

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2015  
COUNCIL ROOM, 7:00 PM**

Mayor Hermanek called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a Pledge of Allegiance and a Roll Call. In attendance were Trustee Bianco, Trustee Czajka, Trustee Decosola, Trustee Demopoulos, and Trustee Wilt. Trustee Mengoni was absent.

Others in attendance were Administrator Belmonte, Public Works Director Kutt, Recreation Director Michalik, Police Chief Niemann, Fire Chief Basek and Attorney Hayes.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco to approve the agenda for this meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

**BIDS**- None

**CASH RECEIPT REPORT**

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to accept the Cash Receipt Report for the month of October 2015 as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco to approve the November 2, 2015 Village Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

## REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Bianco ( Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks & Refuse)- No report

Trustee Czajka ( Buildings Public Grounds, Lights, Public Services & Transportation)-No report

Trustee Decosola ( Judiciary, Ordinances, Recreation)- No report

Trustee Demopoulos ( Water, Sewers, Drainage & Zoning)

Trustee Demopoulos submitted the Brookfield North Riverside Water Commission Meeting Minutes and Agenda for the November 11, 2015 with the Clerk's Office.

Trustee Demopoulos stated that there will be a Home and Water Savings Kit available to all residents which will detect water leaks in their home. Residents can pick up these kits at the Village Commons Office.

Trustee Mengoni ( Police, Fire & License)- Absent

Trustee Wilt ( Finance, Health & Appropriations)

Trustee Wilt read the minutes from the Finance, Health & Appropriations Committee Meeting held on November 10, 2015 at 6:00pm as follows:

**Item#1: Discussion of the 2015 Tax Levy:** Director Scarpiniti previously distributed a memo explaining the Village's tax levy process and discussing staff's recommendation for the 2015 tax levy. She informed the committee that the Village must file its annual tax levy with the Cook County Clerk's Office by December 29th. As a non-home rule community, the Village would be limited to a tax levy increase equal to the rate of inflation plus any new property growth for the current calendar year. Truth in Taxation Laws require a public hearing to be held if the levy request is greater than 105% over the previous year's final tax extension. The rate of inflation, as measured by annual percent increase in the national consumer price index for all urban consumers at December 31st of the previous calendar, has been determined to be .8%. This is the second lowest CPI since tax caps began in the early 1990's. A low rate of inflation will only add to the financial challenges facing the Village as the amount of new property tax revenue that can be generated to finance growing operating costs is minimal (approximately \$4,200). In addition, next year's tax levy will see even greater restrictions as CPI is currently trending at zero for the 2015 calendar year.

**REPORT OF TRUSTEES ( continued)**

The tax cap law, however, does allow the value of new construction to be added to the Village's existing equalized assessed value (EAV) base, thereby, giving the Village a limited opportunity to raise additional property tax revenue beyond the low tax cap environment. With the continued construction activity by the Mall and Costco, the Village anticipates sizable growth in its new construction values for the second straight year. Generally, it can take up to three years to realize the full EAV on a new development and therefore, the Village could see considerable new growth through 2017.

Due to these factors, Staff is recommending a property tax levy that is 3.5% higher than the 2014 tax extension. This strategy will allow the Village to maximize its tax levy request and generate additional dollars beyond the general tax caps. The 2015 levy would be raised to \$544,000, approximately \$18,425 more than the 2014 tax extension. Once the Village's 2015 EAV and new property values are finalized by Cook County next summer, staff expects this levy to be further limited and reduced to only \$8,000 in new revenue, assuming all tax assumptions are met.

The estimated impact to a taxpayer whose home has a market value of \$200,000 would be approximately \$5 and \$3 for those receiving the senior exemption. Currently, the Village's portion of the 2014 tax bill amounts to only 2.3% or approximately \$105 per year (\$83 for seniors). The committee and board asked a few questions of Director Scarpiniti and followed with a motion by Trustee Mengoni and seconded by Trustee Wilt to accept staff's tax levy recommendation. No public hearing is required since the proposed increase is less than 5%, The motion passed the committee unanimously. Trustee Wilt polled the others in attendance and all were in favor.

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to adopt the 2015 Tax Levy request of \$544,000, an increase of approximately 3.5% over the prior year tax extension, and to have the Village Attorney prepare the proper ordinance for passage at the December 14, 2015 Village Board Meeting. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

The Mayor thanked the committee and board members for making this difficult but responsible decision stating that the overall health and stability of the Village is dependent upon this Board getting its financial house in order. With escalating pension costs and downgraded Village bond rating, the Village must be prudent in its consideration of additional revenues to support its essential services and programs within the community.

**Item #2 Liquor License Categories:** Mayor Hermanek addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the Village's current liquor licensing requirements. With the addition of several

### **REPORT OF TRUSTEES ( continued)**

new video gaming establishments to the Village this past year and an increase in the number of new requests, he would like the Committee to consider reconstruction the current liquor license requirements by adding two new classifications. These new categories would specifically address businesses where video gaming is their primary source of business only. Class G would be created to address those video gaming establishments that have applied for a full liquor license and set an annual license fee of \$6,000. Class G-1 would be incidental to video gaming establishments that offer the sale of beer and wine only and would create an annual license fee of \$5,000. The hours of sale would be between 7am and 1 am only.

The Committee and board asked a few questions of Mayor Hermanek and it was determined that these new classifications would grant the Village more control over video gaming establishments and recover the added costs involved with administering public services to these types of establishments. Trustee Mengoni motioned and Trustee Wilt seconded to create the new liquor license classifications. The motion passed committee unanimously. Trustee Wilt polled the others in attendance and all agreed.

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to approve the establishment of a Class G and G-1 liquor license for video gaming establishments and to direct the Village Attorney to prepare the proper ordinance for immediate passage. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

### **MAYORAL REPORT**

Mayor Hermanek wished all the residents a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving. He also stated that there will only be one Village Board of Trustees Meeting in December, which is December 14, 2015.

On November 19th there will be a Zoning Board Meeting at 7:00 pm to discuss the property located at Cermak and Des Plaines. This meeting will be open to the public for all those interested.

Mayor Hermanek read a letter and commended Officer Ehrenberg and Sergeant Kopka who revived an 83 year old male in cardiac arrest. Mayor Hermanek thanked Chief Niemann for leading an exceptional department.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Riverside Police Chief Weitzel thanked Sergeant Champion, Corporal Devine and Officer Velazquez for their assistance on October 12, 2015 regarding a 911 call coming from a 5 year child stating her mother had been strangled and attempted to be suffocated by her estranged husband. The suspect fled and foot but was eventually caught with the help of the North Riverside Police Department.

Chief of Police James Ritz from Berwyn expressed his thanks to Officer Eck for an incident involving a suspicious package at a gas station. They recognized this package as possibly being some type of artillery shell/casing and proceeded to call in the bomb squad and assistance from surrounding departments. Thankfully, it was later determined to be non-explosive.

Gurnee Police Chief Kevin Woodside expressed his gratitude to Corporal McCarthy and the North Riverside Police Department regarding a homicide on September 27, 2015. Assistance was requested from nearby communities as well as NIPAS and the Major Crime Task Force. The offender was arrested and charged with first degree murder.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to approve the list of bills submitted for this meeting totaling \$233,617.08 and to have the bills paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Trustee Decosola moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco to Approve an Ordinance Creating Class G & Class G-1 Liquor Licenses in the Village of North Riverside and to waive the reading\_ **(15-O-17)**. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

Trustee Decosola moved, seconded by Trustee Bianco to Approve an Ordinance Establishing the 2016 Regular Village Board Meetings for the Village of North Riverside **(15-O-18)**. Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Trustees Bianco, Czajka, Decosola, Demopoulos, Wilt

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ABSENT: Trustee Mengoni

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-** None

**NEW BUSINESS-** None

**AUDIENCE**

Frank Spale commented on the property tax levy for next year and what the projected police and fire pension contribution would be for next year. Director Scarpiniti stated it wouldn't be available for a few months but expects it to be a little over two million. He expects the pension increase far surpasses the property tax increase and wishes the local paper would write an article on the rising pension costs.

John Bork asked why the street sweeper was out this past Saturday. Director Kutt replied that they were out due to the amount of late falling leaves.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Bianco moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos for adjournment of this meeting at 7:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

**KATHY RANIERI  
VILLAGE CLERK**

