



**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 in Room 4 of the Township Hall, 27 Riverside Road, Riverside, IL, on Thursday, February 20, 2020. President Sells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call:**

Present:	President Sells Trustee Peters Trustee Gallegos Trustee Jisa Trustee Hannon Trustee Evans Trustee Pollock
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Village Manager Frances Village Attorney Marrs Village Clerk Haley

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Presentations / Public Comment**

A. Public Comment - None.

**V. Reports of Village Officers**

A. Village President's Report

President Sells eulogized Donald Farnham, describing him as one of Riverside's finest residents and a truly great man. He encouraged everyone to read the wonderful article in the Landmark to learn more about Mr. Farnham's life and legacy. He called special attention to Farnham's role, along with Dr. Bob Novak, in the founding of Riverside TV and as a mentor to many aspiring television professionals. He read from comments posted on Facebook by Don's daughter Nora who encouraged others to honor her father's legacy by treating everyone with kindness and respect.

President Sells stated that the Village sits on the Mississippi flyway, an important migratory

route for birds. Because of the work done by a group of about 20 volunteers during the past two years, the village has been designated as an “Important Bird Area” by the Audubon Society. He especially thanked Jill Mateo, Melinda Pruitt-Jones and Steve Pruitt-Jones for their efforts. Riverside is the 92<sup>nd</sup> community in Illinois to receive this designation.

B. Village Manager’s Report – None.

## **VI. *Approval of Consent Agenda***

President Sells read the Consent Agenda aloud.

A. Approve Voucher List of Bills February 20, 2020

B. Approve Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes February 6, 2020

C. Review and file Board of Fire & Police Commissioners Meeting Minutes December 12, 2019

D. Review and file Garages & Driveways Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes November 13, 2019 and February 5, 2020

E. Review and file Landscape Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020

F. Review and file Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting, November 14, 2019 Special Meeting and January 14, 2020 Special Meeting

G. Review and file Community Development, Fire and Police Department January 2020 Monthly Reports

H. An Ordinance amending Section 8-10-6 (Effects of Permit) of Chapter 10 (Construction of Utility Facilities in Public Rights of Way) in Title 8 (Public Ways and Property) of the Village Code of the Village of Riverside Relative to Utility Permits

President Sells asked if any of the Trustees required an item to be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Hearing no requests, he called for a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda.

Trustee **Gallegos made a motion** to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee **Evans seconded** the motion.

**AYES:** Trustees Peters, Gallegos, Jisa, Hannon, Evans & Pollock.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

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

A. Chief Weitzel will provide an update on the Status of State Funding for Police Training and Education

Chief Weitzel stated there is a critical situation in Illinois currently. The Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board (ILETSB) provides funding and oversight for all state required training for law enforcement, which includes police academies and state mandated training. The Village pays an annual fee for training courses, which assists the department in remaining compliant with state mandates. Traffic ticket fines are the sole source of funds for law enforcement training in Illinois and due to a revised fine structure that went into effect in July 2019, revenue has decreased drastically. The state board is no longer receiving the \$5M in funding for police training it previously received. Some training is state mandated, but there is no longer any state funding for the training. The Village will need to pick up the unbudgeted costs which are approximately \$140 per officer annually and \$6,000 per officer for the police academy. In the past, the state had reimbursed the village \$3,000 for police academy expenses; however, that will no longer happen. Weitzel stated that the department will need to request a budget amendment if the state does not provide funds. This situation affects every jurisdiction in the state and Senate Bill 3739 has been

introduced to seek funding for police training.

President Sells asked who had made the decision to stop funding police training. Weitzel stated that the funding was eliminated as part of the Criminal Justice Reform Act. Weitzel also noted that judges have the ability waive fees, but they are not permitted to waive fines.

President Sells asked if Chief Weitzel has been in touch with local legislators. Chief Weitzel stated that he has reached out to Mike Zalewski. Sells stated that he will bring the matter to the West Central Municipal Conference (WCWC) to ask for support. He thanked Weitzel for updating the Board.

### **VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

- A. An Ordinance approving an expansion of an existing Special Use to allow for a Classroom Addition to the Existing School (Blythe Park Elementary) at 735 Leesley Road, Riverside—Riverside School District 96

President Sells stated that the Board had discussed this petition at the prior meeting and called for a motion and second to approve the ordinance. Trustee **Gallegos made a motion** to approve the ordinance. Trustee **Peters seconded** the motion.

Community Development Director Abt provided a recap of the Board's prior activity on this matter. She noted that at the February 6, 2020 meeting, some Trustees expressed concern about the chosen building materials and the impact of using a wood composite siding rather than brick would have on the neighborhood. One of the required findings for approval of a special use is that the proposed use will not cause substantial injury to the value of other property in the neighborhood. Some expressed concern about a wood composite as well as the need to have clear direction since this is a civic building and the addition will be a permanent addition to both a historic structure and the neighborhood. The Village Board requested that the Preservation Commission consider the impact on the neighborhood and provide more detailed feedback on the materials and whether brick or wood siding would be more appropriate to meet the preservation standards. The Preservation Commission discussed the chosen materials at their Regular Meeting on February 13, and the commission still supports its original Certificate of Appropriateness approval and noted that either material meets Department of the Interior standards.

Trustee Hannon stated that the fact that the school district needs to build an addition is a great compliment to the community. It shows that the community is healthy and has many young families using the schools; however, he is concerned that the chosen material will have a negative impact on the property values of the surrounding neighborhood. He believes brick is a better material for the project. He thinks the wood siding feels disconnected from the surrounding community. He expressed concern that the school district seems to be giving people the impression that the Preservation Commission preferred the siding over the brick when in fact the commission stated that either siding or brick meets the standards, expressed no preference and made no recommendation.

Director Abt noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission did not review and opine on the use of brick for the addition since that was not the school district's chosen material and the Preservation Commission had already indicated that either material would be acceptable.

President Sells noted that representatives from District 96 and their architects were present and asked if they would like to present information to the Board. Ryan Kelley of DLA

Architects stated that the existing structure is comprised of four building materials: brick, glass, steel and wood. The firm felt the wood cladding selected for the addition best differentiates the addition from the original structure as required by the Department of the Interior. There is no cost differential between the two materials because the addition is small.

Mr. Kelley noted that even if brick was the chosen material, it would not be matching brick because the addition needs to be differentiated from the original structure.

Trustee Gallegos stated that he attended the Preservation Commission meeting where this matter was discussed and he came away with the impression that the commissioners preferred the wood cladding.

Trustee Peters asked to see the rendering of the addition in brick.

Trustee Evans commented that the wood cladding seems to be similar to interior paneling in the hallway of the school. Kelley confirmed that the material was chosen to compliment the interior wood paneling.

Trustee Hannon stated that he still has concerns regarding allowing a material other than brick in a neighborhood where brick is the predominant building material.

Trustee Pollock noted that the village does not have design standards. He is comfortable with the Preservation Commission's findings and the architects' recommendations. He does not believe there is any basis for the Board to mandate the use of brick.

Trustee Hannon stated that he still feels the use of brick will ensure that the addition will have less of a chance of having an adverse architectural impact on the he surrounding neighborhood.

Trustee Pollock stated that the village does not have architectural standards, and to his knowledge, the Board has not previously use architectural standards to determine the impact of a particular project on surrounding property values.

President Sells called for the vote.

**AYES:** Trustees Peters, Gallegos, Jisa, Evans and Pollock.

**NAYS:** Trustee Hannon.

**Motion passed.**

## ***IX. Considerations***

### **A. Discussion of Flood Brothers Contract Renewal**

Village Manager Frances stated that in September of 2019, the Village and Flood Brothers began discussing a renewal of the refuse contract. She provided highlights of the proposal for the contract renewal as follows:

- Rates will remain flat for 2020.
- Beginning in June 2021, rates will increase by 2.75% annually.
- Annual Pumpkin Composting Event at no additional cost.
- Yard waste and Food Scrap mixed collection will be available at no additional cost. Previously, there was a charge for composting.
- Annual Household Hazardous Waste and Shredding Event at no additional cost.
- Implement/offer back door trash and recycling (at an additional fee). The current

- contract only offers back door refuse collection.
- Continue to offer senior discount of 15%.
- Continue to provide recycling of electronics, light bulbs and batteries at the Public Works facility.

Manager Frances stated that Michael Flood was in attendance and available to respond to questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Evans inquired about disposal of batteries, specifically if car batteries were included. Mr. Flood stated that only household batteries are included.

Trustee Evans also inquired about yard waste containers and replacement of recycling carts. Mr. Flood noted that some residents still have village owned recycling carts. If those carts are no longer in good condition, residents should call Flood Brothers to request a new recycling cart.

President Sells asked what happens to Christmas trees once they are collected by Flood Brothers each January. Mr. Flood stated that most yard waste facilities will hold them until the spring when they can be processed into mulch. He noted that landfills no longer accept yard waste at any time of the year.

Trustee Jisa stated that Mr. Flood should be proud of the Flood Brothers team because they do a great job.

Trustee Hannon described composting at no additional cost as “spectacular”. He noted that many residents are interested in taking whatever steps they can to be more ecofriendly. He thanked Flood Brothers for supporting those efforts. He also stated that he is happy to see that Riverside’s residential rates compare favorably to comparable communities. He inquired about how commercial rates compare with other commercial operations. Manager Frances stated that she would request that information from the Cook County Solid Waste Agency because they compile the data from member communities. She noted that when the contract was put out to bid in 2015, Flood Brothers’ commercial rates were comparable to other refuse haulers.

**Consensus:** Move forward with the contract renewal.

#### B. Discussion regarding Public Comment Policy

Village Manager Frances stated that the Board last adopted guidelines for public comment in 2007. Those guidelines were revised in 2009. She stated that the current policy is dated and should be amended to apply to the Board of Trustees and all advisory boards and commissions. She asked that the Board discuss and provide input so that Staff can update the policy and bring it back for approval at a future meeting.

Trustee Evans asked that the provision that individuals must sign in be struck from the policy. President Sells and Trustee Jisa concurred. Attorney Marris advised that it would be permissible to strike the provision. **Consensus:** Strike the requirement that individuals sign in prior to commenting.

Trustee Evans expressed concern regarding limiting public comment to 30 minutes. She believes everyone should have an opportunity to address the board, regardless of how long it may take. Attorney Marris noted that the 30 minute time limit only applies to general public

comment, not to topics on the agenda. Speakers who wish to comment on an agenda item may do so when that agenda item is under consideration by the Board.

Trustee Pollock stated that he supports public participation; however, he also urged the Board to remember that they are here to conduct the public's business. He believes the Chair should have the discretion to limit comment in order to conduct the public's business.

Attorney Marrs called attention to items 2 and 4 of the proposed guidelines and noted that item 2 applies to the general public comment section at the start of the meeting while item 4 applies to public comment related to a particular agenda item.

President Sells stated that he has misgivings about the entire concept of restricting public comment. He believes the best way to address the issue of speakers abusing public comment is to give discretion to the Chair to ask the speaker to conclude their comments. He does not support the 5 minute time limit as specified in item 4 or the 30 minute limit as noted in item 2 and believes residents should be allowed to say whatever they have to say.

Trustee Hannon stated that he does not want to discourage or curtail public comment in any way, but he supports limiting public general public comment on topics not on the agenda to 30 minutes. He supports objective standards for non-agenda items.

Trustee Jisa supports giving the president discretion to limit public comment. He believes setting a time limit for individual speakers or public comment in general might give people the wrong impression.

Trustee Evans concurred. She noted that limiting general public comment to 30 minutes means only 6 people would be allowed to speak.

President Sells noted that in almost every case when there has been significant public input at a meeting, the comments were in response to an agenda item and the 30 minute limit does not apply to agenda items. It only applies to general public comment not related to items on the agenda.

Trustee Peters stated that restricting public comment on a particular topic seems limiting.

Trustee Pollock stated that he supports giving more discretion to the chair. He feels that generally speaking, people should be able to comment.

Trustee Peters inquired about what other communities do with regard to public comment. Attorney Marrs stated that the proposed guidelines are a basic template that Klein Thorpe & Jenkins provides clients who are seeking more structure for their public comment process.

Trustee Peters and Trustee Evans suggested item 8 to be amended to replace the word "requested" with the word "encouraged;" however both President Sells and Trustee Jisa expressed support for deleting item 8 entirely. They believe that even though comments are sometimes similar or repetitive, they are none-the-less important to the person who is speaking.

Trustee Hannon concurred that the Board should not do anything to discourage public comment.

**Consensus:** With regard to item 3, eliminate the 5 minute per speaker time limit, but implement 30 minute rule for comments not related to an agenda item. Eliminate items 8 & 9 from proposed policy or amend language to give discretion to the chair to limit comment.

*X. New Business* – None.

*XI. Adjournment*

With no New Business to discuss and no need for an Executive Session, President Sells called for a motion and second to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Trustee **Gallegos made a motion** to adjourn. Trustee **Peters seconded** the motion.

**AYES:** Trustees Peters, Gallegos, Jisa, Hannon, Evans & Pollock.

**NAYS:** None.

**Motion passed.**

President Sells declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Village Clerk Haley

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Date Approved

*XII. Executive Session* – None.