

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
November 16, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Trustees to order in the New Village Hall at 6:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL In the absence of Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan, Deputy Village Clerk Denise Fields called the roll. The following Trustees were present: Stanley Brown, Tiffany Henyard, Duane Muhammad, Robert E. Pierson, Jr., and Valeria Stubbs. Trustee Robert E. Hunt, Jr. was absent.

Also present: Village Administrator Stan Urban and department heads.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
PRAYER

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Following Order of Business)

Trustee Pierson announced the Police Department's Toy for Tots Drive and the Fire Departments Food and Toy Drive. Donations of wrapped toys and non-perishable goods are accepted through December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Muhammad reports that Melanie Fitness Center is offering child care. Melanie is also instituting a Silver Sneakers Program for those Medicare eligible.

Trustee Brown announced that a customer service evaluating team is paying \$250 per assignment. Those interested should contact Trustee Brown.

Trustee Henyard announced that Domino's Pizza in Dolton is hiring. Sonic's is also hiring, as are all stores at the River Oaks Mall.

Mayor Rogers announced that installation of the media center in the New Village Hall, and the addition of viewers both from Comcast and AT&T. The next phase is to turn the media center into an emergency command center for police and fire. Leaf bag pick-up ends December 1<sup>st</sup>. The mayor announced the upcoming senior Thanksgiving Dinner on November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Dorchester. Mayor Rogers also acknowledged resident Herman Moore, Sr. for receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Southern Poverty Law Center for his work.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Water Bill Rates

Administrator Urban referenced a letter dated November 17, 2011 from the City of Chicago announcing a yearly increase in water rates through 2015. In 2011, the village was charged \$2.01 per thousand gallons. Today the charge is \$3.81 per thousand gallons. This is a 65 percent increase. The current rate charged by the Village of Dolton is \$5.61 per thousand gallons. Mr. Urban pointed out that in a report by the Illinois Department of National Resources, only two south suburban communities charged lower water rates than Dolton. Those communities are Burnham and Chicago Heights. All other communities are averaging charges between \$8 and \$12 per thousand gallons. Mr. Urban presented a water rate increase step rate chart. Staff projections, also presented, are that an increase of \$.05 would generate \$15,000 in revenue per year. An \$.80 increase would generate \$240,000. The \$1.80 difference between what the City of Chicago charges the village and the village charges residents is applied to payroll, paper, postage, and computer time. Mr. Urban said that the village is losing money each time it sends out a water bill.

The village is also losing water through its aging pipes. The board must consider raising rates to cover these costs and taking care of the infrastructure.

Mayor Rogers noted that the village also incurs overtime when water mains break. Discussion followed.

Trustee Brown recommended that residents be surveyed regarding a proposed increase. Trustee Henyard said she is against the increase because too many residents are struggling as it is. Trustee Muhammad proposed a town hall meeting to educate residents on the need for an increase. Trustee Stubbs and Pierson agreed. Trustee Pierson added that the board must present residents with hard figures showing how much the village is losing.

There was a consensus of all board members to call a town hall meeting.

B. SecureView

Trustee Stubbs presented a proposal to replace the village's current policy of boarding up residences and businesses with "SecureView," which is a clear thick plexi-glass. The village could require banks which own properties to put it up. While it costs more than plywood, it is more difficult to remove, thereby eliminating replacement costs. The product would give a clear line of site into the properties, improves the appearance of the property and reduces blight, and reduces incidents of squatting and crime. Discussion followed.

C. Housing

Trustee Henyard proposed increasing the fees to register vacant properties in the village from \$50 to \$100; the increase would apply to bank-owned properties only and not Dolton residents. Housing Director Denise Fields said that she is not aware of any individually-owned vacant properties. She had recommended an increase to \$200 commensurate with charges by other communities. Building Inspector Charles Johnson said that most surrounding communities charge \$100. Trustee Pierson said the village will need to hire someone to make it work. Trustee Stubbs suggested an increase to \$500. Trustee Muhammad suggested an accounting of vacant properties held by residents. Administrator Urban asked how the charge would be enforced. Ms. Fields said that banks do register with the village, but code enforcement would be required to enforce the charge. Mr. Johnson said that the village does not currently have the manpower. Further discussion followed.

#### CITIZENS ADDRESS

Arlecta Baldwin, Walomahk Management, representing Dorchester Townhomes, asked that the curbs torn down by the village be repaired so that management can resurface the parking lot.

Mrs. Crayton, resident, thanked Mayor Rogers and Ms. Karen Hicks for bringing CEDA to the Dorchester. Also, District 205 will be a hosting a strategic planning meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Williams, 155<sup>th</sup> & Minerva, asked how long a vehicle may sit on the street with three flat tires before it will be towed.

Barbara Nelson, resident, asked if there was an ordinance requiring dogs to be walked on leash. She sees a man regularly walking his dog off leash and asked what could be done.

Karen Hicks, village employee, asked residents who know seniors who may be having trouble with their household bills to give them her telephone number 708-374-4038.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee Henyard to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, second by Trustee Brown, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

Roll Call

AYES: 5 Trustees Brown, Henyard, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

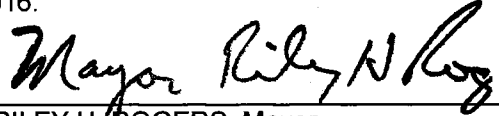
ABSENT: 1 Trustee Hunt

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

  
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MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 1st day of February, 2016.

  
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RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor