

**VILLAGE OF NORTH RIVERSIDE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2013
COUNCIL ROOM 7:00 PM**

Mayor Hermanek called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance and a Roll Call. In attendance were Trustee Bianco, Trustee Czajka, Trustee Decosola, Trustee Demopoulos, Trustee Mengoni and Trustee Wilt.

Others in attendance were Attorney Hayes, Finance Director Scarpiniti, Police Chief Niemann, Fire Chief Basek, Public Works Director Kutt and interim Recreation Director Penny Devin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Demopoulos moved seconded by Trustee Mengoni to approve the agenda for this meeting with one additional piece of correspondence. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

BIDS- None

CASH RECEIPTS REPORT

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to accept the Cash Receipt Report for the month of November, 2013 in the amount of \$1,104,043.41

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Czajka to approve the November 18, 2013 Village Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

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)

Trustee Decosola read the following report from the Recreation Department:

The Recreation Department has been extremely busy during December with numerous holiday events and programs for all ages which include:

- A holiday concert presented by the Riverside Township Band
- Breakfast with Santa
- Trip to the Nutcracker Ballet
- Dance recital by our Ballet-Tap dancers
- Preschool Family Christmas parties
- Our Village Christmas party
- Christmas parties for our Bridge and Pinochle Clubs, Quilters Guild, Art Classes and Garden Club
- Senior Holiday Luncheon
- Distribution of table-top Christmas trees to our homebound seniors through our Neighborhood Services program
- Coordination with Komarek School of holiday donations for those in need
- Distribution of food and gifts to the Scottish Home

A special thank you goes out to Bryant Rouleau for decorating around the Village Commons. The Recreation staff would like to thank everyone for their support and participation and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Trustee Demopoulos- (Water, Sewers Drainage & Zoning)

Trustee Demopoulos filed the December 11, 2013 Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission Meeting Minutes with the Clerk’s office.

Trustee Mengoni- (Police, Fire & License)

Trustee Mengoni submitted the Fire and EMS calls for the month of November 2013 as follows:

Fire.....84	YTD....967
EMS.....105	YTD....1024
Inspections...68	YTD....726
Compliances....40	YTD....396

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

Trustee Mengoni also mentioned that the Fire Department held a CPR, AED and First Aid Recertification Program provided for the North Riverside Library Staff on November 22nd. Blood pressure screenings were provided for the seniors at the Village Commons the first Wednesday of the month from 9-11 am. Blood Pressure Screenings were also provided Monday- Friday 1-5 pm at the fire station.

Trustee Mengoni also read the following report from the Police and Fire Committee Meeting held on December 9, 2013 as follows:

Item #1: 1 Status of Police Contract Negotiations: Administrator Belmonte informed the committee that there have been two meetings so far with each negotiating team trading initial proposals with one another. There is a meeting scheduled for December 19th at which time it is hoped there will be some items that could be agreed on. The committee will be updated at a future meeting.

Item #2: Status of Pumper Truck Order: Chief Basek informed the committee that the pumper has been ordered and he will be going to Global Equipment to finalize the equipment to be installed in the vehicle. The tentative delivery date is May 2014. Administrator Belmonte reminded the committee that the grant money for this vehicle must be spent by June 2014 and that this item will be carried over into the next budget cycle as delivery will occur after fiscal year end.

Item #3: Paramedic Services Comparison Review: Chief Basek passed out two memos, a survey of paramedic services from surrounding communities and a history of PSI increases from 2002 to 2019 with the last 5-years showing the proposed increases in the new contract being considered. Trustee Mengoni reminded the committee that the agreement being considered was for a 5-year extension with an average increase of 2.50% per year. He asked for the opinions from his committee members and Trustees Decosola and Wilt were in favor of extending the contract. He then asked the other trustees present for their opinion, Trustee Bianco and Czajka were in favor of the extension but Trustee Demopoulos asked the committee to consider going out for competitive bids on this service. The committee and the other trustees expressed similar opinions that bidding this contract based solely on price was concerning to them since we are dealing with quality of service and life safety issues. Cost should not be the primary factor in evaluating such services. Based upon the survey presented to the committee, the Village was found to be competitive in cost for contract paramedic services to surrounding towns, currently lowest in price for similar services to all other communities surveyed except Riverside. Riverside recently renewed its current paramedic contract with PSSI paying approximately \$7,600 less the Village's current contract with PSI. Competitive costs coupled with the fact that PSI has provided superior service to residents of this community since 1985 with very little turnover in staffing has given members of the committee additional reassurance regarding the PSI contract extension. Contract paramedics assigned to the Village's account have averaged 10 years in longevity with PSI and have allowed the Village to enjoy consistency in personnel staffing over the past 28 years. As a result, the committee felt satisfied that the Village performed its due diligence in evaluating whether to

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

seek additional proposals for paramedic services and was comfortable recommending an extension to PSI's contract at this time.

Village staff further reiterated that locking in an average annual increase of 2.5% over the next five years was important not only for future budgeting purposes, but it also appeared reasonable when compared to past wage increases provided to both union and non-union personnel within the Village. In fact, the proposed PSI increase is actually lower than the average increase approved throughout collective bargaining agreements during the past five years. Trustee Demopoulos addressed the committee and asked to distribute an EMS proposal prepared by the Firefighters Union claiming an annual cost savings by eliminating contract paramedics. Trustee Mengoni asked why he did not bring this proposal to the committee's attention prior to this evening to allow village staff and the committee adequate time to review, in which he apologized and stated he was previously busy. Trustee Demopoulos passed out the proposal and questions were asked of the Finance Director and the Administrator as to if they had seen this proposal. Director Scarpiniti responded that although she had not seen this proposal before, it does appear similar to a proposal submitted by the fire union during the last contract negotiations. She briefly gave an overview to the committee of the in-depth analysis performed approximately 4 years ago with regards to in-house versus outsourcing of paramedic services. At that time, village staff concluded that while eliminating contract paramedics did result in an initial cost savings to the Village, this cost saving was short lived and actually resulted in higher personnel costs on a long term basis. The initial savings under the fire union proposal was mainly attributed to lower replacement costs in the first three years of the program due to the creation of a silver spanner program. However, after the initial training period ended, the cost of in-house paramedics became financially unaffordable given the Village's current wage plan in place through the collective bargaining agreement and rising cost of health care and pension benefits. After approximately 5 years, the program no longer was cost neutral to the Village and potentially posed a significant financial hardship on a long term perspective. There was additional discussion on this matter then a motion was made by Trustee Decosola and seconded by Trustee Wilt to approve the extension with PSI for paramedic services from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2019. The motion passed committee with a 3 to 0 vote in favor, Chairman Mengoni polled the other trustees and the Mayor; Trustee Bianco and Czajka were in favor of the extension while Trustee Demopoulos was not in favor.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Trustee Mengoni moved, seconded by Trustee Decosola to authorize the Village President and the Village Clerk to execute an agreement between the Village of North Riverside and Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc. (PSI) to extend paramedic services for the five year period beginning August 1, 2014 and ending July 31, 2019. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion carried

REPORT OF TRUSTEES(continued)

Trustee Wilt (Finance, Health & Appropriations)-

Trustee Wilt read a brief report regarding the settlement of the 2005 and 2006 tax objection cases from the Village Attorney's Office as follows:

The Lead Objector, Attorney James Rooney and I have had discussions concerning settlement for the tax rate objections pending against the Village for both 2005 and 2006. Typically, a lead objector will represent the objections filed by the property owners to the various levies imposed by every taxing district in Cook County. The process begins with the objector filing a complaint claiming the taxing body exceeded its rate amount, inappropriately levied an amount for an unauthorized purpose or failed to meet statutorily imposed procedures to levy.

Each taxing district will then file its appearances and attend hearings that are scheduled in Circuit Court in order to respond to various objections. Typically, the taxing body attempts to negotiate a settlement rate with the lead objector so as not to jeopardize significant tax revenue dollars or to postpone distribution, should the court find that a levy was excessive or any portion of the procedural process imposing the levy was incorrect or untimely.

The Cook County Treasurer has issued the final Equalized Assessment Valuations (EAV) for the 2005 and 2006 tax years. The Village's 2005 EAV is \$170,624,411. This figure is used to calculate revenue loss once a settlement rate is negotiated. The objections against the Village for 2005 involved the levies for Corporate Fund, Bond and Interest Fund and the Fire Protection Fund and the Liability Insurance Fund. For example, the Objectors are claiming that the levy of \$168,500 for the Corporate Fund is unnecessary and excessive. This is a complicated objection in that Cook County Treasurer can collect funds in excess of the amount that is to be levied because typically a certain amount of taxes are not going to be paid by property owners. The law allows Treasurer to collect a "reasonable amount" for loss and collection. Therefore, if the Objection were to proceed, the Village may be in jeopardy of losing that portion of the levy which is objected to be multiplied by the total equalized assessed values of all objectors.

The Village's 2006 EAV is \$134,127,661. The objections against the Village and Village Library Fund for 2006 involved the levies for the Corporate Fund, Bond and Interest Fund and the Fire Protection Fund. For example, the Objectors are claiming the levy of \$168,800 for the Corporate Fund is unnecessary and excessive. This is a complicated objection in that the Cook County Treasurer can collect funds in excess of the amount that is to be levied because typically certain amount of taxes are not going to be paid by property owners. The law allows the Treasurer to collect a "reasonable amount" for loss and collection. Therefore, if the Objection were to proceed, the Village may be in jeopardy of losing that portion of the levy which is objected to be multiplied by the total equalized assessed values of all objectors. This objection alone warrants consideration of a settlement.

The negotiated settlement rate for 2005 and 2006 is .001 (the revenue loss for 2005 is approximately \$1,706 and revenue loss for 2006 is approximately \$1,341).

REPORT OF TRUSTEES (continued)

The settlement rate of .001 is favorable in light of the various rate objection amounts at issue, the potential cost of litigation without a settlement agreement and the risk of loss in the objections pending against the Village.

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to authorize the Village attorney to settle 2005 and 2006 tax objection cases at a rate of .001. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

MAYORAL REPORT

Mayor Hermanek read the following Community Development Update report from Karyn Byrne, Code Enforcement Representative, for the month of November.

- Costco- Grand Opening took place on November 25th, with representatives from Costco reporting North Riverside to be the best opening this calendar year in the Midwest Region. Membership sign ups continue at a good pace!
- Presale inspections- The Community Development Department conducted 5 presale inspections during the month of November.
- Red Robin- A meeting was held with representatives from Red Robin for the purpose of confirming building, life safety, plumbing and electrical codes applicable to the development in the village. The meeting confirmed Monroe Partners is to deliver the parcel to Red Robin by January 1st, with construction to start shortly thereafter. Timeframe for the actual construction of the site is four months, with another 30 days allotted for employee training.
- Chick-Fil-A- The site work, to include curbs and parking lot, has been completed. Framing of the construction is delayed, apparently due to a delay in placing the order for the steel frames. The Village's building inspector indicated the delay in construction date back 30 to 60 days.
- Discount Grocery Outlet- Has been cancelled plans to open in the Village of North Riverside, perhaps due to cancer treatment the owner is undergoing. The building is currently up for lease.
- Three building permits were issued for full interior remodels of residential structures.

Mayor Hermanek announced that a Blood Drive will take place on May 23, 2014. It will be sponsored by the North Riverside Fire Department in conjunction with the North Riverside Police Department and Life Source. He encouraged residents to participate and thanked Fire Fighter Chris Kruvalis for setting up this event.

MAYORAL REPORT (continued)

Mayor Hermanek mentioned that in the next few minutes this board will vote to approve a 5 year contract extension with our PSI paramedics. This agreement is good for both our Fire Department and our residents, in that we continue our relationship with highly qualified paramedics who have served our village for over two decades.

The PSI paramedics, who are also firefighters, know our village and its residents. They have a good working relationship with other village employees and show respect for our Chief. They also participate in Village events such as our 911 Commemoration and Autumn Fest.

For the next 5 years, we will know to the dollar amount how much their fine paramedic services will cost our Village and its residents. There will be no worrying about overtime, pension funding, health care costs, increases in health care costs, sick days, workmans compensation, vacation days, negotiations or grievances.

I would like to extend my thanks to Larry Robbins of PSI for his help in negotiating this extension to cause a contract that is fair and reasonable for both sides. We look forward to continuing our relationship with PSI paramedics for many years to come.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you letter was read from resident Jim O'Toole. He thanked the Fire Department and Chief Basek for the continued help with their mother and her life alert system that periodically activates.

State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka sent letters congratulating Officer Carlos Garcia on his promotion to Detective and Ryan Biel, Theodore Roberson and Alex Weitzel on becoming new Probationary Police Officers. She also congratulated and welcomed Firefighter Edward Chen to the fire department.

The additional piece of correspondence was from Just Energy. They requested permission for solicitation in the Village of North Riverside. However, not enough information was provided from Just Energy to grant their request.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Trustee Wilt, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to approve the list of bills submitted for this meeting totaling \$590,239.61 and to have them paid out of proper funds when such funds become available. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Trustee Demopoulos moved, seconded by Trustee Decosola to pass an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code Relating to Burglar, Fire & Holdup Alarm Systems and Plumbing Code **(13-O-30)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Decosola moved, seconded by Trustee Mengoni to pass an Ordinance Establishing the Village of North Riverside Board of Trustees Meeting for 2014 **(13-O-31)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Wilt moved, seconded by Trustee Demopoulos to pass Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Current Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2013 and Ending April 30, 2014 **(13-O-32)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: None. Motion carried

Trustee Mengoni moved, seconded by Trustee Wilt to pass Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Paramedic Services of Illinois, Inc **(13-O-33)** and to waive the reading. Roll Call Vote:

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

NAYS: Trustee Demopoulos

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS-None

AUDIENCE

A resident thanked the Village Board for their service and for their openness at Village Board Meetings. They also thanked the Public Works Department for the wonderful job on plowing the streets.

AUDIENCE (continued)

Larry Robbins from PSI thanked the Village Board and Chief Basek for allowing their continued services.

Resident Paul Rand asked Trustee Demopoulos why he voted no on the PSI contract. Trustee Demopoulos explained that he would have liked to “shop around” a little to see what else is out there.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Czajka moved, seconded by Trustee Decosola for adjournment at 7:14 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

VILLAGE CLERK