among Other Things, To Refinance Existing Debt]**

Village Treasurer James Ellis stated that the finance committee wants an audit on the TIF's and a workshop with the Board.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Trustee Covington.

**Motion to Table Items F-2b and F-2e Carried.**

***F-2c:           Resolution Accepting The 2007 Audit***

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee McGuire seconded a motion that the Board approves this resolution.

The Board discussed the need for a workshop for clarity on this audit report.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves a table of this item.

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

**Motion to Table Carried.**

***F-2d:           Resolution Approving The Expenditure of MFT Funds For Road Salt***

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

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if this would be enough salt for next winter, and asked how this supply compares with purchases last year.

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend responded that this is basically the same amount as order last winter, and he does not believe that we will run out, but amount used is based on the severity of the winter.

Trustee Griffin asked if we could legally purchase without an approved Appropriation Ordinance.

Village Attorney Forest Miles responded that the Village does not use the appropriation ordinance, but uses the budget process, and budget ordinances can be amended.

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

***Motion to approve carried***

***Resolution Number 2009-28.***

**F-2f: 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 August 11, 2009 to August 25, 2009 in the following funds:

General Operation Fund	\$ 245,025.96
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 17,134.85
Towncenter Fund	\$ 639.31
University Golf Club	\$ 72,492.25
Capital Project Fund	\$ 18,294.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 353,586.86</b>

Trustee Griffin referred to page 1 and asked for clarity on check #67152 to Barnes & Thornburg, LLP.

Manager Sevier responded that this payment is for the Month of July, and noted that the payment for June was tabled at the last meeting.

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

**Motion to Approve Carried.**

## **G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Mary Truss addressed the Board and stated that she is for Open and Honest Government, Of the People, By the People and For the People. She commended the Mayor on his White Party and stated that it was great, and asked the Mayor if he could get the same type of team together to do other types of things for the Village such as Family Fling. She stated that seniors and youth did not have rides to attend Family Fling, and noted her concern that the Code Enforcement Commission is not meeting.

Ms. Sandra Heard commented on her involvement in the budget process and stated that this budget has increased, not decreased as discussed at the workshop, and she stated that she does not feel that there is justification for the Lobbyist; that salaries were not reduced; and asked Mayor McCowan what three mistakes was he referring to that Manager Sevier has made during his tenure as Interim Manager.

Mrs. Marilyn Crockett addressed the Board and thanked Trustee McGuire for her comments regarding fiscal responsibility and commented on the high taxes residents are paying in University Park, and asked why the salaries can't stay the same as last year, especially during these economic times. She also stated that she hopes we have enough salt for this winter to keep our roads clear and safe.

**General Comments continued:**

Mr. Robert Travis commented that he hopes some type of ordinance is enacted to prevent the type of situation as we are now experiencing with this budget. He stated that a review of the profit and loss for the Golf Club shows over a \$600,000.00 loss, and commented on the Cicero Avenue Project, and asked if the Village could do an aerial shot of the Village and have it digitalized.

Mr. Anthony Stevens – 100 Men Organization addressed the Board and invited everyone out this Saturday to the University Golf Club & Conference Center for their monthly meeting where the featured speaker will be Judge Carl McCormick.

Ms. Chere'se Williams thanked the Mayor for two fantastic events this past week, and voiced her concern that the Board pulled payment for the Lobbyist at the last meeting for work that had already been done, stating that she feels that the action of the Board equates to theft of service, or fraud. She asked why there is so much fighting among Board members and when will the Board become cohesive and take care of village business. She requested that each member of the Board explain their un-professional attitudes exhibited at the Board meetings.

Mrs. Gloria Barnett-Brookins addressed the Board and thanked Public Works for cutting the grass in her area and asked Trustee Roudez why does he feel that a profit and loss statement prepared for the Golf Club, not be made available to the general public; she asked Attorney Miles why would he state that the Village of University Park uses a budget system and not the appropriation Ordinance when our Village Ordinance states that we must pass an appropriation ordinance. She commented on the appearance of the village, and the lack of code enforcement, noting that it is not like it was when she raised her children here, and stated that she wants to volunteer her time with the Code Enforcement Commission, if it would help, because appearance is a vital part of this community.

Mr. Steven Allen addressed the Board and commented that the Board must put their differences behind them and work together for the community.

## **H. BOARD CAUCUS**

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 9:25 pm to 9:34 pm to allow the Board to caucus.

Trustee Larry Brown left the Board Meeting at 9:27 p.m. and was absent thereafter.

Mayor McCowan reconvened the Board meeting and the following responses were given to concerns raised by residents under general comments:

Responding to Mrs. Truss, Mayor McCowan stated that the team responsible for the Mayor's Cup and the White Party is not a village sponsored group, but they are volunteers who give their time and are willing to follow leadership to get the job done, and that he appreciates the support of the employees at the Golf Club; relating to her concern about Family Fling he stated that the Board would defer that to Trustee Covington for a response when she returns.

Responding to Mrs. Brookins and Mrs. Truss, Trustee Roudez stated that not enough voting members have been attending to establish a quorum. He also clarified his statement relating to public access to a profit & loss statement for the Golf Club, and stated that his comment was misunderstood, because it is a public document, however, he felt that the Board should have had an opportunity to review it before it was made available to the public.

Mayor McCowan stated that he will appoint residents to committees and commissions who are team players, and those interested should contact Johnna at his office; responding to Ms. Heard he stated that the only increases were detailed and noted.

Manager Sevier responded to concerns related to the budget and stated that budget presented at the workshop has not changed except to incorporate the concerns directed by the Board; He also stated that no bonds have been delegated to any particular entity; that the Consultant has had an impact on the funding that we are now allocated, and referred to report last given by Mr. Boykin. He also stated that fund 220 shows the \$600,000.00 deficit and is recorded.

Responding to Mrs. Crockett regarding fiscal responsibility, Mayor McCowan stated that the Board needs to pass a budget, and that he is not clear on what is actually wanted, because the issues from the workshop have been addressed, but some members are constantly changing their minds. And as for establishing a fire protection district they should be very careful, because with a fire protection district, you do not know how far the individuals come from and the level of training.

Village Attorney Forest Miles responded to Trustee Griffin and Mrs. Brookins and stated the Village of University Park adopted the budget system, as opposed to an appropriation ordinance, which is allowed by State Statue. He also stated that adoption of budget is not necessary to expend funds, especially those coming from Motor Fuel Taxes, and the cost for the salt comes out of MFT Funds. However, he is confident that the Village will pass the budget shortly.

Responding to Mr. Travis, Manager Sevier stated that the Village does have an aerial shot of the village that was done by Town Builders Studios at no cost to the Village; however it is not in a digitalized format.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to Ms. Williams regarding dissention among the Board and stated that when members of the Board do not agree they debate. However, he feels that they could be more respectful in their tone; regarding her assertion of fraud or theft of service to Barnes & Thornburg he stated that he feels the Lobbyist should be paid for his services.

Manager Sevier responded to Mrs. Brookins regarding comparing University Park to another community stating that we must adopt our own identity as a Village.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:25 p.m.

***Motion to Adjourn Carried By Voice Vote.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk