

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING APRIL 18, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 7:00 PM**

Mayor Mengoni called the meeting to order with a Roll Call. In attendance were Trustee Bianco, Trustee Czajka, Trustee Demopoulos, Trustee Flores, Trustee Mandel and Trustee Sarro.

Others in attendance were Administrator Scarpiniti, Finance Director Lawler, Attorney O'Grady, Police Chief Erhenberg, Fire Chief McDermott, Recreation Director Mrozik and Public Works Director Ranieri.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Demopoulos moved and Trustee Czajka seconded to approve the revised agenda for this meeting. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Demopoulos, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

Motion carried

BIDS-None

CASH RECEIPT REPORT- No report

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Czajka moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve the Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from the April 4, 2022 meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Flores, Sarro

ABSTAIN: Trustees Demopoulos, Mandel

NAYS: None

Motion carried

AUDIENCE- None

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Mengoni welcomed Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar to tonight's meeting and Commissioner Aguilar mentioned the accomplishments that have been made including:

- Rental Assistance from the Federal, State and Local Municipalities.
- Cook County has the highest vaccine count due to the many centers he has helped create as well as COVID testing centers.
- Relief funds throughout the county.
- Grant programs for businesses.
- Commissioner Aguilar spoke about Invest in Cook County and is hopeful that more funding will be made available for infrastructure for North Riverside and other municipalities.

Mayor Mengoni reported about the good news from state lawmakers and how they have adjourned their spring session down in Springfield and have passed a state budget. This budget will include an additional \$400,000 in Capital Funding for North Riverside. Compliments are due to Representative Mike Zalewski and State Senator Steven Landek.

The Village intends to submit additional grant requests to the Federal Government, State of Illinois and to Cook County to assist in our capital needs. Thank you to Administrator Scarpiniti and Director Ryan Lawler to working tirelessly to finish up a recent grant application.

Be on the lookout for the latest edition of our Village Newsletter which should hit the doors by the end of the week. In this edition you will find all the information on our Nicor projects that were discussed as well as contact information.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Bianco

Trustee Bianco thank Commissioner Aguilar for all of his help and looks forward to working with him. Trustee Bianco called for a Development Committee Meeting on Monday, April 25th at 6pm.

Trustee Bianco read the following minutes from the Development Committee Meeting held on March 14, 2022:

Committee Members Present:

Trustee Bianco, Chairman
Trustee Czajka
Trustee Demopoulos
Trustee Flores
Trustee Sarro

REPORT OF TRUTEES (continued)

Others in attendance were Mayor Mengoni, Trustee Mandel, Administrator Scarpiniti, Finance Director Lawler, Public Works Director Ranieri, and Police Chief Ehrenberg.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm and the following is a summary of the meeting:

Public Comments: The floor was opened for public comments. Numerous residents addressed the committee to express their concerns regarding the increased rat infestation throughout the Village, particularly on the east side of town in the alleys along Hainsworth, Lathrop and Northgate. A resident on Northgate felt the Village wasn't doing enough in terms of code enforcement and addressing residents who don't clean up after their dogs and animals. He also stated that he has filed numerous complaints about the increased animal activity in the alley behind his home and wants to know why no abatement boxes have been placed in that area.

Pest Control Ordinance: Trustee Bianco re-opened discussions regarding the pest control program guidelines discussed previously by the Committee. The Administrator asked for further input by Trustees to understand the concerns still remaining regarding the program guidelines as proposed. Any questions received by Trustees prior to this meeting were already addressed and resolved. After more discussion, no additional changes were recommended by any Trustee. Trustee Bianco asked Trustees once again to reach out to the Administrator with any concerns or recommendations prior to the next board meeting when the ordinance would be re-introduced for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Trustee Czajka

Trustee Czajka read the following Parks and Recreation Report:

Join us Saturday for our Greener Earth Day Shred Event from 10am to 12pm. The shredding truck will be located in the front of the Police Department parking lot near DesPlaines Avenue. This will be a free drive-up event. We ask that participants bring no more than three boxes for shredding. There will also be locked bins in the Village Commons starting this Wednesday, April 20th. Feel free to utilize those through April 23rd.

We will host our Transportation Exploration Day from 4-6pm on Wednesday, May 4th in the Police parking Lot. This event allows people of all ages, especially children, to get up close to their favorite vehicles. Please join us for this fun outdoor event.

Trustee Demopoulos

Trustee Demopoulos thank Commissioner Aguilar for his continued efforts in helping North Riverside.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

Trustee Flores- No report

Trustee Mandel

Trustee Mandel thanked Commissioner Aguliar as well and submitted the Brookfield North Riverside Water Commission Meeting Minutes from the February 9th and March 9th meetings to Clerk Ranieri.

Trustee Mandel stated that she would like the board to consider giving one pack of free parking passes to each resident with a purchase of a vehicle sticker. She also mentioned that the key issue is enforcement on the police end or this program will not be effective. Trustee Mandel mentioned she visited with the Mayor this past Saturday and suggested a few ideas as far as vehicle stickers. One being, the first three stickers at \$40, and \$50 for the third and after. Again, stating the enforcement from the police department is the key.

Trustee Czajka questioned Trustee Mandel as to why she had not brought any of this up at the recent committee meeting. Trustee Mandel stated she has brought this matter up to the Mayor after the meeting with him this past Saturday. Trustee Sarro brought up the fact that the ordinance is already being drafted and trustees all agreed and voted at the past committee meeting. Trustee Sarro asked if there were any further comments or concerns from trustees at that meeting and there were none. The free booklet was also discussed at that committee meeting and the board agreed it would not work for multiple reasons. Mayor Mengoni stated that Trustee Sarro was correct and attorneys are in the process of drafting the ordinance. He also mentioned that if there were any questions regarding this ordinance to please bring it to the Administrator's attention and there were none.

Trustee Sarro

Trustee Sarro thanked Commissioner Aguilar for coming tonight and also thanked the police department for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Trustee Sarro read the following Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes from the March 14, 2022 meeting:

Committee Members Present:

Trustee Sarro, Chairwoman
Trustee Bianco
Trustee Czajka
Trustee Demopoulos
Trustee Flores

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

Others in attendance were Mayor Mengoni, Trustee Mandel, Administrator Scarpiniti, Finance Director Lawler, Public Works Director Ranieri, and Police Chief Ehrenberg.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and the following is a summary of the meeting:

Public Comments: The floor was opened for public comments. Several residents addressed the committee to express their concerns and frustrations regarding the number of commercial and non-resident vehicles parked overnight on village streets and the lack of street parking for residents. Keystone and Burr Oak Avenues were identified as areas where there is an abundance of non-resident cars parked on the streets and vehicles that haven't moved in days. Complaints were also expressed regarding the inability of Public Works to effectively plow and clean the streets due to the large volume of cars constantly parked on them. During significant snowfalls, a resident expressed concern over the safety of accessing her vehicle parked on the street when large piles of snow are left unplowed because of cars not being moved. The Committee was asked to consider alternative parking restrictions for snow routes and street sweeping, similar to what neighboring communities have, that would require cars to be parked only on one side of the street on specific days.

Parking on Public Streets and Vehicle Sticker Program: Trustee Sarro acknowledged receiving numerous complaints from residents regarding the lack of parking on village streets and felt the Committee needed to address this issue by taking a hard look at the Village's vehicle sticker program and overnight parking restrictions. Trustee Sarro opened the discussion to the Committee. Trustee Mandel wanted the committee to consider a sticker program similar to Berwyn with a separate off street versus on street parking sticker to encourage residents to park their vehicles in their garages. She proposed keeping the off-street parking sticker cost at \$35 and increasing the on-street parking sticker to \$50. Trustee Bianco was in favor of providing a discounted sticker fee to veterans, similar to what is currently available for senior and disabled residents.

After much debate, this matter was tabled until April 11th. Staff was directed to conduct a survey of neighboring communities to determine the details of their vehicle sticker programs and overnight parking restrictions. Trustee Sarro also requested more detailed data regarding the number of households with multiple cars registered.

Holidays: Mayor Mengoni lead a discussion with the Committee regarding whether Juneteenth should be recognized as a village holiday, similar to what the state and other surrounding communities have declared. The Administrator provided a historical look at what holidays are currently recognized by the Village and the different collective bargaining units. Although the actual holidays recognized differ between labor groups within the Village, the total number of holidays provided to each labor group, including floating holidays, is the same at nine. After much discussion, Trustees Sarro, Flores and Demopoulos were in favor of recognizing both MLK Day and Juneteenth as additional Village holidays. The Mayor was in favor of adding only 1 additional holiday at this time. Trustees Bianco and Czajka wanted to know the financial impact

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

of adding more holidays prior to deciding. This matter was tabled and will be discussed a future meeting to allow staff time to prepare the requested financial information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Trustee Sarro read the following Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting:

Committee Members Present:

Trustee Sarro, Chairwoman
Trustee Bianco
Trustee Czajka
Trustee Demopoulos
Trustee Flores

Others in attendance were Mayor Mengoni, Trustee Mandel, Administrator Scarpiniti, Finance Director Lawler, Public Works Director Ranieri, Police Chief Ehrenberg, and Jamie Wilkey and Kevin Cavanaugh, Representatives from Lauterbach & Amen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm and the following is a summary of the meeting:

Public Comments: The floor was opened for public comments; there were none.

Fiscal Year 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presentation: Administrator Scarpiniti introduced Jamie Wilkey, a partner of Lauterbach & Amen. Mrs. Wilkey gave a detailed presentation highlighting the audit process and financial results for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2021. North Riverside has been the proud recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 36 consecutive years. This is prestigious national award issued through the Government Finance Officers Association and recognizes conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports.

Mrs. Wilkey was pleased to report the Village received an unqualified audit opinion, the highest form of audit opinion available. An unqualified opinion means the Village's financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and free of material misstatements with respect to its financial position.

Mrs. Wilkey also discussed the purpose of the management letter and reported no issues or disagreements with management during the audit process. After some additional discussion, the Committee unanimously accepted the 2021 audit report. Copies of the management letter and report will be available for public inspection on the Village's website.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

Fiscal Year 2021 Actuarial Presentation: The Administrator introduced Kevin Cavanaugh, Actuary Consultant for Lauterbach & Amen. Mr. Cavanaugh provided a detailed presentation on the financial health of the police and fire pension funds as of April 30, 2021. A copy of this presentation will be available on the Village's website.

Highlighted in his presentation was the change in the Village's current year contribution requirement, the financial performance of each pension fund and a detailed discussion of the factors that impacted the unfunded actuarial liability. Mr. Cavanaugh was pleased to note the financial improvement of both pension funds and discussed the increased funded levels with the Committee. After some additional questions, the Committee was pleased to accept the findings of the actuary. The Administrator noted these funding requirements will be reflected in the Village's budget for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year.

Vehicle Stickers and Overnight Parking Restrictions: Discussion resumed on this topic from the March 14th committee meeting. The Finance Director distributed a survey requested by staff of neighboring communities and their respective programs. After a considerable amount of conversation, all Committee members, including Trustee Mandel, unanimously agreed to the following program changes:

1. Increase the cost of a passenger vehicle stickers (including trucks with a Class B license plate) from \$35 to \$40 for the first two vehicles registered per household;
2. Adopt an escalating fee schedule of \$20 for each additional vehicle registered after the initial two vehicles per household. The more cars registered, the higher the fee. The cost of a vehicle sticker would be \$60 (3rd vehicle); \$80 (4th vehicle); \$100 (5th vehicle); etc. with no limit on the total number of vehicles registered.
3. Add a discounted sticker fee for veterans similar to that provided for senior citizens and disabled residents. The cost of the discounted sticker for all three classifications would remain at \$10, with a limit of two discounts per household.
4. Increase the cost of a commercial vehicle sticker from \$40 to \$80.
5. Add a new license category for trucks with a Class D license plates at a rate of \$80.
6. Prohibit overnight parking on village streets without a current residential/commercial vehicle sticker or a valid daily visitor pass.

Residents will be able to purchase booklets of 10 visitor parking passes at a cost of \$25 from the Village Commons or Police Records Department. These passes will be good for only 1 night and must be affixed to the drivers' side window of any non-resident vehicle parked on village

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

streets between the hours of 2am and 6am. Violators will be subject to a \$50 parking ticket. Enforcement will be essential and key to the successful implementation of this program.

The Administrator will work with the Village Attorney to prepare the necessary ordinance for final approval at the May 2nd Village Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Request from Vets4Vets to solicit on Harlem Avenue and Cermak Road and 1st Avenue and Cermak Road on May 26th with a rain date of May 27th for their Annual Poppy Day Event.
- Request from the Sons of the American Legion to solicit only on the weekdays from May 2nd through May 25th on Cermak and 1st Avenue for the Veterans suffering from mental illness.

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Flores seconded to approve the above request from Vets4Vets. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Flores seconded to approve the above request from the Sons of the American Legion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Bianco seconded to approve the List of Bills submitted for this meeting totaling of \$388,282.11 and to have them paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Demopoulos, Flores, Mandel, Sarro

NAYS: None

Motion carried

Trustee Mandel stated her reasons for voting No on this ordinance as she is against the fees. Mayor Mengoni once again mentioned that this issue has been discussed and no comments from the board were brought forth to Administrator Scarpiniti.

UNFNISHED BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS- None

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Bianco moved and Trustee Czajka seconded to adjourn this meeting at 7:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**KATHY RANIERI
VILLAGE CLERK**