

VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST

**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.

March 1, 2021

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, Deputy Village Manager Mark Pries, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Hildy Kingma, Assistant Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Communications Jason Miller, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Community Health Rob Gunter, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and IT Coordinator Craig Kaufman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and her Director, Al Kindle; Bob Goetsch, Homewood Star Disposal; and Economic Development Advisory Group Chairperson Phil Perkins

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Vanderbilt. Roll was called by Clerk McGann.

Mayor Vanderbilt introduced a special guest to the Board Meeting, Cook County Board Preckwinkle. She thanked the Mayor for allowing her to speak at the meeting to give an update regarding Cook County funds. She noted that a balanced budget was passed last year with no new taxes and had put aside funds in an equity fund to support vaccinations and small businesses. As so many are struggling with the pandemic, funds have been shared with communities based on how they were impacted in various ways. She noted two deadlines of March 12 for upcoming grants: the Community Development Block Grant and Invest in Cook which are opportunities for the Village to secure more funds from Cook County. President Preckwinkle added that opportunities for vaccinations are available through Cook County Public Health Department, South Suburban the Tinley Park Convention Center and Thornton Fractional South (for educators). She stressed the importance of being vaccinated to help bring back the communities. She and Director Kindle also noted that the County has worked with Metra, Rock Island, and Pace to increase transportation opportunities and reduce and/or eliminate fares. Mayor Vanderbilt thanked President Prickwinkle for speaking at the meeting.

Each of the Trustees thanked President Prickwinkle for her continued support, giving a helping hand to residents in need, and keeping the Board updated.

1. Consideration of an Economic Development Incentive and Resolutions Supporting a Cook County Class 8 Incentive Renewal for part of 25 South Street

Manager Mick said this item comes out of EDAG and Economic Development and Planning Department. He noted that the Cook County Class 8 Incentive package is a compromise of investment between the Village and Homewood Star Disposal. The Village has always had a good working relationship with Star Disposal and Mr. Getch. Assistant Director Zoellner explained reason behind the tax incentive due to the higher 33% multiplier for businesses in Cook County. The Class 8 incentive allows for a temporary reduction of the property tax to the business to encourage the business to stay in its current location. Mr. Perkins gave an overview of the incentives for Star Disposal. The recommendations by EDAG to Star Disposal have been agreed upon and will benefit the Village. They have partnered well with Park Forest over the years. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Trustee Woods noted that Star Disposal hiring practices include hiring local and working in a diverse community. Trustee Settles thanked EDAG and Assistant Director Zoellner for their work putting together this resolution. She also thanked Homewood Star Disposal for their commitment to the Village of Park Forest. Mayor Vanderbilt also thanked Chairperson Perkins and all EDAG members noting the numerous benefits to Park Forest. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next rules meeting.

2. Consideration of an Economic Development Incentive and Resolutions Supporting a Cook County Class 8 Incentive Renewal for 30 South Street

Mayor Vanderbilt said the same considerations apply to item #2 as were heard with item #1. He asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board. Hearing none, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular board meeting. Mr. Perkins noted that Homewood Disposal's website and marketing show diversity and commended them for their diverse work base. Manager Mick also noted the great working relationship with Star Disposal over the years from their good customer service to their contributions to local community events. Mr. Goetsch thanked the Village representatives.

3. Truck Purchase for Recreation & Parks

Manager Mick said this item comes out of Recreation, Parks, and Public Health Department. There are two vehicles to be purchased which is above the manager's spending authority. Director Gunther the two vehicles would be purchased at Currie motors through the South Suburban Purchasing Agreement. One is a dump truck to be utilized in many areas and the other is a truck with a general service body. Both are flex-fuel engines. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. When the Mayor asked why the purchase is made through Currie, Director Gunther explained that they have the lowest prices because the purchase is made through the South Suburban Purchasing agreement. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the next regular meeting.

4. Awarding of the Well Street Resurfacing Contract

Manager Mick said this item comes out of the Public Works Department. This was a capital project that was frozen last year and it is now going forward. Director Ysaguirre explained the bid process and said eleven bids were opened on February 16. Iroquois Paving was the lowest bidder and have done numerous projects in the Village before. Included in the contract will be

road work and with some sewer work as well. Mayor Vanderbilt asked the Board if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Vanderbilt asked if they would be hiring any residents. Director Ysaguirre was not sure but would inquire. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the next regular meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Vanderbilt reported that the Board had the six month financial update Saturday, February 27. He thanked the leadership team for their participation. Capital projects and provisions for the departments were discussed. Sunday he was part of a teleconference where discussions included the difficulty in getting seniors vaccinated. There were some solutions offered for home-bound seniors to vaccination sites.

Manager's Comments

Manager Mick also commended the leadership team for their participation in the six hour six month financial update. There was good dialogue among the Mayor, Trustees, and the department heads. The Saturday Rules Meeting is scheduled for March 6. As Covid rates continue to be monitored, the meeting may be in person, hybrid, or via zoom. Vehicle stickers went on sale today, \$50 for residents and \$25 for seniors. The new sticker includes a Dr. Martin Luther King quote that promotes togetherness and civility. "Life's most persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" He thanked Director Miller for putting the village sticker together.

Trustee's Comments

All of the Trustees thanked Deputy Manager Pries and staff for the thorough and informative six-month financial update and capital plan with all questions answered.

Trustee Settles reported that the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission met via Zoom Thursday, March 4. They discuss issues related to the elders of the community and plan events and educational opportunities for seniors. Currently, there is one position available.

Trustee Graham noted that the Environment Commission will meet Thursday, March 4 continuing to work on Earth Month and the Katie Armstrong Sustainability Award. The Youth Commission will meet via zoom Wednesday, March 10 to discuss how to reach the youth. Both Commissions are looking for additional members. Kudos to EDAG and staff on the new ordinance with Homewood Star Disposal.

Trustee Hardy reported that the Commission on Human Relations will meet at 5:30 Tuesday, March 2 and the Planning and Zoning Commission will also meet tomorrow, Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 both via zoom. She loved the new vehicles stickers, from the message to the colors.

Trustee Woods said that the financial update is for best interest of Park Forest. With the checks and balances in place, this is a sign transparency and good government. Many difficult financial decisions were made by the Board this past year and the staff acted professionally and competently to execute the Board's vision.

Trustee Herron also appreciated the meaning of the new village sticker.

Trustee Hennessy thanked EDAG members for their work on the Class 8 Incentive allow Park Forest to get something back in return. She also noted that the vehicle sticker's message speaks

to our community. As March is the beginning of Women’s Month, it is time to remember the groundbreaking work women have done over the years and will continue to do in our community and elsewhere.

Attorney’s Comments

No report

Clerk Comments

No Report

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 Hardy, seconded by Trustee Herron and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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 special rules meeting at 7:59 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.com**

NOTE: Copies of Agenda Items are Available on the Village website at www.villageofparkforest.com