

# **Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees For The Village Of University Park, Will And Cook Counties Illinois, Held Tuesday, December 13, 2011 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 7:03 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, Golf Club General Manager/PGA Paul Blockoms, Parks & Recreation Director Keely Childress, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios, Finance Director Gloria Gibson, Cable Studio Manager Eddie Pearson, Public Works Director Jerry Townsend, 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 Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Payton seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of November 8, 2011 as presented.

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

***Motion Carried to Approve.***

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

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves minutes of November 22, 2011 as presented.

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

***Motion Carried to Approve.***

**E. NON-DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

Village Manager Lafayette Linear reported that he continues to meet with Mayor Covington, Attorney Tomic, and Finance Director Gibson every other Friday to review the TIF Agreements, and noted that they are working diligently to bring them all into compliance. He also reported that they have been working with the attorney for Solo Cup to bring them up to date with TIF Payments, and on the agenda tonight is a request for approval for a payment that would do so; Exercise equipment has been setup in #34 Town Center for the Kids Health Zone; There are job openings for two accountants in the finance department and a foreman position in the public works department.

Trustee Roudez commented that he would like to see a resolution that designates #34 as the location for the Kids Health Zone; and commented on inquiries relating to vacant land just east of Village Hall as retail development.

Manager Linear responded that the Plan Commission is looking at that location and indicated the desire to make that property mixed use.

Trustee Griffin asked for a status report on the conditions of the washrooms at public works; asked if vehicles are ready for winter weather.

Public Works Director Townsend responded that they are in the process of repairing the washrooms, and that all vehicles and equipments are ready for winter.

Trustee Larry Brown asked if all facilities have been winterized and properly closed.

Public Works Director Townsend responded that this process has been a joint effort with the Parks & Recreation Department.

Parks & Recreation Director Childress responded that Aqua Pure properly closed the pool, and that Pine Lake has also been properly closed.

Trustee Williams asked if the Village of University Park has been signed up as a member of the National League of Cities.

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

Mayor Covington reported on the numerous meetings and events she has attended with various board members and staff since the last meeting, including a memorial ceremony for the late First Lady of Chicago Maggie Daly, and commented on the presence of representatives from PACE Bus company who were present earlier today with one of the buses that is coming to University Park in the near future.

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

Trustee Williams thanked Mayor Covington and the Board for allowing her to attend the National League of Cities in Phoenix, Arizona, where she focused on Leadership, and Water solutions. She expounded on the success of a town in Arizona that turned an Ice Skating Rink into a multi-use facility that resulted in a very profitable business venture without additional tax burden on residents, and stated that she would like to bring such a venture to the Village of University Park, because she believes that this is the type of amenity that will make people come to this village.

Trustee Oscar Brown reported on the proposed rate increase of Aqua Water Company and the upcoming hearing before the Commerce Commission. He noted that Attorney Forest Miles had filed requests for a Public Hearing in or near University Park, but the closest location approved by the commerce commission is 160 N. LaSalle on December 16, 2011, and that he would be attending that hearing representing the interest of the residents of the Village of University Park.

Trustee Payton reported on the tremendous success of the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting hosted by the Human Services & Special Events Committee (HSSEC Committee), and thanked Mayor Covington for her energetic and inspiring leadership, Public Works Department for the excellent work they did in decorating the area, Robert Travis for filling for Chair Gaston, while she attended her husband, Patti Guinn for the extra work she did to make it a success, and all individuals who assisted in the success of the event, he noted that the contributors were too many to name. He also reported that they are planning a Family Fun Day "Don't Sit, Get Fit" that will be held on Martin Luther King's Day, January 16, 2012 at #90 Town Center Drive, following the King Celebration at GSU. He stated that Dr. Robin Washington of GSU would be hosting a study on childhood obesity and working with our kids on how to stay fit. Trustee Payton indicated that January 16<sup>th</sup> would be the kick-off date for the Kids Activity Center.

Trustee Payton reported that the Finance Committee selected Mr. Art King as Chair of that committee, and thanked Finance Director Gibson for the excellent presentation that she made at the finance committee meeting where she explained the tax levy process, and noted that the finance committee would be changing the meeting dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, with the exception of January 16, 2012.

Trustee Larry Brown reported on the meeting of the Public Safety Committee noting that they discussed safety concerns in the village, and installing new cameras in the Parks and in other areas. He reported that Mr. Roosevelt Martin was selected Chair of that committee.

Clerk Dee Jones reported on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Golf Club Advisory Committee noting that emphasis was placed on financial condition, how to better market the golf club, and the need for some capital improvement on the course, especially as it relates to the drainage problems.

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

Public Works Director Jerry Townsend reported on a joint effort between the Village of University Park, the Village of Monee and Will County Highway Department to erect a traffic signal at Monee/Manhattan Road where the Village's would pay 25/25% and Will County would pay 50% of the construction cost, with both villages splitting maintenance cost at 50/50. He also reported on University Parkway road widening project, and noted that we have received the technical letter for approval, and that the project would be broken out in phases, beginning Fall 2012.

Trustee Williams asked if the Village still have the funds allocated to widen University Parkway, and asked if we lost the money to complete the widen of Cicero Avenue. .

Manager Linear responded that the funds are available through CMAP, and would be dispersed as needed. However, the Village has not lost any funding.

Cable Studio Manage Pearson reported that the Board's Holiday Greeting would run beginning this weekend; the Commission toured the GSU Cable Studio; Policy & Procedure for the Cable Studio will be presented at the second meeting in January, and he is looking at programs to expand the cable program.

Parks & Recreation Director Childress reported on the acquisition of two new Ponies that were donated by Schmidt Farms, and thanked them for the donation; She reported that Line Dancing would resume on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and thanked the Fire Department for conducting the CPR Training for her staff.

Golf Club Manager Blockoms reported on the difficult with drainage at the golf course, and the steps he and his staff is taking to help alleviate some of those problems; he reported on the lack of sales and plans to close the facility on certain days during the winter months.

Executive Liaison Townsend reported on HB1224 that Senator Hutchinson is sponsoring and has requested support from Village officials; School District 227 has a Student Initiative Council, and Mayor Covington has been asked to sit on that Council and also participate in that initiative that includes being Principal for a Day.

Police Chief Melvin Davis wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Deputy Fire Chief Brian Chellios reported that the fire department responded to 83 calls for service which included one incident of fire on Blackhawk Drive where minor damage to the structure was done. He also cautioned everyone to use caution when frying turkeys and with Christmas decorations. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Village Treasurer Dilworth apologized for the time mix-up for the last finance committee meeting, and noted that the committee would be meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month hereafter.

Finance Director Gloria Gibson reported on the tax levy process, and that she and Treasurer Dilworth are working with Department Heads in the budget process preparation.

Mayor Covington stated that the last finance committee meeting was the best one she has attended in a long time, where questions were asked and properly answered. She thanked Santa and Mrs. Claus for their participation in the tree lighting festivities.

Village Clerk Dee Jones reported that on December 12<sup>th</sup> Lona Jakaitis, Assistant Chief Deputy of the Will County Clerk's Office was at her office and trained and certified four new Deputy Registrars for the Village thereby making it more convenient for residents to register to vote. They also trained staff in the Clerk's office on the mechanics and process for the newly installed electronic voting equipment that will go into effect with the Early Voting for General Primary in March, 2012.

## **F. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

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

None on agenda.

### **F-2: NEW BUSINESS**

***F-2a: First, Second, and Third Readings - An Ordinance Levying Taxes For The Fiscal Year Commencing On The First Day Of May 2012 And Ending On The Thirtieth Day Of April 2013***

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

Trustee Griffin referred to the finance committee meeting and the reference of three different scenarios that included a 0%, a 2.5% and a 4.9% increase, and asked Manager Linear why he presented the 4.9% increase in the tax levy.

**F-2a: continued:**

Manager Linear responded that a 0% would represent a budget same as last year, with no increase to deal with some automatic union dictated increases, and other expenses.

Trustee Payton explained that to capture new growth we need to levy for more than we did last year. He explained the levy process and how the County determines the EAV, and that according to calculations of the Village Manager, the increase would be an average of \$6.36 per month, per household.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the main motion and approve the tax levy with a 0% increase.

Manager Linear explained that if there is no increase in the tax levy, the possibility of reduction in village services is likely.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked if a 0% tax levy would cover contractual cost. Manager Linear responded that with less than a 2.5% increase our fund balance would decrease, and we may not be able to fund certain contractual obligations.

Finance Director Gibson commented that the most recent Audit will show loss in the fund balance of approximately two million dollars, and she explained the necessity for an increase in the tax levy.

Village Attorney Tomic commented that union contracts have been passed with increases in salaries that we must pay, and without an increase in the tax levy, we may have to cut personnel and cut spending.

Trustee Roudez asked if this tax levy would be an additional tax burden on residents.

Trustee Griffin withdrew his motion.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Larry Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the main motion and approve to table this item to Saturday morning, December 17, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

Trustee Roudez stated that he feels a workshop should be held prior to approving this tax levy.

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

Nays: Trustees Oscar Brown, and Griffin.

Absent: None.

***Motion to Table Carried.***

**F-2b: Motion Acknowledging Receipt of the Treasurer's Report**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Larry Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves this motion acknowledging receipt of the treasurer's report.

Mayor Covington commented that she has a problem with part-time employees making \$20,000.00 in two months.

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

**Motion Carried to Approve.**

**F-2c: Resolution Approving Will-center Road Storm Sewer Outfall Contractor Payout Request #4.**

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

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

**Motion Carried to Approve Resolution Number R2011 – 30.**

**F-2d: 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 Payton seconded a motion that the Board approves first, second and third readings of this ordinance.

Trustee Griffin commented that originally, the gentleman stated that he would do this for free.

**Motion To Amend Main Motion:**

Trustee Griffin moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the main motion and approve to reduce the term of the contract to three months.

**F-2d: continued:**

Trustee Payton explained the training program, and the necessity for this trained consultant.

Trustee Oscar Brown asked to know the number of hours training is anticipated. Trustee Payton responded that since this is unchartered territory it is not certain, but the contract is limited to a six month term. He also commented that we would be working on programs addressing obesity with our children during their childhood years.

Trustee Griffin withdrew his motion to amend the main motion.

Trustee Oscar Brown moved, Trustee Roudez seconded a motion that the Board approves to amend the main motion and approve a motion to strike and replace the contract under payment for services to read: a) Strike and replace \$85.00 with \$50.00; and b) Strike and replace \$5,000.00 with \$3,000.00

Trustee Payton attempted to break out the cost at \$85.00 per hour for up to six month, not to exceed five thousand dollars, and noted that that is not much for the services that we need.

Trustee Oscar Brown stated that he feels that we are being overcharged. Additionally, he stated that what he attempted to do in his motion is considered a counter proposal or counter offer.

**Roll Call On Amended Motion:**

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

**Motion Failed to Carry.**

**Roll Call On Main Motion:**

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

**Motion To Approve Ended with a Tie vote.**

**F-2e: First, Second and Third Readings - Ordinance Accepting The Bid By Terry Ford For A 2011 - 12 Ford F-250 Truck With V-Box Salt Spreader For The Public Works Department**

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

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

***Motion Carried to Approve Ordinance Number O2011 – 31.***

***F-2f: Motion To Approve Renewal Of The University Golf Club & Conference Center Package Policy with Cincinnati Insurance Company. for 2012***

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

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

***Motion Carried to Approve.***

***F-2g: 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 from November 23, 2011 to December 13, 2011. The following funds will be charged for these expenses:

General Operation Fund	\$ 185,256.07
Road & Bridge	\$ 25,937.61
Towncenter Operations	\$ 1,455.98
University Golf Club	\$ 53,431.76
Motor Fuel Tax	\$ 15,643.80
TIF V	<u>\$2,580,096.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,861,821.22</u></b>

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

***Motion To Approve Carried.***

## **G. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Trustee Payton left the meeting at 9:02 p.m. and did not return.

Robert Travis commented that he disagrees that a 4.9% increase in the tax levy would average out to approximately \$6.00 per month increase in residential tax burden.

Mr. Ron Taylor, Chair of the Economic Development Commission expounded on a meeting he attended at Ingalls Hospital relating to a proposal for a new hospital to be built in conjunction with Governors State University, Ingalls Hospital and the Village of University Park. He noted that there is approximately \$500,000.00 available for infrastructure fees available for healthcare construction.

Ms. Carolyn Prince commented on the great Christmas Party.

Ms. Lisa Daniels commented on the great Christmas Party, and asked if the proposed renovations at GSU would be done with Union Workers, and how would she apply for one of the construction jobs.

Ms. Debbie Stroud complimented the HSSEC Committee and Mayor Covington for the fantastic Veterans Day Observance; Thanked the Concerned Golfers of University Golf Club for the Thanksgiving Food Basket Give-a-way, and asked that we reflect on 2011, as we plan for 2012.

Ms. Sandra Heard, Monee Township Assessor invited the public out to their Open House at #46 Town Center Drive from 9:00 a.m. until noon on December 19th. Additional information is available by calling the office at 534-6023; She commented on the increase in the number of appeals from industrial park businesses, and stated that in the past, usually they had legal assistance from the Village of University Park; Relating to the Kids Health Club, she asked if the training would be for the Trainers or for the kids.

Mrs. Marilyn Crockett commented that she wants the best for our village, but wants us to look at benefits during negotiations and the possibility of cuts in personnel benefits.

## **H. BOARD CAUCUS**

Mayor Covington suspended the meeting from 9:12 to 9:22 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 a concern that his comment on the average amount of tax increase to individual homeowners was an estimate, and the tax increase would depend on the value of the home, with different value and increase amounts. Relating to the Kids Health Club, he stated that the training would be for the Trainers who would be working with our kids.

**Motion To Reconsider Vote Taken On Item F-2a: Tax Levy:**

Trustee Williams moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board reconsiders the vote taken to table Item F-2a: Tax Levy:

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

***Motion Carried.***

**Motion To Amend Table and Main Motion:**

Trustee Williams moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board amends a table of item f-2a, and the main motion to show a 0% increase in the tax levy, as presented as Option 1 to the finance committee.

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

***Motion To Approve Carried***

**Ordinance Number O2011-32.**

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**J. TRUSTEES' COMMENTS**

**K. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Roudez moved, Trustee Oscar Brown seconded a motion that the Board adjourns the regular meeting of the Board of Trustee at 9:53 p.m.

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Dorothy R. Jones, CMC  
Village Clerk*

/drj