

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD REMOTELY
PUBLIC NOTICE POSTED AT THE VILLAGE HALL
350 VICTORY DRIVE
PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS**

Village Hall- Boardroom

7:00 p.m.

September 8, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Maya Hardy, Trustee Candyce Herron, and Trustee Glenna Hennessy

ABSENT: none

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Christopher Mannino, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Recreation and Parks Rob Gunther, Director of Building and Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, Director of Public Relations Jason Miller, and IT Coordinator Craig Kaufman

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sharon Durling, Northern Illinois Municipalities Electric Collaborative (NIMEC); Chuck Sutton, MC Squared Energy Services (both via Zoom); and Carrie Malfeo and Haley Crim, former sustainability coordinators

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Vanderbilt. Roll was called by Clerk McGann.

Mayor Vanderbilt introduced Ms. Durling and Mr. Sutton who have been working with the Village on electric aggregation for many years. With their efforts, the Village and residents have saved money and 32 million pounds of coal. Ms. Durling shared details about the Village's history in aggregation and how several years ago a program with NIMEC saved residents about \$2,000,000 over a two-year period on their residential electric bills.

Manager Mick talked about NIMEC's history with Park Forest and the Village's sustainability program. With combined efforts, the Village moved forward in the process and Park Forest has been recognized as the 13th most renewable community in the country. Manager Mick commended staff, the partnership with MC Squared, and the all those involved with the sustainability program. The Mayor thanked Carrie Malfeo and Haley Crim, former sustainability coordinators and accepted the plaque and award for Park Forest. In the current renewable energy aggregation program, Park Forest's energy is supplied from wind energy from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

1. Approval of storm clean-up costs from August 10, 2020 Derecho Storm

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Public Works Department. Due to the tornado of August 10, outside contractors were brought in to help with the cleanup of destroyed mature trees. The village needed extra resources, staff, and equipment. This contractor expense is above his spending authority. Director Ysaguirre was impressed with the amount of work that was one in two days, August 13 and August 14, everything south of Sauk Trail. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. When Trustee Settles asked if the wood chips would be available to residents, Director Ysaguirre said yes, the wood chips are free for pick up in the Marshall Field's lot. Manager Mick added that there was so much debris, there were a number of drop off points for residents. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at a subsequent meeting.

2. Award of Contract: Well Maintenance, Well No. 2

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Public Works Department. Director Ysaguirre reviewed the bid process and the project in detail. He noted that Great Lakes Water Resources of Joliet had the lowest bid. Staff recommends award the contract to them as they have had work previously in the Village and were satisfied with their work. He explained that items 1-19 were on the base bid on all the bids. The optional item, to be considered separately, was the lining/bowl assembly cases. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Settles asked the difference between the cast iron bowl and the bronze bowl. Director Ysaguirre explained that the bronze bowl would hold up longer and costs more. But it would be determined later if the current one needs to be replaced. If replacement is needed, it would be decided then which one would be used. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at a subsequent meeting.

3. Engineering Service Agreement: Woodland Glen Storm Sewer

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Public Works Department. Director Ysaguirre gave the history on the drainage study of 2017 in the hilly forest preserve area with three main flow ways. This plan is for the west side to upside the storm sewer to 48 inches. There are funds in the sewer fund to support this work. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Baxter and Woodman Engineers. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, this item will be on the agenda at a subsequent meeting.

4. Approval of a Contract with Bode Tree Care for lot clearing in the Eastgate Neighborhood and Authorization for the Village Manager to Sign

Manager Mick said this item is out the Economic Development and Planning Department. Director Kingma is at another meeting. Manager Mick stated that the Village and the South Suburban Land Bank own between 80-100 lots in the Eastgate area. The trees and growth need to be removed to allow for upkeep. To do that, the cleanup of 13 lots went out to bid. Only one bid was received from Bode Tree Care which staff feels is reasonable with good references as checked by staff. As there were no other bids, this was checked and approved by legal counsel. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if the Board if there were any questions or comments. Trustee Hardy asked if this was cleanup from the storm or trees and over growth. Manager Mick said it was not storm related and the long range plan for Eastgate will be determined later with input from the

public. Trustee Hennessy asked if chemicals would be used for this project. Manager Mick did not think chemicals would be used when taking down trees and removal of growth. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda for action at a subsequent meeting.

5. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1633, Approving a Tax Increment Redevelopment Plan and Redevelopment Project for the Village of Park Forest Downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area by Extending the Term of the Redevelopment Plan from 23 Years to 35 Years

Manager Mick said this item is out of the Manager's office, with background of the Finance Department and the Economic Planning and Development Department. He explained the purpose of TIFs and that the durations are usually 23 years with the potential for a 12-year extension. Around 2016, the Village explored what would be needed for an extension. To pursue the extension, all impacted taxing bodies must send letters of support. The Village received letters or agreements of support from the following taxing districts: Park Forest Library, School District 163, School District 227, Rich Township, Prairie State College, Cook County, and Cook County Mosquito Abatement District. Staff then worked with the legislature in Springfield with assistance being provided by State Representative Anthony Deluca, and State Senator Patrick Joyce. In May, both chambers approved the extension and in June, Governor Pritzker signed it into law. Finally, the Village has to amend the local ordinances to extend the TIF duration to 35 years. Assuming the Board approves the ordinance with the September 21st Board Meeting, the impacted taxing bodies will be notified. Director Pries said everything was covered and he had nothing to add regarding the TIF extension. Mayor Vanderbilt said that the extension will help to revitalize the downtown area. He thanked the legislature, staff, and all the other taxing bodies involved to see this through. Hearing no questions or comments, this item will be on the agenda for action at the next regular meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Vanderbilt attended a discussion about workforce programs with various municipalities to discuss requirements for Amazon's new facilities in the area. He thanked Chuck Sabey for arranging the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra to play at the Park Forest's Main Street Market. He welcomed two new businesses in Park Forest, D.Vine Boutique and Dolce by Dori. He thanked IBEW Local 134 for donating their services at 336 Early Street in honor of Labor Day.

Manager's Comments

Manager Mick was happy to see Park Forest being recognized with a ranking of 13th most sustainable community in the country. In other great news, the Finance Department received the Certificate of Excellence in finance reporting. This is the 24th consecutive year that Park Forest has received this recognition. He commended Director Pries, Assistant Director Sharon Floyd, Accounting Supervisor Terrie McAvoy, and the entire department for their continued efforts to achieve this distinction. Mick offer congratulations to Chief Natyshok and the Fire Department on two grants recently awarded to them. The first one, in the amount of \$800,000, will pay for the salary and benefits for 2 new firefighters over a 3-year period with no local match required. The second grant, \$300,000, will pay for a bariatric ambulance which will meet the needs of heavier patients. The Village's response rate for the 2020 Census is currently at 69.6%. Residents are reminded to complete their forms, online or at a popup events being coordinated by the Village. A complete count will benefit Park Forest. Park Forest is sponsoring a Recycle Fest

on September 26. Check the Village website or Facebook page for a list items accepted. Early voting for Cook County residents at Village Hall will begin October 19th and will be open seven days a week. Specific hours are listed on the village website.

Trustee's Comments

All the Trustees wished Tracy Mick a very happy birthday.

Trustee Settles reported that the Veterans Commission will meet Saturday, September 12 at Village Hall and via Zoom. She reminded residents to support two new Park Forest businesses, D.Vine Boutique and Dolce by Dori.

Trustee Hardy thanked Respond Now noting that a number of residents are being helped with their water bills. The Commission on Human Relations is planning a virtual job fair on Saturday, September 19. For more information, check the Village's website or Facebook. Thank you to Roderick and staff for the debris cleanup.

Trustee Herron was excited to hear about the Finance's Certificate of Excellence in Reporting Award. She thanked all the crews involved in the storm clean-up and welcomed the two new businesses. She thanked staff for keeping the village up and running and congratulated the Fire Department on the grants they recently received.

Trustee Graham noted that the League of Women Voters is having a meeting Tuesday, September 9 to discuss two concerns: mail in ballots and the fair tax proposal.

Trustee Hennessey wished all the best for those who came down with Covid-19. She was proud and grateful of Public Works Department who made the Village streets safe and passable. The community came together. She reported that the Beautification Committee had their final meeting in August and awarded over 300 awards to Park Forest residents.

Trustee Woods echoed the previously mentioned sentiments of the clean-up of debris after the storm. Last Wednesday, there was a meeting with Representative Robin Kelly with local school board members about returning to school and to keep up what is going on in Washington, D.C. The Complete Count Committee met and continues to work in various areas before the current deadline in September. Representative Kelly is trying to get the deadline extended for the 2020 Census to October 31.

Attorney's Comments

No formal report

Clerk Comments

Clerk McGann gave information regarding voter registration for Cook and Will County residents.

Audience to Visitors

As per the agenda posting, public comments were to be sent to Manager Mick by 3p.m. of the day of the meeting and would be read at the meeting. None were received. (See below)

Adjournment

This concluded the Rules Board meeting.

There being no further business. Mayor Vanderbilt called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Settles, seconded by Trustee Graham and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned following a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned with seven (7) ayes, no (0) nays, and no (0) absent.

Mayor Vanderbilt adjourned the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk

NOTE – DUE TO COVID-19

THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL

***Public, in-person attendance of the Meeting has been deemed unfeasible; All public comment can be sent prior to the phone conference Board Meeting, via email to tmick@vopf.com, by 3 pm the day of the meeting; Public comments received via email will be read during the public meeting.**

****A record (verbatim recording) of all action (if any) taken during the Board Meeting in open session will be made available upon request.**

*****This meeting will be broadcast live, and recorded, on the local cable access channels in Park Forest (channel 4 for Comcast subscribers & channel 4 for AT&T U-Verse subscribers) and will be streamed live, and subsequently archived, on the Village website at www.villageofparkforest.comNOTE: Copies of Agenda Items are Available on the Village website at www.villageofparkforest.com**