

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MAY 11, 2020  
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA  
CONFERENCE CALL AT 7:00 PM**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**BIDS**-None

**CASH RECEIPT REPORT**

Trustee Mengoni moved and Trustee Sarro seconded to approve the Cash Receipt Report for the month of March, 2020 in the amount of \$2,524,256.99. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Mengoni moved and Trustee Flores seconded to approve the Cash Receipt for the month of April, 2020 in the amount of \$1,504,952.25. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Sarro moved, seconded by Trustee Mengoni to approve the April 13, 2020 Village Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

## **REPORT OF TRUSTEES**

### **Trustee Czajka- (Judiciary, Ordinances, Recreation)**

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

As the Stay at Home Order continues, the Recreation Department continues to monitor the situation and address programs and events as more information is divulged. All programs and events impacts will be communicated through our Facebook page and directly to participants affected via email or phone.

During this unique time, our department is working hard to keep the community upbeat and engaged. We encourage residents to follow our Facebook page for all of the local happenings and free electronic apps we have introduced to the community. We hope you'll join us. Please stay safe and well.

Trustee Czajka also thanked the Police and Fire Departments for the parades for her granddaughter.

### **Trustee Demopoulos( Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks & Garbage)**

Trustee Demopoulos read the Projects Completed Report for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 from the Public Works Department. **(See Exhibit A)**

Trustee Flores- ( Police, Fire & License)- No report

### **Trustee Mandel ( Water, Sewers, Drainage & Zoning)**

Trustee Mandel expressed her condolences to the families that passed due to Covid-19 and also thanked the NRPD and NRPD for the Birthday parades. Trustee Mandel suggested the village do a cleanup date after the Covid-19 Virus.

Trustee Mandel read the Projects Completed Report for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 from the Public Works Department. **(See Exhibit A)**

### **Trustee Mengoni- ( Finance Health & Appropriations)**

Trustee Mengoni thanked all the departments and Mayor Hermanek for their continued efforts during the pandemic.

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

### **Trustee Sarro- (Public Buildings, Grounds, Lights, Transportation, Plan Commission)**

Trustee Sarro thanked all the Departments for continuing to do an excellent job during the pandemic, especially Public Works Director Kutt for meeting with residents that have had flooding issues and providing them with some solutions to their issues. She also thanked Mayor Hermanek for his cooperation and involvement with Komarek Schools graduation celebration.

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Hermanek thanked Reverend Willie Wilson and former Cook County Commissioner Richard Boykin who gave our Village 4000 disposable masks. Residents needing masks should call the records department at 708 762-5431.

Mayor Hermanek stated beginning this Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-7pm and each Wednesday until the end of the month or possibly later, depending upon when the Village Commons opens, residents may come to the parking lot behind the Village Commons to purchase or renew vehicle stickers by curbside. Please remain in your vehicle and have your form filled out. Only checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Mayor Hermanek asked for a motion and a second to strike the next Village Board Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> due to the Governors orders.

Trustee Mengoni moved and Trustee Sarro seconded to cancel the June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Czajka moved and Trustee Mengoni seconded to reschedule the Village Board Meeting to June 8, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Since being elected Mayor in 2013, I have made it a policy that all employees of this Village would be treated equally. Whether they were in a union or not, and regardless of their job, no one is better than anyone else. We are like spokes on a bike, if one spoke breaks, the wheel breaks. These times with the Covid-19 pandemic have been trying to say the least. I am pleased that in general, our departments have stepped up and cooperated during these unprecedented times.

Since the new contract was recently agreed to, Village administration has sought to improve its relationship with the union firefighters and move forward. The Village recently allowed one member to travel out of state for personal reasons during the mandatory States Stay at Home Order, causing our manning to be shorter and overtime increased. However, such gestures of moving forward with the firefighters in a positive manner have not been entirely reciprocated. The Village requested cooperation from all labor groups with respect to limiting and cancelling

### **MAYORAL REPORT (continued)**

of vacation time during the pandemic. Unfortunately, we were only able to obtain cooperation from the union police and non-union members, allowing the village to eliminate all replacement overtime in the month of April for police, public works and administrative departments. In addition, the Village attempted to negotiate a new work schedule for the day lieutenant who's primary responsibility solely impacted and diminished due to the closing of most of our businesses in town since mid March. This change in work schedule could have positively impacted the other members of the department by reducing the amount of additional overtime they were required to work and allowing bargaining members the ability to enjoy their non-scheduled days off as they were requesting. Unfortunately, we were not able to come to an agreement on the day Lieutenant proposal and the Village was forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars during a critical time financially.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, all full time village employees were scheduled to receive raises per our negotiated labor contracts. The Village has appealed to all labor groups in hopes to defer raises until a time when the economy was back up and running. It should be obvious to everyone that the Village is facing tremendous financial pressure as a result of this pandemic and State mandated closure of all non-essential businesses. The financial impact of not generating sales tax revenue since mid March is not only substantial, but can be devastating depending on the length of time our local economy will need to recover. The union police and non-union employees were open to discussions of these wage deferrals and willing to work with the village directly. However, we were unable to obtain the cooperation of the union firefighters. Because it would be unfair to withhold wage increases for only a portion of our employees, while still providing a 2.5% wage increase for others, I have been forced to recommend across the board increases to all village employees at this time.

I wanted to explain on the record my reasoning for recommending these raises as I am sure there will be questions from the public as to my rationale for doing so. As disappointed as I am that we have not been able to bridge this divide with the union firefighters, I will not penalize all our employees who have valiantly protected our village during this crisis. Although this was not the outcome I had hoped for, we will continue to get through these difficult times and be stronger than ever.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Gene and Mary Fedorski thanked the village board for providing free masks for residents.
- Sons of American Legion requested to solicit on Cermak Rd and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Poppy Day Event.

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

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Trustee Mengoni moved, seconded by Trustee Sarro to approve the list of bills submitted for this meeting totaling \$764,240.46 and to have them paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS- None**

### **UNFNISHED BUSINESS**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, as Village President, I continue the declaration of a local State of Emergency in the Village due to the COVID-19 pandemic and re-issue the prior Emergency Directive for Mandatory Face Coverings in and around open businesses in the Village. According to the wording of those declarations and the Village Ordinance adopted on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the declarations expire at adjournment of this Board of Trustees meeting unless extended by the Board. In light of the ongoing pandemic and continued restrictions imposed by Government J.B. Pritzker, I am asking the Board for a motion to adopt and continue the declaration of a Local State of Emergency and Emergency Directive for Mandatory Face Coverings in open businesses through May 31, 2020, unless extended beyond that date by further order of the Village President or Board of Trustees.

Trustee Sarro moved and Trustee Flores seconded to adopt and continue the declaration of a Local State of Emergency and Emergency Directive for Mandatory Face Coverings in open businesses through May 31, 2020 unless extended beyond that date by further order of the Village President of Board of Trustees. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Mandel thanked Public Works Director Kutt for the information and quick response to residents regarding French Drains.

### **NEW BUSINESS- None**

### **AUDIENCE**

No comment or questions were submitted for this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Demopoulos moved and Trustee Czajka seconded for adjournment of this meeting at 7:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

**KATHY RANIERI  
VILLAGE CLERK**

## Exhibit A

To: Trustee Mandel, Trustee Demopolis and Administrator Scarpiniti  
From: Tim Kutt  
RE: Projects Completed for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Wrap Up

Below you will see what projects we completed for this last Fiscal Year and any additional purchases that have been made. If you would like to pass this along or I can do as well, to the Trustee (s) for a yearly report on behalf Public Works.

1. Replaced Water Main, Phase 3 Along Cermak Road from 9<sup>th</sup> Ave thru 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. We replaced an 8 inch main with a Ductile Iron 12 inch pipe.
2. Replaced Water MAIN on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave from Cermak Road thru 24<sup>th</sup> Street and increased the size of pipe from 6 inch to 8 inch Ductile Iron. This was in part of a Grant Provided by C.B.D.G. for \$200,000.00. The total cost of both projects together was \$850,000.00.
3. We trimmed well over 900 Parkway Tree's thru town. We are hoping to complete the 5 year trim program in just over a 3 year period.
4. We planted 60 new Premium Parkway trees at requested homes throughout town.
5. We installed a new baseball/softball field at Veterans Park that included:
  - A. New Infield
  - B. New Backstop built to conform with I.H.S.A. Rules
  - C. New Home and Visitor Dugouts that includes new benches and fencing w/equipment storage
  - D. New walkway around field
  - E. New Seating with A.D.A. Compliant bleachers
6. We installed a 2<sup>nd</sup> picnic seating area at Veterans Park more than doubling the seating available that previously existed.
7. We replaced over 250 squares of sidewalk thru town.
8. We paved 13<sup>th</sup> Ave from Cermak Road to Forestview Drive along with adding A.D.A. Compliant cross walks at each intersection.
9. We replaced 6 water isolation valves at various locations to help minimize the amount of homes effected by water shutdowns during water repairs as well as the concrete vaults they sit in.
10. We replaced the Chiller at the Village Commons that supplies the south portion of the building.
11. We replaced the lentils and the front wing walls at the Village Commons. All the wing walls are now completed.
12. We replaced approximately 1000 feet of membrane roof at Public Works to add additional life to the roof.
13. We replaced the 6 inch sump pump at the Police Department and the 4 inch sump pump at the Village Commons along with the check valves.
14. We purchased a new 4-wheel dump truck and pick-up truck, both with snow removal components for deicing.

15. We also purchased a new compact loader for snow removal and excavation work as needed. This piece of equipment handles the walkway cleaning after snow falls around the business districts of town and the Village Campus.
16. We High Pressure Cleaned and Televised 12,15,18 and 21 inch main line sewer for maximum flow and storage that amounted to 20,000 LF. For this next construction season, we are hoping to clean and televise nearly 40,000 LF of main line sewer and then upload to GIS.
17. Commons Park, we completed a full cut back and elevation trimming project to improve line of sight for policing the property and to allow sunlight for better growing of plants.
18. We also installed several new gardens mainly for butterfly reproduction in various areas of the park.
19. We conducted a Spring and Fall water leak survey and any findings that resulted in water loss and accountability issues were repaired immediately. Our water accountability is around 90%.
20. Flushing Fire Hydrants – Every year, we visit each and every fire hydrant (370) we have. At this time we flush each hydrant to ensure water quality and to make certain we have every hydrant in full operation. This last summer we also had hydrants certified throughout town to make sure our flow rates met or in our case, exceeded the ratios needed to provide the very best fire protection. This procedure also helps us remain within the top 2% in the State of Illinois with our ISO rating within water systems.
21. We also check and exercise every water isolation valve (310) we have within our system. At this time, we make certain that we have the capability to quickly shut down the water system in the scenario of a water emergency repair and limit as few residents as possible during this repair.
22. We collected 6 coliform samples twice per month to ensure water quality. A total of 144 samples are taken during a fiscal year. This again is to make sure our water quality remains excellent.
23. We also collected 30 Lead samples as required by the EPA at pre-approved locations. All 30 samples came back under the action level set by the EPA. We take these samples every 3 years.
24. We also completed a full water analysis of the entire water system. During this analysis, we put together the strategic plan in regards to all future water main replacements and upgrades. This analysis provides every piece of data going forward as to the mapping plan of removal and replacement, the size of pipe upgrades, the cost to perform these projects with cost of living built in to the project. We even display the types of pipe and name the type of hydrants and valves needed to perform well within our system.
25. We completed nearly 250 Handyman calls for service to our Senior Citizen's this year.
26. We also completed approximately 780 misc. calls for service to our residents.
27. We are one of the few towns offering electronic recycling to our residents not to mention at zero cost. Drop Zone is Public Works.
28. We replaced the main line sewer on 24<sup>th</sup> street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.
29. Lastly. We completed with our own staff just over 40 new street patches that include new concrete sub-base that equates to well over 100 ton of street surface.

**Here are some factual numbers of infrastructure that Public Works maintains on a daily basis.**



Village Owned Trees – nearly 4,000

**Sidewalk – 33.165 Miles**

Fire Hydrants – 370

Water Meters – 970

**Water Main – 33.93 Miles**

**Sewer Line – 20.8 Miles**

Manholes – 489

**Roads Owned By NR – 17.193 Miles**

Streetlights – 394

We also maintain every vehicle the Village of North Riverside owns thru (1) mechanic who also maintains every small gasoline operated tool as well.