



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 the Township Auditorium, 27 Riverside Road, 2nd Floor, Riverside, IL, on Thursday, May 20, 2021. President Ballerine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call: Present: President Ballerine
Trustee Pollock
Trustee Marsh-Ozga
Trustee Gallegos
Trustee Evans
Trustee Hannon
Trustee Clauchery

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager Frances
Village Attorney Marrs
Village Clerk Haley

Also in attendance: Police Chief Weitzel, Public Safety Director Buckley, Public Works Director Tabb, Parks & Recreation Director Malchiodi, Finance Director Johns and numerous employees of the Riverside Police Department.

IV. President's Report

(This is an opportunity for the Village President to report on matters of interest or concern to the Village.)

A. Proclamation recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Pillars Community Health
President Ballerine read the proclamation honoring Pillars Community Health.

B. Proclamation honoring retiring Police Chief Thomas Q. Weitzel
President Ballerine was joined at the podium by former Village Presidents Stack,

DiNatale, Wiaduck and Sells and Chief Weitzel. President Ballerine then read the proclamation honoring Chief Weitzel and thanked Weitzel for his dedication to the community. President Ballerine noted that former President Gorman sent his best regards but was out of town and unable to attend the meeting in person. He then invited the former presidents to speak.

President Wiaduck described the moment as bittersweet but wonderful. He said promoting Chief Weitzel through the ranks was an easy choice due to his demonstrated leadership skills. He thanked Weitzel for creating a Police Department the community is both thankful for and proud of. He praised Weitzel's character and thanked him for the work he has done over the years both in Riverside and on behalf of neighboring communities and larger causes.

President DiNatale stated that he had the pleasure of being on the Village Board in 1984 when a young Tom Weitzel was first sworn in as a Riverside police officer. DiNatale recounted how he told then Chief Doneske that he was certain that Weitzel would one day be Chief of Police in Riverside. He praised Weitzel as a great leader who has exceeded his expectations.

President Stack stated that Riverside is a better place because of Chief Weitzel's service and the community owes him a debt of gratitude. He thanked Weitzel for taking such good care of the residents and the community.

President Sells stated that he had the good fortune to have Chief Weitzel's leadership during his entire term as village president. He praised Weitzel for his leadership and noted that the officers are a reflection of Weitzel's leadership and a credit to the community. Sells stated that what impressed him the most was that Weitzel never stopped learning. He noted that times have changed and Chief Weitzel has lead the charge in terms of community policing and finding a better way to serve.

Manager Frances thanked Chief Weitzel for his service on behalf of the entire village staff and stated that no one realizes the sacrifices Chief Weitzel and his family have made on behalf of the community. She stated that she will miss Chief Weitzel and she presented him with a gift from the village.

Deputy Chief Gutschick then presented Chief Weitzel with a crystal memento on behalf of the Riverside Police Department and thanked him for his leadership and service.

Resident Tom Sisulak read a proclamation from Riverside American Legion Post 488 thanking Chief Weitzel for his service to the community.

Chief Weitzel said that he was honored by the presence of the former village presidents. He thanked everyone for their support over the years and asked his wife of 37 years to join him at the podium. Weitzel noted that policing runs in the Weitzel family. His sons are all police officers and his brother is also a police officer. Weitzel praised the officers of the Riverside Police Department and thanked the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners for their service in selecting quality candidates for the community. He thanked village staff and fellow co-workers, especially his Assistant Pamela McCall and his senior command staff, Deputy Chief Gutschick and Lt. Lara. He stated that he has always appreciated their honest feedback and guidance. He has always favored a collaborative approach and believes the best outcomes are achieved through teamwork. Weitzel noted that he was on the team that interviewed Manager Frances when she was hired as Finance Director. He thanked Manager Frances for always holding him accountable.

Weitzel thanked his wife for her support throughout his career and stated that he had been feeling a little sad this morning, but when he woke up, she had decorated their house in celebration of his retirement and she presented him with a quote from Mr. Rogers to set the tone for the day: “Often, when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.”

Former Brookfield Police Chief Jim Episcopo, who recently retired after 33 years of service and is currently serving as Interim Executive Director of the WC3 911 Center, thanked Chief Weitzel for all he has contributed to the policing profession and stated that he is proud to call him a friend. He then played a recording of 10-42 messages from colleagues in Riverside and surrounding jurisdictions.

Trustee Evans thanked Chief Weitzel for his decades of leadership in the community, and most recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide social unrest. She praised Weitzel for his commitment to the NAACP’s 10 Shared Principles and thanked him for his advocacy on behalf of national policing standards. She described Weitzel as “our rock” who has ensured the community’s safety for so many years.

Chief Weitzel thanked Trustee Evans for her kind words and stated that he is leaving the department is in good hands with Public Safety Director Buckley.

V. *Manager’s Report*

(This is an opportunity for the Village Manager to report on matters of interest or concern to the Village.)

No report.

VI. *Resident Comments – Non-Agenda Items*

(This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak about matters that are not

included on this agenda. Residents may speak to matters on the agenda as those items are brought up and they are recognized by the Village President.)

Resident David Barsotti, of West Quincy Street addressed the Board regarding the proposed Groveland floodwall project. Mr. Barsotti stated that he has two major concerns regarding the project and the process. He is concerned that installation of the proposed floodwall will increase flooding upstream, downstream and to the west of the wall. He submitted a FOIA request for hydraulic data on March 25 and the village responded that it did not have the information. He then directed his request to the Army Corps (USACE) which provided the information. He is concerned that the village is not doing due diligence with regard to the project. He stated that the report he received from the USACE does not agree with what is being presented to the village and he is concerned that the village is not receiving all of the data necessary to make an informed decision about this project. He stated that the project being proposed to the village does not exist anywhere in the report he received from the USACE. In addition to the floodwall, the USACE report calls for making significant modifications to the BNSF railroad bridge, elevating First Avenue and Forest Avenue and installing pumping stations in order to alleviate flooding along Groveland Avenue. Barsotti stated that the report has raised a lot of questions as to the efficacy of the project currently under consideration by the village. He urged the village to do its own analysis. He questioned how the USACE can state that the floodwall will not cause any negative impacts when the report they used to justify the installation does not recommend what is being proposed. He noted that he has sent this report to all of the Trustees and he urged them to read it and based their decisions on all of the available information.

VII. *Consent Agenda*

(Matters on the Consent Agenda will be considered by a single motion and vote, because they have been fully considered by the Board at a previous meeting, or have been determined to be of a routine nature. Any member of the Board of Trustees may request that an item be moved from the Consent Agenda to Pending or New Business for separate consideration.)

President Ballerine read the Consent Agenda aloud.

- A. Approve Voucher List of Bills May 20, 2021
- B. Approve Village Board of Trustees Sine Die Meeting Minutes May 6, 2021
- C. Approve Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes May 6, 2021
- D. Receive and File Riverside Police Pension Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 2021
- E. Receive and File Department Reports for April: Community Development, Finance, Fire, Police, Public Works and March Community Development Report
- F. Receive and File Police Department 2020 Annual Report
- G. A Resolution Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Personal Property owned by the Village of Riverside

President Ballerine asked if any of the Trustees required an item to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. 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 Claucherty seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustee Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

VIII. Board and Commission Reports

(This is an opportunity for Commissioners and Board Members to update the public and the members of the Village Board regarding items of interest or concern to the Village.)

A. Presentation and Acceptance of Landscape Advisory Commission's Landscaping in a Landmark Village (Second Edition 2021)

Landscape Advisory Commission Chairperson Cathy Maloney thanked everyone for the opportunity to address the board. She noted that the Commission is excited to be releasing an update to this document for several reasons. She noted that there has been an influx of new residents who may be looking for information on the landscape of their new community and this document will provide guidance. She also noted that there is always renewed interest in planting each spring, and this year, due to the pandemic, people are especially excited to be outside in their gardens. Ms. Maloney stated that this is an update of an earlier version of the brochure which was also created by the Landscape Advisory Commission. Major updates to the brochure are the inclusion of information regarding the Village's Arboretum certification, information regarding property lines and the village right-of-way, inclusion of extensive lists of native plants that are bird and wildlife friendly and native plant design examples. Maloney stated that Riverside TV will be making a video of the highlights. Trustee Ballerine thanked Chairperson Maloney and the entire LAC for the work they do.

B. Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendation Regarding Enhancing Habitable Space Above Garages

President Ballerine stated that Interim Director/Village Planner Courtney Kashima has been working with the PZC to finalize their recommendations on this matter. He also noted that PZC Chairperson Mateo is in attendance should anyone have questions for the PZC.

Ms. Kashima provided a recap of the PZCs discussions of this topic. She noted that at the PZC shared their recommendations with the Village Board at the January 21, 2021 meeting, at which time the Village Board asked the PZC to deliberate further on the following issues:

- Whether to permit habitable space above garages,
- Whether to revise regulations to clarify whether/if plumbing is allowed in accessory structures, and
- Whether to revise the regulations on maximum size for accessory structures.

The consensus of the commission was that current regulations regarding habitable spaces above garages are adequate and allow garages to be used for home

occupations.

With regard to plumbing in accessory structures, the commission was in agreement that the code should be amended to allow plumbing in accessory structures.

With regard to regulations regarding the maximum size for accessory structures, the majority of the commission favored amending the code to allow for a maximum of 12% of lot area with a maximum of 800 square feet per structure. This was considered in the context of overall impervious surface maximums as a way to protect against over development.

President Ballerine asked for Trustee input.

Trustee Pollock stated that he is in agreement with the PZC but does not share their concern regarding the likelihood of residents converting an accessory building into a dwelling unit. He supports allowing plumbing in accessory structures and noted that someone may want a bathroom in their pool house. He stated that no matter what the village does, someone may try to work around the regulations, but he feels confident that the village inspection process will be able to address these issues, should they come to pass. He supports sending the matter back to the PZC for a Public Hearing.

Trustee Ballerine concurred that full plumbing seems to be the commissioners' primary concern, but also expressed confidence in the inspection process.

Consensus: Send the matter back to the PZC for a Public Hearing.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

- X. G. An Ordinance Approving a Variation from the maximum size requirement of 800 square feet for an accessory structure at 209 Millbridge Road – Blom Interim Director/Village Planner Kashima noted that the applicants are in attendance should the Trustees have questions for them. She stated that the PZC held a public hearing on this variation request on April 28, 2021, and voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the request to allow construction of a 991 square foot replacement garage on the existing foundation at 209 Millbridge Road with a condition that the existing paved area west of the garage be removed in order to meet the maximum impervious surface coverage limit of 50%. Ms. Kashima noted that there was an existing garage at this location that collapsed under the weight of a heavy snowstorm in February.

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

Trustee Pollock stated that he has no objections to the PZC recommendations, since a legally established structure was destroyed by snow; however, he does not think this should not be a variation since oversized garages are not uncommon. He supports granting this variation but would like the board to direct the PZC to draft text amendment to allow non-conforming structures to be re-built as per existing.

Trustee Hannon disagreed with Trustee Pollock's position regarding a proposed text amendment. He stated that he has thought long and hard about this matter and he agrees with the outcome on this particular request; however, he believes the variation process should remain in place for non-conformities. He noted that through the variation process, the village was able to achieve a reduction in overall impervious surface. Hannon does not support allowing all structures to be rebuilt in such a way that the non-conformity will continue as this does not address issues of concern.

President Ballerine stated that he agrees with both Trustees Pollock and Hannon. He noted that the PZC discussed a certain area of permeable surface reduction. President Ballerine stated that he is not concerned about the specifics of what permeable surface is removed as long as the end result is compliance with the maximum permeable surface requirement.

Trustee Pollock asked if there was consensus regarding his request for a text amendment. He also asked what makes this property unique and why the village should allow this property owner to rebuild but deny other similar requests. He thought perhaps this should be a special use rather than a variation. He reiterated that he is in favor of allowing the petitioners to rebuild, but he is concerned that if the Board grants variations that are not based on unique conditions, the Zoning Ordinance will lack integrity.

Chairperson Mateo stated that the commissioners felt the garage was a unique feature of the property and the reason the petitioners bought the property. Some commissioners felt the existence of the large foundation created a practical difficulty.

Interim Director Kashima noted that nonconformities are a very difficult aspect of zoning. She noted that if more than 50% of a nonconforming structure is destroyed, it cannot be rebuilt. This structure was completely destroyed by an unusually heavy snow. That is why the variation process kicked in. What would be permitted by right was an 800 square foot garage; however, the petitioners are seeking to rebuild as per the existing 991 square foot garage that was destroyed.

Trustee Pollock again noted that these circumstances are not unique. Trustee

Gallegos concurred. President Ballerine asked Director Kashima to add this matter to the list of PZC remands then called for the vote on the ordinance.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

The Board then returned to the regular order of business.

IX. Pending Business

(This agenda item includes discussion and/or action on matters previously presented to the Board of Trustees.)

A. Discussion of an Ordinance Providing for the Registration and Inspection of Rental Properties within the Village of Riverside

Village Manager Frances provided a recap of the changes to the proposed ordinance and noted that Staff is seeking additional feedback. Once feedback is received and additional modifications are made, Staff will make the necessary revisions and bring the revised ordinance back to the Board for review on June 17. This will allow time for Staff to notify rental property owners of the proposed ordinance so they have an opportunity to provide input prior to Board action on the proposed ordinance on July 15, 2021.

Trustee Hannon referenced the exceptions noted in section E4 and asked for clarification regarding the reference to 120 days. Attorney Marrs stated that some property owners may be part-time residents and may be renting on a seasonal basis. Trustee Hannon expressed concern that the language is reminiscent of short term rentals. He does not want to give anyone the impression that short term rentals are permitted.

Trustee Pollock stated that he has seen references to 120 days in other communities and he believes it is included to accommodate part-time residents who have more than one home.

Trustee Hannon stated that whether a property owner is renting out their property for three months or a year, it should be inspected.

Consensus: Remove references to 120 days.

President Ballerine asked how many landlords there are in the village. Manager Frances stated that there are approximately 750 rental units in 175 buildings, but the number of landlords is unknown at this time.

Trustee Marsh-Ozga inquired about the projected annual cost of \$2,000 and whether that was a net or gross cost and if there are additional expenses. Director Johns stated that the \$2,000 is just for the staff time to administer the registration process. Manager Frances noted that when a property is inspected, the landlord will be billed for the cost of the inspection.

Trustee Marsh-Ozga asked if the purpose of the ordinance is to incentivize landlords to be proactive about maintenance. Manager Frances stated that it was. The goals are to be proactive and preserve property values.

President Ballerine stated that he feels very strongly that a draft of the proposed ordinance should go to all landlords in the village and asked how that could be accomplished. He feels it is important to get feedback from the landlords. Manager Frances stated that Staff will make modifications based on this discussion, pull information from water billing records and send the draft out to landlords. Property owners will also be invited to attend the upcoming meetings.

X. *New Business*

(This agenda item includes discussion and/or action on matters not previously presented to the Board of Trustees.)

A. A Resolution Supporting Restoration of LGDF Revenue

Village Manager Frances provided a recap of the LGDF issue. She noted that in 2015, the Village Board approved a Resolution opposing any reduction in the local share of revenues under the Local Government Distributive Fund, which was established in 1969 when the state income tax was adopted. The state collects income tax on behalf of local municipalities and then remits a portion of the taxes to each municipality on a per capita basis rather than each local government collecting the tax. Reducing the local share of the LGDF may result in a reduction in services that Riverside and other municipalities are able to provide to residents and a deterioration of infrastructure and facilities if alternate funding sources do not become available. She then read the resolution opposing the reduction in the LGDF allocation.

Trustee Gallegos made a motion to approve the resolution. **Trustee Pollock seconded** the motion.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

B. An Ordinance Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 for Various Additional Expenditures and Revenues
Finance Director Johns stated that this ordinance amends the 2020 Budget to include various expenses and revenues not previously budgeted for and to adjust

previously budgeted items. Director Johns noted that there were a number of departments within the General Fund that exceeded their originally approved budgets. To help offset these additional expenses, there were many departments that performed better than budget, resulting in a net surplus of approximately \$646,000 before transfers.

Trustee Gallegos made a motion to approve the Ordinance. **Trustee Hannon seconded** the motion.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

- C. A Resolution Approving and Authorizing Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Riverside and the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra) Regarding Funding for Landscaping Work at the Metra Riverside Commuter Station

Public Works Director Tabb stated that the Village Board allocated \$10,000 as part of the 2021 Capital Improvement Plan to fund a planting bed landscape project in front of the Riverside Train Station. The design of the landscape plan incorporates similar elements and plant species to those used in the Metra Pedestrian Access Project located to the east. The planting bed project will complete the landscaping on the South side of the Riverside Train Station. To supplement the estimated \$20,000 cost of the planting bed install, Village staff requested and was awarded, a grant from the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra), in the not to exceed amount of \$10,000. The funding allocated as part of the Capital Improvement Plan, along with the Metra grant, will cover the cost of the planting bed installation. The awarding of the Metra grant requires the Village to enter into a formal Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority (Metra). This IGA outlines the financial, construction, and reporting requirements that the Village will have to adhere to in order to receive the appropriated funds. The IGA has been reviewed by the Village Attorney.

Trustee Evans asked when the landscaping work would be done. Director Tabb said the work would be completed this fall.

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

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

- D. A Resolution Authorizing a \$538,000 inter-fund transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to fund capital expenditures

Finance Director Johns stated that the resolution includes the following:

- \$125,000 General Fund Parks and Recreation Assigned Fund Balance Repayment for 2020
- \$155,000 General Fund Unassigned Fund Transfer for 2020 Approved Purchases
- \$258,000 General Fund Unassigned Fund Transfer for 2021 Budgeted Purchases

Trustee Gallegos made a motion to approve the Resolution. **Trustee Claucherty seconded** the motion.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

- E. 1. Discussion of upcoming Special Events and General Special Event Procedure
- Parks & Recreation Director Malchiodi stated that he is very excited to be talking about in-person special events. He noted that in 2020, the Parks & Recreation Department had to innovate and create events for the community that the department could safely host under CDC and IDPH COVID-19 guidelines. In 2021, the department's focus is offering the events that Riverside residents look forward to, without compromising safety. The events calendar is still being finalized, but all events will adhere to CDC and IDPH guidelines and Staff will be ready to pivot quickly if guidance changes.

Trustee Evans asked if the Curbside Cuisine event tentatively scheduled for May 26 was likely to happen. Director Malchiodi stated that they are still trying to confirm vendors for the event but it has been challenging to attract vendors to Riverside now that things are opening up and there is more competition for vendors. Trustee Evans suggested that the department may want to consider mandating a deposit rather than a fee as a way to entice vendors.

Trustee Ballerine expressed excitement about the return of the Farmers Market on June 2.

Trustee Gallegos asked Director Malchiodi to share the updated rules for safe participation in events. Malchiodi stated that COVID has made event planning a challenge, but current CDC and IDPH guidelines will permit 30 people per 1000 square feet with social distancing and a maximum of 100 people at indoor events.

Resident Jill Mateo provided details regarding the unveiling of the RAW spectacle. She noted that the community art spectacle will be on display at the

Riverside Train Station on June 12 & 13.

President Ballerine asked Director Malchiodi to talk about the Friends of the Fourth 5K, a familiar event with a new name and race date. Malchiodi noted that when July 4th falls on a Sunday, the events are held on July 2nd & 3rd. This year, there will be no concert in the park because it is too soon for such a large gathering and the parade will be held on Saturday, July 3rd. Moving the parade to Saturday will eliminate possible conflicts with churches and community groups and allow everyone to participate in the parade or be a socially distant spectator. This is the second time in 18 years that the date of the parade has been changed. Also, because the parade will be longer and more spread out, there is not enough time to run the Independence Day 5K on the same day. Thus, the race has been moved to June 26 and given a new name. A portion of every registration fee will go to Friends of the Fourth, a local non-profit that supports Independence Day activities in Riverside.

2. Motion to approve Special Event Applications for:

- Curbside Cuisine on May 26
- Riverside Ride on June 5
- Fishing Derby on June 5
- RAW Spectacle at the Riverside Train Station on June 12 & 13
- Friends of the Fourth 5K on June 26

Trustee Gallegos made a motion to approve the Special Event applications.

Trustee Claucherty seconded the motion.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

F. Discussion regarding the Use of Herbicides on Village green spaces

Public Works Director Tabb stated that the Public Works Department is responsible for the maintenance of all 87 acres of village green space including parks, triangles, medians and areas along the Des Plaines River and First Avenue. A mowing cycle takes about a week when fully staffed with two full-time and two seasonal employees cutting Monday through Friday, six to seven hours per day. During the spring, dandelions and other weeds sprout and grow at varying rates depending on the temperature, amount of sun, and level of precipitation, often exceeding the one week cycle time. To combat the accelerated growth of the weeds, particularly dandelions, the Public Works Department has been mowing until dark during the week and on Saturdays. The alternative to mowing down the dandelions would be to spray them with herbicide. The Village has done partial spraying of weeds in recent years, primarily to control fence lines and the perimeters of parking lots; however, the practice of spraying the entire village has not taken place since 2016.

During 2020, turf was not sprayed at all due to a lack of man power and COVID budget cuts. Should the Board elect to begin widespread spraying again, the application would be administered by 1 of the department's 3 licensed employees. It takes a single person approximately one month to spray the entire village. This represents 14.3% of staffing just to spray weeds. Tabb outlined the costs associated with the differing approaches and noted that the department does not apply herbicide in areas near the Des Plaines River. He asked for guidance from the Board with regard to the use of herbicide.

Trustee Hannon lamented the proliferation of dandelions throughout the village. He supports the use of the herbicide. While he appreciates that people have concerns regarding the use of chemicals, he stated that he has researched the proposed herbicide and noted that it is classified as safe for children and animals. He would support the application of herbicide in the parks and commons, especially in Big Ball Park, the Longcommon, Scottswood Common and in areas near the Central Business District.

Trustee Claucherty asked how many applications of herbicide would be needed. She also asked Director Tabb to quantify what other work was not getting done when resources were focused on herbicide application. Director Tabb stated that the department typically does a single herbicide application. Work deferred due to spraying for weeds includes tree planting and JULIE locates. Claucherty asked if the alternative would be to mow more. She also asked at what point in the spring the dandelion growth would be expected to slow. Tabb noted that weed growth is weather dependent, but typically, by the end of May, the dandelions are no longer an issue. Trustee Claucherty noted that although there is a short period of excessive dandelion growth each spring that some residents find displeasing, the current efforts have resulted in no additional costs to taxpayers and no use of chemicals.

Trustee Marsh-Ozga asked if the department has investigated alternatives to herbicides such as aeration or organic applications. Director Tabb stated that organic applications are not effective in combating weeds and are very expensive, but aeration has not been investigated.

Trustee Pollock suggested selective application of herbicide and noted that dandelions are not all bad. They are food for pollinators.

President Ballerine asked if it would be possible to do selective herbicide and selective cutting. For example, he would let Swan Pond to go natural. He would like to see Staff review green spaces with an eye toward determining if some areas can be allowed to grow longer while some areas are mowed more aggressively and herbicide is applied selectively. Director Tabb stated that such a review would be

possible. He noted that the department was unable to mow in Swan Pond last year due to flooding but did mow several walking paths through the area later in the summer and received very positive feedback from residents regarding the natural appearance of the area; but not all residents were pleased with the lack of mowing.

Trustee Hannon reminded everyone that there is an ordinance against allowing weeds and grass to grow beyond a certain height. The village cannot allow the commons to be overgrown and full of weeds. Some areas must be mowed.

Trustee Evans expressed support for minimizing the use of herbicides and increasing mowing if possible. She stated that beauty is not just found in perfectly manicured greenspaces and expressed concern for staff exposure to herbicides. Director Tabb stated that Tyvek suits, gloves and respirators are worn by staff when applying herbicide.

President Ballerine stated that he would like Staff to formulate a plan for next year that is selective and tiered and uses different approaches depending on the specific area. Perhaps Swan Pond can remain a natural area, the Longcommon, Scottswood Common and Big Ball Park should be aggressively mowed, and herbicide could be applied in the Central Business District and parking lots to keep those areas looking neat. He believes a more tailored approach to maintenance of the green spaces could address both Trustee Hannon's concerns and the concerns of those who would like to see the use of herbicides minimized.

Consensus: Limit the use of herbicides as much as possible.

Consensus: Let Swan Pond remain a natural area. Mow paths if possible.

- G. An Ordinance Approving a Variation from the maximum size requirement of 800 square feet for an accessory structure at 209 Millbridge Road – Blom – ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER – Immediately following VIII.B.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Village Manager's Report

Manager Frances stated that she had intended to request feedback from the Board with regard to liquor licenses and outdoor dining during her report. She asked if the Board would support fee waivers for new businesses. This would be similar to the waivers the Board has granted to existing businesses during the pandemic. She asked if the Board would like staff to draft an ordinance that would abate fees for businesses that generate sales tax revenue.

Trustee Marsh-Ozga stated that this could be an attractive incentive to new businesses.

Consensus: Direct Staff to research the matter and draft an ordinance for consideration.

XI. Trustee Reports and Communications

(This is an opportunity for Trustees to inform residents of events or items of special interest.)

Trustee Hannon encouraged everyone to visit the Gold Star Memorial over the Memorial Day weekend and reflect upon the names of the residents who gave their lives defending the United States and remember what is important.

XII. Adjournment

President Ballerine noted that the Board had need for Executive Session to discuss setting a price for the sale or lease of village property. He called for a motion and second to adjourn to Executive Session, not to reconvene.

Trustee Gallegos made the motion to adjourn. **Trustee Claucherty seconded** the motion.

AYES: Trustees Pollock, Marsh-Ozga, Gallegos, Evans, Hannon and Claucherty.

NAYS: None.

Motion passed.

President Ballerine declared the Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Village Clerk Haley

Date Approved

XIII. Executive Session

- A. To discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of village property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6))