

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2013  
COUNCIL ROOM, 7:30 PM**

Mayor Hermanek called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with a Pledge of Allegiance and a Roll Call. In attendance were Trustee Bianco, Trustee Czajka, Trustee Decosola, Trustee Demopoulos, Trustee Mengoni, and Trustee Wilt.

Others in attendance were Administrator Belmonte, Attorney Hayes, Police Chief Niemann, Fire Chief Basek, Finance Director Scarpiniti and Public Works Director Kutt.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco to approve the agenda for this meeting as presented with two additional pieces of correspondence. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**BIDS-** None

**CASH RECEIPT REPORT**

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Mengoni to accept the Cash Receipt Report for the month of June, 2013 in the amount of \$1,251,076.79. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Wilt to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2013 Village Board Meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**REPORT OF TRUSTEES**

Trustee Bianco (Streets Alleys, Sidewalks & Refuse)

Trustee Bianco read the following report from the Streets, Sidewalks Alleys & Garbage Committee Meeting on August 5, 2013.

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

**Item #1 Review MFT Project:** Administrator Belmonte reminded the committee that at budget hearings a \$200,000 MFT Project was approved. The streets to be resurfaced are the 2500 block of Keystone, 2300 block of 2nd Avenue, 2300 and 2400 blocks of 8th Avenue and Forestview Drive from 13th to 14th Avenues. This project came about because the federal government would not allow the Village to use the bike grant money for resurfacing alone because resurfacing did not fall under the definition of "enhancement" as determined by the federal government. Trustee Bianco asked Engineer Fitzgerald how streets were picked for resurfacing. John explained that he, Administrator Belmonte and Director Kutt drove through the Village and graded the condition of every street. Engineer Fitzgerald said the MFT application has been submitted to IDOT and once approved he will send out the bid packages and construction should begin by mid-September.

**Item #2: Discuss 25th Street Streetscape Project:** Administrator Belmonte distributed an email from Engineer Fitzgerald outlining four options for a streetscape project along 25th Street between Harlem Avenue and the tracks. Engineer Fitzgerald said he was looking for direction from the committee on which option they would prefer if these were accepted by IDOT as being an enhancement project. He explained in detail what each option consisted of; options ranged from the replacement of all curb, gutter and sidewalk; to adding decorative lighting, bushes and benches. After a discussion it was determined that option number four which was the total replacement of all curb and gutter and sidewalk with decorative stamped concrete sidewalks on both sides of the street along with the resurfacing of 25th Street was the number one choice of the committee. The question was asked if IDOT would not approve the resurfacing of the street and Engineer Fitzgerald explained that resurfacing is considered an enhancement when done along with the replacement of sidewalks, curbs and gutters. Engineer Fitzgerald said that he would contact IDOT with all the options to see, if any, fall under the definition of enhancement. Once a response is received from IDOT another committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the project.

Trustee Bianco asked the staff how sidewalks are chosen to be replaced; Director Kutt explained that a public works employee travels through the Village and all sidewalks that have more than a 1 1/2" deflection is put on the replacement list. He also asked Administrator Belmonte if he has received any complaints about the new garbage hauler. The Administrator stated that after a week or so once they were familiar with the Village the only complaints he received was that every once in a while they start too early. Director Kutt mentioned that all of the drivers were very good and he felt they were doing a good job.

Trustee Bianco congratulated the Historical Society on another great job at the Gala Event which was held at the Village Commons. He also mentioned that on August 4, 2013 he was honored to attend the Freedom Salute Ceremony at the National Guard where they welcomed home soldiers and their families. Fire Chief Bask and Deputy Police Chief Garcia were presented with awards from the National Guard.

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

### Trustee Czajka ( Buildings, Public Grounds, lights, Public Services & Transportation-

Trustee Czajka reported on the Buildings, Grounds, Public Transportation Committee Meeting held on August 5, 2013.

**Item #1 Discussion of Pace's Municipal Vehicle Program:** Trustee Czajka called on Mayor Hermanek to brief the committee on his meeting with Pace representatives. The Mayor explained how he was informed about the Pace's Municipal Vehicle Program and that for a cost of \$1,000 and \$100 per month a municipality could purchase a 12-passenger mini-bus equipped with a lift. Administrator Belmonte distributed a packet showing a picture of the vehicle along with the responsibilities of the municipality and the restrictions on how the vehicle could be used. He mentioned that he along with Director Frampton went to Bellwood to see their vehicles and met their Mayor and Clerk to see how they administrate their program. This program would be an extension to our Rider Program and expand the program to outside of North Riverside. After a discussion by the committee and the other officials in attendance, Trustee Czajka motioned and Trustee Wilt seconded to have the administrator submit a municipal Vehicle Program Application to Pace to see if the Village could get approved for a vehicle. The committee approved the motion with a 3-0 vote. Trustee Czajka polled the Mayor and the other trustees who all agreed that an application should be submitted. Administrator Belmonte said that he would submit the application.

Trustee Decosola ( Judiciary, Ordinances, Recreation)- No report

Trustee Demopoulos ( Water, Sewers, Drainage & Zoning- No report

Trustee Mengoni ( Police, Fire & License)

Trustee Mengoni reported that the new Code Red/Reverse 911 service is up and running and all residents are encouraged to register for this new service. You can register for the Code Red Service by filling out the informational cards available at the Village Commons office or at the police department. The police department will be holding another Citizens Police Academy in September and anyone interested should contact Coordinator Tom Tauer.

Congratulations goes out to Sergeant Boenzi, Corporal Devine, Corporal McCarty, Officer Cinkay and Officer Pinelli for their involvement in a successful execution of a search warrant at a home in the 2500 block of Burr Oak. The arrest of the suspected felon is to be commended by the above mentioned personnel.

Trustee Mengoni submitted the Fire and EMS calls for the month of July, 2013 as follows:

**REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

Fire Calls.....97	YTD..... 641
EMS.....91	YTD.....630
Inspections.....47	YTD.....392
Compliances....29	YTD.....217

The Fire Department was also a part of the Freedom Salute Ceremony and attended two block parties in town with the fire truck. They continue to provided blood pressure readings at the Village Commons.

Trustee Wilt ( Finance, Health & Appropriations)-

Trustee Wilt read the following report from the Finance, Health & Appropriations Committee Meeting on August 5, 2013.

**Item #1: Fiscal Year 2013 Projections:** Trustee Wilt addressed the committee stating that although at the budget meetings the committee passed a water rate increase schedule of four \$0.50 increases from now until January 2016 the Mayor asked if this could be reviewed again to go over what the Village has already absorbed in increases and the additional increases which will be coming from the City of Chicago and the Brookfield -North Riverside Water Commission. Director Scarpiniti distributed a packet of information that consisted of a chart on the water fund revenues vs. expenses and unreserved retained earnings, historical information on the increases from the City of Chicago and the Brookfield- North Riverside water rate increases since the year 2000 and a rate survey showing the water rates from 14 area communities. The rate survey showed that the average residential water rate of the other communities which purchase their water from the commission was \$8.27 per 1000 gallons and the average of the other eleven communities was \$7.58 compared to North Riversides rate of \$4.54 per 1000 gallons. The director informed the committee has absorbed \$0.97 the past two years due to the increases in January of 2012 an 2013 by the City Of Chicago and the Commission. She also reminded the committee that there would be an additional 15% increase in January 2014 and 2015 from the City of Chicago. She explained that the water fund is an enterprise fund with its main source of income being derived from water charges to its customers. As such, water rates need to be reviewed periodically in order to ensure that the revenues raised from the sale of water are sufficient to cover the annual operating and routine maintenance costs of the fund as well as future capital improvements planned in upcoming years. Historically, The Village's General Fund has subsidized the water and sewer operations for years as the revenue generated from the sale of water to our customers has been insufficient to cover the annual operating cost of the fund without any major capital improvements. Consequently, this has created an increased financial burden on the Village's cash reserves over the years as the financial strength of the Water Fund has rapidly deteriorated. In order to rebuild the financial health of the Water Fund the Village must re-evaluate its reserve and funding policies and look to establish future water rates at more appropriate levels of funding. There was extensive discussion between the committee members, the Mayor and other trustees on what the

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)**

increase should be to cover the past increases and future increases the Village will be receiving. The committee was recommending an increase of \$1.50 per 1000 gallons effective with the September 1, 2013 billing cycle. Trustee Demopoulos asked about a \$2.00 per 1000 gallon increase but after a discussion neither the committee members or other officials were in favor of this increase. Trustee Mengoni moved and Trustee Demopoulos seconded to increase the Village of North Riverside water rate by \$1.50 per 1000 gallons effective with the September 1, 2013 billing cycle to both residential and commercial customers. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote. Trustee Wilt polled the other trustees and the Mayor who all agreed with the increase.

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to increase the Village of North Riverside's water rate by \$1.50 per 1000 gallons to residential and commercial customers effective with the September 1, 2013 billing cycle and for the Village Attorney to prepare the proper ordinance for passage. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Hermanek wished a speedy recovery to Recreation Director Frampton after her surgery. Mayor Hermanek restated that the water rate increase is a direct result from the same increase the City of Chicago passed upon our Village starting in 2012. He stressed the fact that even with this increase North Riverside still has the lowest residential water rates within the Commission and our neighboring Villages.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you letters were read addressed to Police Chief Niemann from the Broadview and Berwyn Police Departments regarding police matters. Police Chief Luis Tigera from Broadview and Police Chief James Ritz complimented our officers and department.

A thank you letter was read from the Chicago Suburban Radio Association, thanking our Village for the use of Veterans Park on June 22nd and 23rd 2013.

Mayor Hermanek and family sent a thank you card for the flowers sent at his father's funeral.

A thank you card was received from the Garvey family, thanking the Village for their generosity.

A thank you letter was read addressed to Fire Chief Basek on behalf of the Dudek family, thanking the paramedics for assisting her with ill husband.

### **CORRESPONDENCE (continued)**

Block party requests were received from the 2200 block of 15th Ave for September 1, 2013 and for the 2300 block of 12th Avenue for August 31, 2013.

Trustee Bianco moved, seconded by Trustee Mengoni to grant permission to the above two requests. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to approve the list of bills submitted for this meeting totaling \$333,857.59 and to have these bills paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Trustee Demopoulos moved seconded by Trustee Mengoni to approve Ordinance **(13-O-21)** Granting the Variances for 2800 S. DesPlaines Avenue (Scottish Home) and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Bianco moved, seconded by Trustee Decosola, to approve Ordinance **(13-O-22)** Granting the Variances for 7201 W. Cermak Road (Chick-Fil-A) and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Czajka moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco, to approve the Ordinance **(13-O-23)** Granting the Variances for 7515 W. Cermak Road (Red Lobster) and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Mengoni moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos, to approve the Ordinance **(13-O-24)** Granting the Variances for 8320-8340 W. Cermak Road (Sam Panjwani/Cardinal Liquors) and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Decosola moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco, to approve Ordinance **(13-O-25)** Amending the Municipal Code Relating to Vehicle Licensing and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: none. Motion carried

Trustee Mengoni moved, seconded by Trustee Wilt, to approve Ordinance **(13-O-26)** Amending the Municipal Code Relating to Liquor Licenses and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos, to approve Ordinance **(13-O-27)** Amending the Municipal Code Relating to Water & Garbage Rates and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Mengoni, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** None

**NEW BUSINESS-** None

**AUDIENCE-** A resident asked about the parking garage located in the North Riverside Park Mall. Mayor Hermanek explained that the law requires that it remains there to accommodate parking.

**ADJOURNMENT-**Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Czajka, for adjournment at 8:03 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Kathy Ranieri  
VILLAGE CLERK