

# **Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustee For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, February 8, 2011 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 8:07 pm, and noted that Trustee McGuire had a business commitment and had requested to attend the meeting electronically. Mayor McCowan asked if there were any objections to the request of Trustee McGuire. With no objections noted, Village Clerk Dee Jones connected to Trustee McGuire by telephone.

## **B. ROLL CALL**

Mayor:	Alvin R. McCowan	Present
Trustees:	Sharon A. McGuire	Present (Electronically)
	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, Village Treasurer James Ellis, Executive Liaison Johnna Townsend, Fire Chief Charles Exner, Deputy Police Chief Gregory Box, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Golf Club General Manager Paul Blockoms, Economic & Community Development Director Kimberly Porter, Cable Studio Manager Christel Allen, 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 Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held Tuesday, January 25, 2011 as presented.

**D. Reading Of Minutes – continued:**

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

**E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**E-1: Village Manager's Report**

Village Manager Sevier commended and thanked all of our Public Works Department employees, Fire Department Personal and Police Department Personal for the effort and time put in during, and after the snow storm. Noting that the Public Works Director designated trucks to assist the fire and police departments to get to calls by going ahead of them plowing the snow. He also thanked members of the Board, and all other employees of the Village of University Park for their assistance during the crisis.

Trustee Roudez commented that perhaps the Manager can begin working on an agreement with our local contractors for emergency services prior to winter.

Trustee Covington commented on her e-mail asking that our local landscaping contractors be contacted to assist in the snow removal. She referenced pictures she received from a resident depicting conditions of her street with massive amounts of snow; she asked to know why the parking lot at the Golf Club was plowed before village streets.

Village Manager Sevier responded to Trustee Covington, stating that there were attempts to acquire assistance from our local landscapers, but they were already employed; referring to the delay in plowing in certain areas, he stated that Public Works employees did the best job they could under the circumstances with only four snow removal vehicles, and two of the trucks had to be taken out of service and repaired, due to excessive usage. This left only two snow removal trucks at times, plus our employees helped clear portions of roads that are under the jurisdiction of Will County so our residents could get through; relating to the snow removal at the golf club, he stated that that was done by an employee who used his personal vehicle, at no cost to the village to remove the snow, and keep it accessible.

Trustee Griffin asked Manager Sevier what happens to a Department Head who is disrespectful to residents; will they be dealt with, because he has a problem with the attitude of Mr. Townsend. He also asked why the Public Works Director was home at 3:00 in the afternoon on Wednesday during the blizzard, and not out clearing the streets.

**Village Manager's Report continued:**

Mayor McCowan asked Trustee Griffin to refrain from discussing personnel matters in a public forum.

Trustee McGuire asked if our public works department had to do plowing for Will County, and if so, would the Village of University Park be reimbursed. She stated that most of County equipment in this area was in Monee, with no consideration given to us during the storm.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if the Village of University Park would be reimbursed from Will County for the cost of snow removal and salt.

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

Mayor McCowan stated that he traveled through several communities during and after the aftermath of the snow storm, and finds that University Park was not in bad shape. He asked everyone to keep in mind that this snow storm was the third worst in the history, and asked Board members and residents to stop personal attacks on department heads. He commended all staff for their efforts during this bad snow storm.

Mayor McCowan stated that he will start giving Village final updates on projects that he has been working on to keep moving this community forward; He gave an update on the third airport project, noting that ALNAC is working on ways to move the project forward and get Governor Quinn to move on releasing the funds to purchase the remainder of the land. He stated that that there is close to three million dollars invested in this project, and that University Park has a key role in this airport project and is positioned to receive economic benefits for the community. Therefore, it is prevalent that University Park stays at the table with the State and Federal Governments until this airport issue is resolved.

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

No verbal reports given.

**E-4: Reports Of Other Officers**

Director Townsend thanked all employees of the public works department for the fantastic job that they did during the blizzard, and reported that the employees assisted the fire and police departments with snow removal so they could get to residents during emergency situations.

Cable Studio Manager Christel Allen reported that basic production classes would begin March 5, 2011.

**Reports Of Other Officers – continued:**

Parks & Recreations Director Childress reported that the Parent & Child Dance would be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the University Golf Club & Conference Center from 7 – 10:00 pm.; Second District Wide Skate Party would be held March 15, 2011 at Rich City Skate, Richton Park from 1:45 – 4:30 pm for grades 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>. Additional information is available by contacting Greg Murray @ 534-6456; Four Winds Casino Resort trip is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011, departing @ 9:30 and 10:00 am. Additional information is available by contacting Nai Neva Jenkins @ 534-6456.

Fire Chief Charles Exner reported that the Fire Department was doubled staffed during the snow storm & blizzard, and he thanked members of his department for their dedication and work in emergency situations. He highly commended Public Works Director Jerry Townsend and his staff for the assistance they provided the fire department during the storm. He also reported that fire department personnel were out on Monday digging out fire hydrants, and asked residents to please dig out fire hydrants when they remove their snow. If the residents cannot dig the fire hydrants out, he asked that they please call the fire department at 235-4833.

**F. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

None listed for this agenda.

**F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

***F-2a: First, Second and Third Readings – Ordinance Readings -  
Ordinance Renewing The Appointment Of The Village's  
Representatives To The Board Of Commissioners Of The Abraham  
Lincoln National Airport Commission***

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

Trustee Covington stated that she thought that the original agreement designated the Mayor as the representative from the Village. She also stated that she wants an update on what is going on with ALNAC.

Attorney Forest Miles responded that the village representative does not have to be the Mayor, or even an elected official. However, Mayor McCowan has been involved in this organization since the inception, is Chairman, and the Major Investors and Municipalities invested in this project really want him to remain on this Commission.

**F-2a: continued:**

Trustee Larry Brown stated that since this commission is not a village function, he does not feel action should be taken as an ordinance, with no expiration on terms. He also stated that he would feel better if Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood was on board with this project, and noted that the commission had not been holding regular meetings.

Attorney Forest Miles commented that this Commission is comprised of approximately twenty-eight municipalities, and the original Intergovernmental agreement did not list term limits. However, since Mayor McCowan will not be Mayor after his term expires, the commission felt it necessary to appoint him as the official representative to ALNAC.

Mayor McCowan referred to statement made by Trustee Larry Brown regarding the position of the Secretary of Transportation, and stated that he does not know where Trustee Brown got his information, because since the statement made by Mr. LaHood, in November, he has basically retracted that position, and IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) has presented to Governor Quinn a list of four priority projects, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Airport is high on that list along with High Speed Rail; I-57 Stuenkel Road Interchange; and the Illiana Tollway. He also reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> airport plan was submitted to the FAA last week.

Trustee McGuire asked her fellow Trustees if they are opposed to University Park as part of this important Commission, or, if they were opposed to the appointments of Mayor McCowan and Trustee Oscar Brown.

Trustee Larry Brown responded that his concern is the need for the action to be in ordinance form.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion**

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

Ayes: Trustees Covington, Griffin, and Larry Brown.

Nays: Trustees McGuire (electronically), Oscar Brown, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.

Absent: None.

**Motion to Table Failed to Carry.**

**Roll Call On Main Motion**

Ayes: Trustees McGuire (electronically), Oscar Brown, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.

Nays: Trustees Covington, Griffin, and Larry Brown.

**Motion To Approve Carried**

**Ordinance Number O2011 – 03.**

**F-2b: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Chapter 220, Section 220-02  
Of The Codified Ordinances Relating To The Process For Selecting  
And Appointing A Village Manager**

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

Trustee Roudez asked for clarity on why this item was being presented for approval.

Trustee Griffin responded that he has been trying to get a new Village Manager since his election nearly two years ago, and two years is too long to do anything.

Trustee McGuire commented that she agrees that the process should not take as long as it has, and asked Attorney Miles if the Village of University Park could be penalized if this ordinance is approved and the Board was unable to finalize the process within four months. She also asked if anyone had done any research on the length of time it normally takes to hire a Village Manager.

Attorney Miles responded to Trustee McGuire stated that we could possibly be in violation of our ordinance and subject to actions from the Office of the Attorney General. However, this is presented for first reading tonight so the Board could have an opportunity to tweak it and make suggested changes to comply with the request of Trustee Griffin.

Trustee Oscar Brown commented that he feels that the problem was with the process, that the process needs to be refined.

Trustee Larry Brown stated that if the process is not completed within four months, the Board has the authority to extend the time line or amend the ordinance if the need arises.

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried.***

**F-2c: First, Second, and Third Readings - Ordinance Authorizing The  
Execution Of An Agreement For Land Appraisal Services In  
Connection With Proposed Improvements To University  
Parkway Between Central And Crawford Avenues**

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

**F-2c - continued:**

Attorney Forest Miles commented that the Land Appraiser he had contacted had not yet been approved on the IDOT list of contractors. The paperwork has been submitted. Therefore, the Board might want to consider first reading only tonight.

Trustee Covington stated that she wants to see competitive rates from other Appraisers.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if the Village of University Park would have to pay for these services.

Attorney Forest Miles responded that the Village would be reimbursed by IDOT.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the main motion and entertain first reading only tonight.

A discussion ensued by the Board relating to whether or not to approve this ordinance conditioned on the approval by IDOT for the Land Appraiser.

**Motion To Amend Secondary Motion:**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the secondary motion and approve first, second, and third readings of this ordinance as amended in Paragraph 1 to read "subject to the approval by IDOT for the Land Appraiser".

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried***

***Ordinance Number O2011 – 04.***

**F-2d: *Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of Standard Agreement Provisions With The Illinois Department Of Transportation [Joint Improvement Projects Off The State Highway System/Joint Improvement Projects On The State Highway System]***

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

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried***

***Resolution Number R2011 – 04.***

**F-2e: Resolution In Support Of A Signage Change At The University Park METRA Station To Include A Reference To Governors State University**

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

Trustee Larry Brown asked to know what Governors State University is requesting, and if the Village of University Park will pay for these changes.

Attorney Miles responded that GSU is requesting that the signage at the METRA Station at University Park read: "University Park/Governors State University"; Relating to who pays the cost for the signage change, he stated that he feels GSU should pay. However, he will check into the matter.

Trustee Covington asked what other benefits would the Village of University Park receive, other than fostering a relationship, and asked to know why GSU wants to change the name.

Village Manager Sevier and Attorney Miles responded stating that fostering a relationship with GSU is a good thing, because we certainly need them with the road widening project, and to be good neighbors. Additionally, it is to our advantage to show that Governors State University is in the Village of University Park.

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

***Motion to Approve Carried***

***Resolution Number R2011 - 05.***

**F-2f: Appointments – Golf Club Advisory Committee Of Mr. Robert Travis, Mr. Pete Gordon, Mr. Al Christian And Ms. Kari Boykin; And To The Parks & Recreation Committee - Ms. Kari Boykin.**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves the appointments of Mr. Robert Travis, Mr. Pete Gordon, Mr. Al Christian and Ms. Kari Boykin to the Golf Club Advisory Committee, and the appointment of Ms. Kari Boykin to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Trustee Griffin noted that the terms listed were for four year terms, and asked if those terms were correct.

It was noted that the terms should be for three (3) years, and would be corrected to reflect the correct length of terms.

Trustee Covington asked if the names she submitted would ever be considered.



**F-2f – continued:**

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

***Motion to Approve Carried With Correction To Length Of Terms.***

**G-2g: Bills Payable**

Trustee Oscar Brown 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 last two (2) weeks from January 26, 2011 to February 8, 2011. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 183,423.46
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 38,754.98
Town Center Operations	\$ 35.88
University Golf Club	\$ 53,911.64
Capital Project Fund	\$ <u>8,028.61</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$284,154.57</b>

Trustee Covington stated that looking at salaries for employees in certain areas leads her to wonder if we have ghost employees. She voiced her concern with the contract with Barnes & Thornburg and the request for payment of check number 72340.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked for clarity on what would happen if the village decided not to pay any bills.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion**

Trustee Covington moved, Trustee Griffin seconded a motion that the Board approves to consider separately check # 72340 payable to Barnes & Thornburg.

Ayes: Trustees Covington, Griffin, and Larry Brown.  
Nays: Trustees McGuire (electronically), Oscar Brown, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan.  
Absent: None.

***Motion Failed To Carry For Approval.***

**Roll Call On Main Bills Payable Motion:**

Ayes: Trustees McGuire (electronically), Oscar Brown, Roudez, and Mayor McCowan  
Nays: Trustees Covington, Griffin and Larry Brown.  
Absent: None.

***Motion to Approve Carried.***

**G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor McCowan informed the public that political comments were inappropriate and would not be allowed under public comments.

Ms. Patti Guinn, Thornwood House Tenant Association President, thanked Trustees Larry Brown and Griffin for checking on tenants at Thornwood House during the storm, and the Fire Department for their assistance during the power outage.

Ms. Elizabeth Williams, TROHA President, referred to comments made at a previous meeting relating to putting crime statistics in the Police Blotter in the newspaper, and stated that she does not feel that it is a good idea to highlight just crime in the village.

Mr. James Bell offered congratulations to Trustee Roudez for his appointment of Vice-President for Illinois with the National League of Cities.

Ms. Tracy Duckworth addressed the Board and invited residents to come to the Library and use the new equipment that is now available. She stated that they have ten new computers available to resident at no cost, but individuals must have a valid Library Card. She also thanked Trustee Covington and IT Director Bolton for their assistance in working with them on the new electronic equipment.

Ms. Drueada Henry addressed the Chair and Board and commented on the college tour with the Peer Leaders, and asked if any scholarships are available for underprivileged kids, and if Ms. Childress had done any collaboration with the schools; asked if the \$130,000.00 building permit fees received from Thornwood House could be used by home owners for repairs; she asked for information on the accomplishments of Barnes & Thornburg; and if a date for a TIF workshop had been scheduled.

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor commented that she thanks Mayor McCowan for his comments relating to Board members and residents being respectful of each other; she commented on the assistance that the Township Assessor's office is giving to seniors, and discussed the process for seniors to receive assistance with the Senior Freeze Program from the Township and Will County; extended thanks to Trustees Larry Brown and Griffin, and the Public Works Department for their efforts in the snow removal; and voiced her concerns with the Lobbyist and Land Appraiser.

**General Public Comments Continued:**

Mrs. Mary Truss, LWVPFA President, addressed the Chair and Board of Trustees and announced that the League of Women Voters of the Park Forest Area would be hosting candidates forums for Village and District 201-U School Board Candidates here at #90 Town Center Drive on February 19, 2011 from 10am – 1pm for Trustee Candidates, and from 2 – 4 pm for Mayoral candidates. On February 26, 2011 from 10 – 11 am for Village Clerk candidates, and the 201-U School Board Candidates forum begins at 12 noon. She also stated that as League President she does not advocate for or against any candidate, but delivers the message of the importance of involvement in the political process.

## **H. BOARD CAUCUS**

Mayor McCowan suspended the meeting from 10:00 p.m. to 10:03 p.m. to allow the Board to caucus.

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

Village Manager Sevier responded to Ms. Henry relating to scholarships and funds for the underprivileged noting that the Village sends out donation letters and the Village has scholarship funds that are available for those who apply and meet the criteria.

Trustee Oscar Brown responded to concerns relating to Barnes & Thornburg, stating that initially the Board presented them with four projects, and they have delivered on moving two forward, and are still working on the remaining items. However, we could not have done any of these major projects without them.

Mayor McCowan responded to scheduling TIF Workshops, and stated that in the next couple of months he will be holding workshops on village projects, and will include TIF Workshops in those meeting, he noted that Attorney Miles would be at those workshops.

Attorney Miles responded to concerns relating to the urgency for approving the Land Appraiser stating that the Bid must be submitted by September, 2011, and the Village of University Park has to acquire approximately two miles of land for the roadway expansion prior to that date.

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

## **J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS**

**\*\*Note\*** Trustee McGuire disconnected from the phone after her comments at approximately 10:15 pm, and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 10:58 p.m.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk*

*/drj.*