

**SPECIAL RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES**

Village Hall

Boardroom 6:00 p.m.

May 23, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, and Trustee Candyce Herron

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Bazan; Priscilla Centeno, Odelson and Sterk Attorneys

Roll Call

Trustee Graham called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was called by Clerk McGann. Due to the absence of Mayor Vanderbilt and Trustee Settles, Senior Trustee Graham was appointed President Pro Tem.

Workshop – Update on Cook County Property Tax Issues

Manager Mick said the Board and staff have had a discussion this issue. This workshop’s purpose is to see what steps the Village can take regarding the Cook County Assessor office and the inequities of the property tax evaluations and tax bills.

Director Zoellner summarized with two PowerPoint slides the recent meeting she had on April 19 with Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi and others. Trustee Woods also attended. Highlights of the discussion included:

- Apartment & Vacancy Classifications
- Appraisal Bias
- Irregular Tax Bills
- Zero and Near Zero Tax Bills.

Director Zoellner recounted the explanations by the Assessor of the discussion from the meeting. She noted that while comparing home replacements in various communities are the same, the value is lower. As the replacement value would go up, then Park Forest’s taxes would go down.

Director Zoellner explained that some adjustments will be made but will take time, i.e. sales ratio study and results of the Board of Review Appeals. She also noted that the Village and Board continue to work with Cook County Board members, School Districts, and Assessor’s Policy Director, Vincent Waller. She added that working with legislators who have proposed to increase and/or expand exemptions would help. Director Zoellner said there are northern suburban communities that also have vacancy valuation issues/concerns similar to Southern Cook County.

The Board had many questions, comments, concerns, and frustrations regarding appraisals, inconsistencies, replacement values vs fair market value, and the inequities affecting the south

suburbs in Cook County, particularly Park Forest. Also, there were concerns regarding the zero tax bills and the Village's group homes tax status. After much discussion, there are many unanswered questions and more specific information needs to be researched, gathered, and reviewed.

There were a number of questions, suggestions, examples to be used when working with the Assessor's Office at the next meeting. What does the state statute say regarding legal recourse? What is the Cook County formula for property taxes for homeowners and commercial properties? Why is the Cook County Tax System different than the State of Illinois? It was suggested to put this information in a letter, continue to work with other communities, and check with attorneys who would be our advocate being mindful of the fall election of 2022.

Mayor's Comments

President Pro tem Graham dispensed with the comments section of the agenda until the regular meeting.

Manager's Comments

Trustee's Comments

Attorney's Comments

Clerk Comments

Adjournment

This concluded the Special Rules Meeting.

There being no further business. President Pro tem Graham called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Hardy, seconded by Trustee Slone and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned with a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3

The meeting was adjourned with four (4) ayes, no (0) nays, and three (3) absent.

President Pro tem Graham adjourned the Special Rules Meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila McGann

Village Clerk

**RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS
COOK AND WILL COUNTIES**

Village Hall- Boardroom

7:00 p.m.

March 23, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, and Trustee Candyce Herron

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Health Rob Gunther, Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and Mark Geising, IT Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Bazan, Priscilla Centeno, Odelson and Sterk Attorneys

RECORDER: Village Clerk Sheila McGann

Roll Call

Trustee Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll was called by Clerk McGann. Due to the absence of Mayor Vanderbilt and Trustee Settles, Senior Trustee Graham was appointed President Pro Tem.

President Pro tem Graham read a proclamation honoring State Farm Insurance's 100 year birthday. June 7 is named State Farm Day in Park Forest; being a good neighbor is what it's all about.

1. Resolution Establishing a Retirement Healthcare Funding Plan

Manager Mick said explained that is plan has to have a third party establish and administer the voluntary contributions made by employees to offset their medical/insurance costs in retirement. The minimal impact on the Village would be administrative costs. Director Pries added that is advantageous to the employee as it is tax exempt. The Village does not add or match funds contributed voluntarily by the employee. President Pro tem Graham asked if there were questions or comments from the Board. When Trustee Woods noted that there were no additional cost to the Village, Director Pries added that the set up costs have been waved. Hearing no other questions or comments, this item will be on the agenda at the June 13 Regular Meeting.

2. Establishment of a Code of Conduct for Volunteer Board/Commission Members

Manager Mick has been asked during his evaluation if there is a policy or a code of conduct established for volunteer board/commission members. This code before the Board has been drawn up by legal counsel and reviewed/amended with feedback from Trustees and staff liaisons. He read the eight highlights from the Code of Conduct as presented in the agenda memo.

Manager Mick asked Village Attorney Kennedy if there was anything to add. She, with Attorney Centeno in the audience, noted that the rules are self-explanatory. President Pro tem Graham asked the Board if there were any questions or comments, Trustee Woods added the Commissions and Advisory Groups are the bedrock of our community. The Code of Conduct has been set up to protect the Village and the Commissioners. When Trust Slone asked if these are retroactive or going forward, Manager Mick said these will apply to all commissioners going forward and those already on commissions. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the June 13 Regular Meeting.

3. Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Village of Park Forest

Manager Mick said this is a housekeeping issue, allowing for the disposal of various older and unnecessary vehicles and equipment from the Police Department and Public Works Department. Chief Winfrey and Director Ysaguirre had nothing more to add. As there were no questions or comments from the Board, this item will be on the agenda at the June 13 Regular Meeting.

4. A Contract Amendment with Municipal Systems, LLC

Manager Mick said this item is an umbrella agreement for unpaid tickets. Chief Winfrey explained the current agreement with Municipal Systems and their proposed amendments with software and fee changes. Staff researched comparable software and found Municipal Systems to offer what the Village needs for ticket collection programs and collections. President Pro tem Graham asked if there were questions or comments from the Board. When Trustee Hardy asked about an increase in three years, Chief Winfrey explained that the other contract also had a self-renewing with the increase. Chief Winfrey clarified to Trustee Slone that the Village currently uses two services. The new contract amendment would allow the Village to use a system that integrates for services. Hearing no other questions, this item will be on the agenda at the June 13 Regular Meeting.

Mayor's Comments

President Pro tem Graham dispensed with the comments section of the agenda until the regular meeting.

Manager's Comments

Trustee's Comments

Attorney's Comments

Clerk Comments

Audience to Visitors

None

Adjournment

This concluded the Rules Board meeting.

There being no further business. President Pro tem Graham called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Woods, seconded by Trustee Hardy and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned with a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3

The meeting was adjourned with four (4) ayes, no (0) nays, and three (3) absent.

President Pro tem Graham adjourned the regular meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
350 VICTORY DRIVE
PARK FOREST, ILLINOIS**

Village Hall - Board Room

7:00 p.m.

May 23, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Tiffani Graham, Trustee Joseph Woods, Trustee Maya Hardy, and Trustee Erin Slone

ABSENT: Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt, Trustee Theresa Settles, and Trustee Candyce Herron

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Village Manager Tom Mick, Police Chief Paul Winfrey, Fire Chief Tracy Natyshok, Village Attorney Leslie Kennedy, Finance Director Mark Pries, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Health Rob Gunther, Director of Community Development Larrie Kerestes, Director of Economic Development and Planning Department Sandra Zoellner, Director of Public Works Roderick Ysaguirre, and Mark Geising, IT Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Bazan, Priscilla Centeno, Odelson and Sterk Attorneys

Roll Call

Trustee Graham called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm. Roll was called by Clerk McGann. Due to the absence of Mayor Vanderbilt and Trustee Settles, Senior Trustee Graham was appointed President Pro Tem.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Pro tem Graham led the Board and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports of Village Officers

Mayor

Mayor Vanderbilt was absent.

Village Attorney

No report

Village Manager

Manager Mick reported on a number of events in Park Forest noted that the last Blue Mass will be held at St. Irenaeus due to parish consolidations by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Memorial Day ceremony is scheduled for Monday, May 30. The Saturday Rules Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 4. Main Street Nights returns on Wednesdays from June 8 to August 3. There is an Open House scheduled for Thursday, June 9 to celebrate Judi Lancaster's retirement.

Village Clerk

No report

Reports of Commission Liaisons and Committee Chairpersons

Each of the Trustees thanked Ms. Lancaster for service to Park Forest and wished her the best on her retirement. She will be missed at Village Hall.

Trustee Woods talked about a recent problem at Autumn Ridge which was resolved by a visit and conversation between Manager Mick and the property manager. He commended the EDAG members and staff liaison for their work regarding property value assessment. He noted the importance of removing abandoned building to keep communities safe, to lower crime, and raise the quality of life. He commended the Village staff and Board for their work in this area. As the liaison for the new Police and Fire Advisory Group, he looks forward working on fair and equitable administration of justice and offered comments on community policing.

Trustee Hardy stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission will meet Tuesday, June 14 and the Cable Commission will meet Wednesday, July 27.

Trustee Slone reported that the Senior Commission and the Environment Commission will both meet Thursday, June 2. The Beautification Commission is accepting nominations online, at Village Hall, and at the Library for Beautification Awards.

Trustee Griffin said that the Commission on Human Relations will meet Tuesday, June 7. The Youth Commission will meet Wednesday, June 8. She thanked both commissions for their work on the recent Job Fair.

Citizens Comments, Observations, Petitions

None

Motion: Approval of Consent

MOVED that the Consent Agenda and each item contained therein be hereby approved:

1. MOVED, that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a Resolution Recognizing and Thanking Judith Lancaster for her Dedicated Service to the Village of Park Forest.

Approval of the consent agenda was moved by Trustee Hardy and seconded by Trustee Slone. President Pro tem Graham asked if anyone wished any items be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, a roll call vote was called by President Pro tem Graham on the motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved with the following results:

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3

The consent agenda was adopted with four (4) ayes, no (0) nays and three (3) absent.

The resolution was read by Manager Mick recognizing and thanking Judith Lancaster for her dedicated service to Park Forest noting the many areas where she coordinated events over the years. She worked with numerous mayors, managers, trustees, and clerks throughout her career. We wish her the best on her retirement.

DEBATABLE:

2. Ordinance: An Ordinance regarding the sale of 20 Main Street, approximately 2.25 improved land parcel, Park Forest, Illinois PIN 31-25-403-005-0000 (Final Reading)

Move for adoption of the ordinance was motioned by Trustee Woods and seconded by Trustee Hardy. The ordinance was moved and seconded to adopt this ordinance at final reading. President Pro tem Graham asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Pro tem Graham called for a roll call vote by Clerk McGann. The ordinance was approved following a roll call vote with the following results:

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3

The ordinance was adopted with four (4) ayes, no (0) nays, and three (3) absent.

Adjournment

This concluded the Regular Board meeting.

There being no further business. President Pro tem Graham called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Trustee Slone, seconded by Trustee Woods and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned with a voice vote with the following results:

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3

The meeting was adjourned with four (4) ayes, no (0) nays, and three (3) absent.

President Pro tem Graham adjourned the regular meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila McGann
Village Clerk