

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MARCH 15, 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 7:00 PM**

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

Others in attendance were Administrator Scarpiniti, Attorney Hayes, Police Chief Garcia, Fire Chief McDermott, Recreation Director Mrozik and Public Works Director Kutt.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

BIDS-None

CASH RECEIPT REPORT

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Flores seconded to approve the Cash Receipt Report for the month of February, 2021 totaling \$1,572,573.33. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Czajka, Demopoulos, Flores, Mengoni, Sarro

NAYS: Trustee Mandel

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Mengoni moved and Trustee Sarro seconded to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 Village Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Czajka, Demopoulos, Flores, Mengoni, Sarro

NAYS: Trustee Mandel

Motion carried

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Czajka

Trustee Czajka read the following report from the Parks and Recreation Department:

New Camper registration opened earlier today for the summer program. We are over 80% full in all camps. Those interested in attending day camp should register soon. Parent Packets are available at the Recreation Office during business hours. Packets can be reserved for after-hour pickup by calling 708 442-5515.

A majority of our senior programming and services are now in progress. Senior haircuts have resumed with their regular schedule and bus reservations are being accepted at this time. Both former and new programming can be found in our Spring Fun Guide. There is a wide array of classes addressing all comfort levels. If you or a neighbor are in need of services or socialization, please contact the Recreation Department.

Birthday Parties are resuming with North Riverside Recreation. Applications can be emailed or picked up in person during office hours.

Trustee Demopoulos- No report

Trustee Flores- No report

Trustee Mandel

Trustee Mandel submitted the Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission Meeting Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting to Clerk Ranieri.

Trustee Mengoni

Trustee Mengoni read a brief statement about the COVID-19 vaccination program held at the Village Commons. He stated that the village was fortunate enough to participate in a coordinated effort in collaboration with four local organizations on aging. He thanked all village employees who volunteered their time to make this event successful. Yesterday we concluded the second dose of the vaccinations and were able to add an additional 70 first round doses, allowing the village to remove names from our established wait list. I know village staff has been working diligently with the State, Cook County, and Townships to provide onsite vaccinations as an opportunity for our senior residents and when this opportunity fell into my

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

lap I immediately wanted to pass this along to our village. It saddens me that others would attempt to turn this into a political agenda. The reason I ran for office is to help the residents and will continue to do so. Regardless of the resent nonsense, I am proud to say that through our efforts we were able to vaccinate over 240 of our most vulnerable residents. This is what defines the spirit of North Riverside and unites us all.

Trustee Sarro

Trustee Sarro read the following Administrative Committee meeting minutes from the March 1, 2021 meeting:

Committee Members Present:

Trustee Sarro, Chairwoman
Trustee Czajka
Trustee Demopoulos
Trustee Flores
Trustee Mengoni

Others in attendance were Mayor Hermanek, Trustee Mandel, Interim Administrator/Finance Director Scarpiniti, Public Works Director Tim Kutt, Recreation Director Teresa Mrozik, and Kevin Cavanaugh and Tim Gavin, Representatives of Lauterbach & Amen

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

Item #1: Fiscal Year 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presentation: Director Scarpiniti introduced Tim Gavin from Lauterbach & Amen. Mr. Gavin gave a detailed presentation highlighting the audited financial statements for all Village funds for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2020. Mr. Gavin summarized the three major sections of the Village's financial report – the introductory, financial and statistical sections. The introductory section provides miscellaneous data regarding the Village and includes a list of principal officials, organizational chart, letter of transmittal from the Finance Director and a copy of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. North Riverside has been the proud recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 35 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.

The financial section of the report provides the independent auditors report, management's discussion and analysis, basic financial statements and note disclosures, required supplementary information, and combining and individual fund statements and schedules. The Village received an unqualified audit opinion, the highest form of audit opinion available. An

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

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. Mr. Gavin recommended Trustees read the management discussion and analysis because it provides comparative financial information on the Village's financial activities and is the best place to read a detailed summary of the Village's financial operations for the fiscal year.

The statistical section is unaudited and provides detailed information to help readers understand what the information in the financial statements says about the Village's overall financial health. It focuses on financial trends, revenue and debt capacity, demographic and economic information, and Village operating information.

Director Scarpiniti informed the Committee that a copy of the 2020 audit and prior years are available on-line on the Village's website.

Item #2: Fiscal Year 2020 Actuarial Presentation: Director Scarpiniti introduced Kevin Cavanaugh, Actuary Consultant for Lauterbach & Amen. Mr. Cavanaugh provided a detailed presentation on the reporting of the police and fire pension funds as of April 30, 2020. A copy of this presentation is available on the Village's website.

Highlighted in his presentation was the change in the Village's current year contribution requirement, the unfunded actuarial liability and the demographic losses and changes in actuarial assumptions that impacted the Village's current year contribution requirement. In 2019, the Village adopted a transitional funding plan due to the significant changes made in the actuarial assumptions used.

Accordingly, the Village's contribution requirement for the upcoming 2021-22 fiscal year will increase approximately \$569,000 or 15.7% from \$3.6 million to \$4.2 million for both police and fire pension funds. The current year contribution based on the transition plan is \$3,568,000 while the statutory minimum requirement is \$3,588,000. Because the statutory minimum is higher than the transition plan contribution, Director Scarpiniti recommended the Village budget for the statutory minimum in the upcoming 2022 fiscal year.

The current year funded percentage on an actuarial value of assets basis is 34.4% for fire and 37.8% for police. This represents a slight decrease of 1.24% for fire and 2.45% compared to the prior year funded percentages. The total unfunded liability increased \$4.7 million from \$44.8 million in 2019 to \$49.5 million in 2020 for both pension funds combined.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

MAYORAL REPORT- No report

CORRESPONDENCE

- Jacky Magrini sent a thank you note thanking the village for providing our Village Commons as a vaccination site.
- Dick and Kay Vabro sent a thank you letter regarding the vaccination clinic for our seniors.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Trustee Sarro moved, seconded by Trustee Flores to approve the list of bills submitted for this meeting totaling \$626,593.76 and to have them paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

On the question, Trustee Mandel ask why we are paying \$13,100 for fireworks as she had thought those were donated. Mayor Hermanek explained that the donations are sent in prior to the event.

AYES: Trustees Czajka, Demopoulos, Flores, Mengoni, Sarro

NAYS: Trustee Mandel

Motion carried

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Mengoni seconded to Approve an Ordinance Establishing Regulations for Public Comment at Public Meetings **(21-O-03)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

UNFNISHED BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS- None

AUDIENCE

Ken Krochmal questioned Trustee Mandel about her participation in her past dealings and accused her of being a “bagman” for her husband. Trustee Mandel stated she is not a bagman and is an elected official working for the residents with the village debt. Mr. Krochmal then asked if she had owned properties in surrounding villages and asked if she had any liens on any of those properties. Trustee Mandel claimed those liens have been cleared. Trustee Demopoulos did not agree with the accusations made by Mr. Krochmal.

Sandra from Lathrop Avenue asked about a recent flyer sent by Mayor Hermanek regarding the names of candidates from another party that were used on his flyer. Clerk Ranieri verified that herself, Trustees Flores and Sarro were running as trustee candidates along with Trustee Mengoni as the mayoral candidate for the North Riverside United Party.

Sue Joseph from Lincoln Avenue addressed issues regarding her neighbor’s debris and the hazards that occurred from this property. Administrator Scarpiniti said she has been working with the property owner and their landscapers regarding the code violations.

Koula from the administration office stated her concerns and reasons as to why the office administration has decided to unionize. It is to protect themselves due to recent comments from Trustee Mandel.

Vince Ranieri from the Public Works Department reiterated Koula’s comments saying they are indeed unionizing due to Trustee Mandel political campaign literature and comments. He did not appreciate the comments made about hiring professional employees as he considers all of the village employees professional. Trustee Demopoulos asked where he got the idea that salaries would be cut 10%. Vince said he feels cuts are made either by salary or services and either way residents are losing. Trustee Demopoulos claimed the board managed to cut almost \$900,000.00 during budget meetings without cutting salaries and services but Vince claimed after those cuts were made we were at bare bones and there was nothing else to be cut with the exception of salaries and or services. He then asked Director Scarpiniti if she would agree. Director Scarpiniti agreed that during those meetings they did eliminate many requests and made changes to a consolidation plan to try and reevaluate many positions and cost saving measures to the village.

Joanne Suba expressed her concern about a flyer from the People Before Politics Party, specifically the vaccines for votes comments. She claimed that was a complete lie. Joanne went on to explain the process of how the senior residents were verified, called and the reasons as to why they chose not to do a code red call. Their only agenda was to get the senior residents vaccinated.

Martha, another administrative employee, addressed the recent comments on social media regarding village employees and a comment made by Trustee Mandel calling Director Scarpiniti a criminal. It is unfair and disgusting. We as employees deserve better than this. This is not what

AUDIENCE (continued)

North Riverside represents and would like an apology. Trustee Mandel stated she treats everyone with respect in the office.

Pam Foy showed her displeasure with the political nature within the village. It saddens her to hear all the negativity and wished we would all work together. Herself, and other employees have been working their tails off to work for the residents, especially the seniors that were recently vaccinated. We are all here for the same reasons, to better our community. Trustee Mandel mentioned she wished she was asked to volunteer.

Sue Scarpiniti addressed Trustee Mandel’s earlier statement about her being respectful to all village employees. Mrs. Scarpiniti did not receive that respect when Trustee Mandel accused her of being a criminal and stealing \$52,000 from this community. Trustee Mandel does not provide her with the respect when she has repeatedly asked her to please honor the position as administrator and do not go behind her back as an employee and go directly department heads for remedies to her problems. Administrator Scarpiniti has always treated Trustee Mandel with respect and expects the same in return. She is saddened by the fact that as a village trustee and a policy holder of this village that she sets the culture of North Riverside for all of the employees. They do not have a political relationship they have an employer/employee relationship. Trustee Mandel has the right and responsibility as the highest form of government to set the example for how not only employees of this community should act but also how the residents should address this board and act in a courteous and professional manner. Director Scarpiniti asked for a public apology from Trustee Mandel.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Czajka moved and Trustee Flores seconded for adjournment of this meeting at 7:50 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**KATHY RANIERI
VILLAGE CLERK**

