



**VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes

I. Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Village of Riverside Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., in Room 4 of the Township Hall, 27 Riverside Road, Riverside, IL. President Sells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present:	President Sells Trustee Sedivy Trustee Peters Trustee Pollock Trustee Ballerine Trustee Jisa
Absent:	Trustee Lumsden
Also Present:	Village Manager Frances Village Attorney Malina Village Clerk Haley

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Presentations / Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Zack Ozga of Nuttall Road addressed the board regarding the veterans' memorial in Guthrie Park. He had watched the prior village board meeting and listened to the discussion regarding the proposed improvements to the memorial and he supports the effort. He stated that his grandparents and great grandparents were veterans and he thinks it's very important to honor those who fought for our country.

President Sells took a moment to address the recent violent criminal acts that took place on West Quincy Street and Forest Avenue. He reassured everyone that despite these isolated incidents, Riverside is a very safe place to live. He noted that everyone needs to be a partner in fighting crime. He urged anyone who sees something suspicious to call 911. He assured everyone that calling in suspicious activity is not a bother to the Police Department. It is the job of the department to investigate suspicious activity. He also urged everyone to be a good neighbor and recommended reaching out to neighbors to get their contact information. He noted that Riverside is one of the safest communities in the Chicago area; however, it is part of a larger metropolitan area where there is a lot of crime.

V. Reports of Village Offices

A. Village President's Report – None.

B. Village Manager's Report

Manager Frances congratulated Deputy Police Chief William Gutschick on his recent graduation from the FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute. She also commended the Parks & Recreation Department for their recent programs to accommodate District 96 students when schools were closed due to the dangerously cold weather. She noted that the ice rink in Big Ball Park is temporarily off line due to the currently above average temperatures, but skating will resume once the recent warm temperatures end. She thanked the Big Chill Crew and Deputy Fire Chief Bill Sherman for their many volunteer hours tending to the ice rink. Manager Frances also thanked the Public Works Department for doing a great job with snow and ice removal and responding to recent water main breaks. She noted that the Fire Department assisted the Police Department with several recent incidents and offered mutual aid for structure fires in McCook & Stickney.

President Sells added that village staff noticed lights flickering at the village office during the extreme cold weather and reported it to ComEd. The utility was able to troubleshoot the issue and prevent a potential power outage.

VI. *Approval of Consent Agenda*

A. Approve Voucher List of Bills February 7, 2019

B. Approve Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes January 17, 2019

C. File and Review Historical Commission Meeting Minutes November 19, 2018

D. A Resolution authorizing a \$163,057.22 Inter-Fund Transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to fund future capital expenditures

E. A Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to waive competitive bidding and execute a sales agreement with Jack Phelan Chevrolet for a total amount not to exceed \$33,057.22 for the purchase of one 2019 Police Utility Vehicle

F. A Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to waive competitive bidding and execute a sales agreement with Griffon Systems for a total amount not to exceed \$130,000 for the purchase and installation of a CCTV Surveillance System (Avigilon Surveillance)

G. A Resolution for Construction on State Highway During 2019 and 2020

H. An Ordinance amending Various Sections of the Village Code of the Village of Riverside relative to placement of Small Wireless Facilities, Wireless Support Structures and Ground- Mounted Utility Installations within the Village's National Historic Landscape Architectural District

President Sells read the Consent Agenda aloud and asked if any of the Trustees required an item to be removed for discussion. Hearing no requests, he called for a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee **Ballerine made a motion** to approve. Trustee **Jisa seconded** the motion.

AYES: Trustees Sedivy, Peters, Pollock, Ballerine and Jisa.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

VII. *Reports of Departments, Commissions and Trustee Liaisons*

A. Presentation on Crime Prevention Strategies by Police Chief Weitzel

Chief Weitzel stated that the recent violent crimes on West Quincy Street and Forest Avenue were very unusual for Riverside. He noted that both crimes were targeted incidents and both were drug related. He had a meeting with the village manager and village president to discuss both incidents and determine what the department and the community can do to prevent crime

in the community and keep residents and business owners informed if and when another crime does occur. Weitzel stressed that the department received excellent cooperation from Dolejs Property Management following the shooting incident on Forest Avenue. Employees of the company worked with the department for six hours the night of the shooting to review and retrieve data from security cameras at the building.

Weitzel stated that the Police Department has developed 10 principles of crime prevention that will be implemented in the coming months: target hardening, target removal, reducing the means, reducing the payoff, access control, approved surveillance, environmental change, rule setting, increasing the chance of being caught through crime prevention and deflecting offenders. Weitzel stressed that residents should ALWAYS call 911 if they see something suspicious. It is never a bother. He noted that when a call comes into the 911 center, the dispatcher sees the caller's phone number and address and knows where to send help.

Weitzel highlighted several programs that the department already has in place. For example, the Yellow Tag Door Hanger program is used primarily by officers on the midnight shift. If officers observe a garage door that has been left open or bikes that have been left unsecured on the front lawn, they close the door or move the bikes to a more secure location in the back yard and leave a yellow tag door hanger for the resident to alert them that they have taken these actions. The department also has a House Watch Program available to all residents and businesses. If you plan to be out of town, notify the department and officers will keep an eye on your property. The department has also been conducting targeted traffic enforcement details throughout the village and soon video cameras and red light cameras will be installed at key locations throughout the village. Both types of cameras will improve overall traffic safety and assist in criminal investigations.

Weitzel noted that the first surveillance cameras will be installed at the intersection of Kimbark, Woodside & Park Place. There will also be cameras at the Train Station to monitor the center of town. A camera will also be installed at the intersection of Longcommon & Evelyn, where there was formerly a stop sign with a flashing red light. This will be Phase 1 of the project.

Trustee Sedivy stated that he thought entryway locations were the priority when the board discussed the installation of surveillance cameras. He asked why the plan had changed. Chief Weitzel noted that cameras on interior roadways can be installed quickly with no significant infrastructure expenses. He stated that entryway cameras need IDOT approval and IDOT has not been responsive. Although it will take longer to get the entryway camera installations approved, Weitzel is confident that Phase 2 of the project will be completed in 2019 also.

Trustee Ballerine asked if the village could partner with local businesses for camera placement or to obtain video surveillance footage. Chief Weitzel said he would definitely pursue partnerships. It was noted that cameras installed on the Shining Smiles dental office or the Citgo Gas Station at the intersection of Longcommon & Harlem could capture a similar view to those installed in the IDOT Right of Way at that intersection. He noted that the Village of River Forest has partnered with a local Starbucks to install a camera on the exterior of their building at a major intersection in the community. He noted that the village can also partner with private residents who have video surveillance systems at their homes. He envisions reaching out to residents and creating a spreadsheet of homeowners who have private video surveillance systems and would be willing to share video footage should a crime occur near their home. Weitzel also stated that the department has already reached out to both Ring and Nest to inquire about a possible discount for Riverside residents who purchase their products. He stated that the video quality of the doorbell cameras is outstanding.

Chief Weitzel stated he that understands the ideas he presented are not the only crime prevention ideas that can work and asked the board and residents to provide the department with feedback and suggestions. He noted that the village's red light camera application is "on IDOT's desk". Engineering review is underway. He noted that red light cameras record continuously and crimes have been solved by reviewing the video footage from red light cameras in neighboring communities.

Trustee Jisa asked what the village will do with red light camera fines if the application is approved by IDOT. Weitzel stated that the board would need to set a policy; however, he favors spending any funds received from red light camera citations on public safety.

Trustee Jisa thinks that once the video cameras have been installed, signs should be posted advising that the village is under video surveillance. He has seen this type of signage in other communities. It was noted that criminals choose targets they perceive will offer little resistance. They seek opportunities to commit crimes quickly and quietly without drawing attention to their activities. Signage warning of video surveillance may make the entire village a less attractive target to criminals. Weitzel noted that according to criminals, the number one deterrent to crime is having a dog. Barking dogs bring unwanted attention.

Chief Weitzel reminded everyone that the recent crimes were targeted crimes. They were not random. Trustee Jisa stated that targeted activity is what concerns him. He believes residents need to be better educated on how to help prevent crime and be actively engaged in crime prevention by calling in suspicious activity. Targets of criminal activity do not simply disappear after a crime has been committed. Sometimes, they remain in the community and can create a dangerous situation for those around them. Weitzel noted that the village has nuisance abatement ordinances and he invokes them any time there is criminal activity. In the case of a multi-family dwelling, the department sends a nuisance abatement letter to the property owner which gives the owner 10 days to take some sort of positive action to ensure compliance with local ordinances. He stated that the department works closely with property owners and property management companies.

Trustee Jisa expressed support for the Police Department and urged Chief Weitzel to communicate the department's needs to the Board. Weitzel stated that the Board has always been very supportive of the department and thanked the board for that support. He stated that he believes the video surveillance cameras and signage will help deter crime in Riverside and he looks forward to reporting back to the board with progress on their installation.

Chief Weitzel noted that the Police Department fielded 1,600 calls reporting suspicious activity in 2018.

Trustee Ballerine stressed the importance of calling the police to report suspicious activity. He noted that recently, someone posted on Facebook about an individual going door to door soliciting donations for Lambs Farm. At the time of the Facebook post, there were no active solicitation permits on file with the village and had the resident who posted the comment called the police to report the activity, officers would have been able to respond and investigate the activity.

Chief Weitzel stated that he wanted the Board and residents to know that on both the night of the kidnapping on West Quincy Street and the shooting on Forest Avenue, the Police Chiefs of Brookfield and North Riverside called him immediately to offer whatever assistance Riverside needed. He thanked both Chief Episcopo and Chief Garcia for their immediate offers of

assistance and praised the working relationship between the three departments.

President Sells said he has spoken to several business owners who are interested in partnering with the Police Department regarding placement of additional video surveillance cameras. Sells stated that the best antidote to fear is knowledge. He noted that Naperville has a crime map that is available online and suggested staff investigate a similar product for Riverside.

Resident Zack Ozga of Nuttall Road asked if there was anything the community could do to raise funds for the video camera program. Chief Weitzel thanked him for his concern but assured him that funding was already in place for the cameras.

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions – None.

IX. Considerations

A. Consideration of Construction Material for Kent Road Alley Improvements

Public Works Director Bailey noted that the Kent Road Alley Improvements project is planned as a Special Service Area (SSA). He would like guidance on what type of material should be used for the project. Bailey recommends using concrete or possibly pavers, but would prefer concrete in order to avoid the recurring costs associated with maintaining the pavers.

Trustee Sedivy asked if the residents within the proposed SSA had been polled regarding their material preference. Bailey stated that residents had not been consulted yet.

Trustee Sedivy asked if there were flooding concerns in the area. Bailey stated that there were not flooding concerns specific to the alley, but the more water that can be diverted from the storm water system, the better. He noted that the alleys to the south have a permeable strip down the middle. He stated that the MWRD would prefer as much permeable pavement as possible, but the Department of Public Works would prefer concrete.

President Sells asked if the SSA would have a time limit. Finance Director Johns stated that the bonds would be repaid over a 20 year period.

Attorney Malina stated that residents should be consulted to determine whether or not there is support for the proposed project.

Trustee Peters stated that she would like to see a breakdown of how much the project would cost each resident for each of the three materials being considered so residents will have a better understanding of what the cost of each material would be.

There was a discussion as to how long the repayment period would be and if the most expensive option, permeable pavers, was selected, if the repayment period could be longer so the cost to residents was more spread out over time.

Attorney Malina explained the difference between a Special Service Area (SSA) and a Special Assessment (SA). He noted that a Special Assessment (SA) typically involves both a public and private benefit; however, a Special Service Area (SSA) is typically employed when a project benefits private property owners exclusively.

Trustee Sedivy stated that he doesn't think the board is ready to make a decision without more information about the costs and input from the residents.

Director Bailey again advocated using concrete rather than pavers and noted that it currently costs the village approximately \$600,000 per mile to reconstruct a public street. The few alleys in the village compete with public streets for paving dollars yet few people use them.

President Sells inquired regarding a timeline for the project. It was noted that the process of creating the SSA would take approximately 124 days. Time would also be needed for design and bidding out the project; however, staff believes the project could still be completed in 2019.

Trustee Pollock stated that he would like the village engineer to do an assessment of the stormwater benefits of using permeable pavers before the project moves forward.

B. Discussion of Term Limits for Village Officials

President Sells noted that several trustees have requested that the board discuss the issue of term limits for village officials. He noted that per Article VII, Section 7 of the Illinois Constitution, all municipalities (home rule and non-home rule) have the authority "by referendum, to adopt, alter or repeal their forms of government provided by law" and "to provide by referendum for their officers, manner of selection and terms of office."

Trustee Jisa stated that he favors drafting a referendum question for voter consideration. He noted that in researching the issue, he was surprised to learn that the village does not have term limits. It was noted that in the past, the Riverside Community Caucus has interviewed and recommended candidates for service on the Village Board and the Caucus bylaws included a provision that elected officials not serve more than two consecutive terms. Adherence to the Caucus bylaws was voluntary. The Caucus is currently disbanded and its' future is uncertain so several trustees believe consideration should be given to formally implementing term limits for elected officials.

Trustee Ballerine inquired about the process and timeline for a referendum question. Attorney Malina noted that imposing term limits would be changing the village's form of government. A referendum question could be drafted and appear on the next local or general election ballot which would be in the spring of 2020. The Illinois State Board of Elections publishes a calendar each election cycle which includes filing deadlines.

Trustee Jisa recommended language similar to what is contained in the Caucus bylaws which imposed a limit of "two full four year elected terms". Trustee Sedivy suggested using the language "two full four year consecutive elected terms".

Trustee Ballerine stated that he has thought about this issue a lot. He is not running for re-election, in part because of the unwritten Caucus rule. He firmly believes that residents do not need to be on the board to make a difference in the community. He noted that he has been involved in local government and community organizations as a board member, a commission member and volunteer for 25-30 years. He stated that the pace of progress is faster outside the board room and commissioners and volunteers do a lot for the community. He believes this is a worthwhile discussion and would like the board to further investigate the topic, including researching a referendum question.

Trustee Peters also supports exploring the issue further; however, she is uncertain that imposing term limits will increase the number of candidates seeking office. She noted that there are a lot of great people in the village, but not many people are willing to run for office.

Trustee Sedivy asked for specifics regarding the timeline for the 2020 Primary Election.

Trustee Pollock does not believe imposing term limits will promote greater participation and engagement in local government.

Trustee Jisa believes term limits will help bring new people into local government in a cyclic fashion and will revitalize the village. He does not think having the same people on the board for an unlimited amount of time would be good for the village.

Trustee Sedivy stated that he is a supporter of term limits. He asked how much better off everyone would be if there were term limits in the State of Illinois, City of Chicago and Cook County. He believes there is a perception in the community that the village operates as an old boys network. He believes more people need to be involved in local government. He noted that at the recent Town Hall Meeting hosted by President Sells and Manager Frances, only 10 people attended who were not past, current or trustees-elect of the village. He noted that because of the Caucus, the village has had de facto term limits, even though they have been voluntary and he does not feel that this has limited participation.

Manager Frances read a brief email from Trustee Lumsden in support of drafting a referendum question regarding term limits.

Trustee Sedivy addressed the issue of the timing of the term limit discussion. In his opinion, the Caucus served the village well for many years; however, the future of the Caucus is uncertain. He views term limits as a way to stave off partisanship. He noted that the village has been operating with voluntary, self-imposed term limits due to the Caucus bylaws, but he believes term limits should be made official due to the uncertain future of the Caucus. He does not believe a village trustee should be a lifetime position.

Trustee Pollock noted that he and President Sells' ability to run for another consecutive term in on the Board would be impacted if term limits are imposed. He would like to have the opportunity to run for a third consecutive term. He stated that the village does not have the same form of government as the City of Chicago or State of Illinois. There are no opportunities to profit from serving as a village trustee. It is a volunteer position and trustees receive no tangible benefits. In his opinion, there has been too much turnover on the board. People are serving for one term and then resigning. In addition to serving as a village trustee, Pollock has served on the Caucus' nominating committee. He stated that it has always been difficult to find people who are willing to serve as village trustees. He noted that for anyone with a full-time job or a young family, it is very difficult to serve. He sees no benefit in imposing term limits and believes doing so will actually result in fewer choices for voters and may result in a board that has little or no prior local government experience. He does not believe this type of situation would serve the best interest of the community. He stated that most local governments do not have term limits. He is willing to discuss the issue, but does not support term limits for village officials.

Trustee Sedivy stated that imposing term limits is not a decision for the board to make. It is a question the residents must decide.

Trustee Jisa stated that his interest in implementing term limits has nothing to do with the trustees-elect who will be sworn in after the April election. He favors drafting a resolution in support of placing a referendum question on the ballot for the next election.

President Sells stated that it is difficult for him to talk about this issue without sounding self-serving because he and Trustee Pollock were both elected when there were no term limits mandated by law and the imposition of term limits would prevent both of them from running for a third consecutive term. He does not agree with Trustee Jisa's assessment that there is a lack of representation on the board. He noted that in eight weeks, there will be three new voices on the board. Sells also believes the issue is more complicated than it may seem on the surface.

He noted that imposing term limits would change the village's form of government. It is not a simple process. He questioned whether term limits would apply only to elected officials or if appointed commissioners would also be subject to term limits. He also inquired as to whether the term limits would be applied retroactively. He would like the village attorney to research the issue. He stated that he plans to have another Town Hall Meeting in May and hopefully video participation will be possible. He stated that he would like input from residents on how to draft a referendum question. He does not believe this is a topic for the current board to discuss. He believes it is a matter for the next board to discuss and decide if a referendum question should go on the next ballot. It will be up to residents to decide the outcome.

Trustee Ballerine expressed interest in further discussion by the current board. He noted that if this board approves a resolution directing the placement of a referendum question on the next ballot and the next board wants to override that action, they are free to pass a resolution reversing the decision.

President Sells asked that the village attorney research the law, options and timeframes and report back to the board.

X. *New Business* – None.

XI. *Adjournment*

With no New Business to discuss and no need for Executive Session, President Sells called for a motion and second to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Trustee Peters made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Jisa seconded.

AYES: Trustees Sedivy, Peters, Pollock, Ballerine and Jisa.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

President Sells declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Village Clerk Haley

Date Approved

XII. *Executive Session* – None.