

Village of Dolton
Board of Trustees Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Monday, September 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at the new village hall at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL The following trustees were present: Tammie Brown, Deborah Denton, Tiffany Henyard, Andrew Holmes, Jason House, and Edward Steave.

Also, present: Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan, Village Administrator Elizabeth Scott, and department heads. Village Attorney John B. Murphey and Village Engineer Ronald E. Smith were absent.

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE/
PRAYER

Prayer was led by Chief Ernest Mobley.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rogers announced a vigil at 12 p.m. next Friday at the Daley Center in memory of Mrs. Bowman, who was fatally shot recently while driving on Sibley Blvd. The vigil is sponsored by Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Trustee Henyard announced that she is holding a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. tomorrow at Abundant Living Church on Lincoln Avenue; Thornton Township Assessor Cassandra Holbert is sponsoring a meeting for residents also at Abundant Living Church on September 20th; and Trustee Henyard's "Stop the Violence" event will be on September 21st at 1030 E. Sibley Blvd. Trustee Henyard further asked those who attended the prayer vigils she organized to continue to support.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question why he canceled the September 3rd board meeting, Mayor Rogers said that he canceled the meeting upon advice of counsel because there were limited agenda items. Trustee Henyard said that the meeting should not have been canceled in light of the recent shootings. Trustee Henyard further stated her objection to the cancellation, as residents know to come to the regular board meetings.

Trustee Steave said that he would be recommending a lease at the Melanie Fitness Center for Rashidat café. In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Trustee Steave confirmed that he did not go out to bid for food service. Trustee Steave presented a short video urging residents to support the Melanie Fitness Center.

Mayor Rogers recognized Chief Staples of the South Holland Police Department, who was present, for his department's assistance in a recent robbery where a DPD officer was injured, one offender was injured, and the second offender is in custody.

Trustee Holmes announced that he is following up on the seizure of a weapon seized by South Holland police officers on a traffic stop, and which was traced back to a Chicago killing of a Northwestern student.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Lease Agreement for Melanie Fitness Center – Rashidat's Detox Café

Trustee Steave introduced Ms. Rashidat Owe, who spoke of her plans for the proposed café at the Melanie Fitness Center. There was a consensus of all trustees to move forward with the lease.

Trustee Steave added that the village has received its permit to fix the pool.

2. Crime Prevention Plan

Trustee Henyard repeated her earlier comments that she was ashamed that there was no board meeting on September 3rd. She said that she is working on a crime prevention plan with the school districts which she will announce at her town hall meeting tomorrow night.

Trustee Denton said that she agreed with Trustee Henyard and urged Trustee Henyard to please come out with her plan.

Trustee Holmes expressed his thanks to the residents who were the first to come out with videos and evidence, noting that these residents are not running for office.

Mayor Rogers said that he is considering implementing an auxiliary security force. He added that recent events have put the focus on Dolton but crime overall is down. The Cook County Sheriff and the Illinois State Police have worked with the mayor to put a plan in place.

Mayor Rogers noted that since he came into office in 2013, projecting future retirements, he has asked the board of trustees to hire additional officers.

Trustee Steave noted that at the last "Project Connect" community policing meeting, there was standing room only.

Trustee Henyard asked what is the plan? Mayor Rogers responded that not all plans will be revealed to the public.

Chief Mobley said that officers are working increased overtime hours on traffic detail, as it is effective in identifying and seizing guns. The department is also targeting identified hot spots in conjunction with the state police. He added that the main plan is to hire more officers, which is an ongoing process.

Chief Mobley further cautioned residents about false reports of criminal activity on the Neighborhood Ring App. So far there have been three recent reported incidents of violent crime in Dolton that did not happen. He thanked the residents who did come out with information regarding the recent shootings, and Trustee Holmes for going door-to-door passing out flyers asking residents to come forward. Chief Mobley also noted that the most recent Project Connect meeting had the largest turnout to date. Trustee Steave added that the false Ring App reports were shared on FaceBook multiple times.

In response to Trustee Henyard's question about the status of the business at 154th and Cottage Grove, Mayor Rogers said that it has been ticketed and fined. He is meeting this week with the owner. If there is a succession of violations the village will close the business.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Robert Fisk, 154th St. resident, requested replacement stop signs on 154th St. Traffic is moving too fast at 40 mph.

Mayor Rogers responded that the village plans to install speed bumps by Diekman School, and expressed caution over placing signs at the bottom of the expressway hill. He added that a new traffic detail is being formed in the coming month.

Sam Oatis said that he is co-owner of Sandpipers Lounge at 144th Pl. and Chicago Road. He said that in response to neighbors' complaints about parking, he wanted to close the business, but "Chuck" re-opened it. He objected to the removal of his name from the water bill by Trustee Tammie Brown, which was authorized by the mayor

Mayor Rogers responded that Mr. Oatis' name does not appear on any village license records for the business, and asked several times who told him the mayor had authorized the change. Mr. Oatis answered that it was Mr. Sammie Young of the payment center.

Jamal Green, self-identified Chicago activist, asked why Trustee Tammie Brown could change the water bill for the business above, and accused of Andrew Holmes of putting out of the tavern the woman who was fatally shot outside.

Trustee Holmes responded that he was not in the tavern that evening, and said that Chief Mobley could confirm that there is no video of Trustee Holmes at the location.

Sandra Wells, resident and director of Neighborhood Housing Services south suburban office, noted that her water bill was received just a few days before the due date of August 28th. She also addressed the following: the mayor announcement at Coffee with the Mayor of a temporary staffing agency based at the village hall; the announcement that CEDA would be operating out of the village hall, and if so, it should pay rent; and asked Trustee Tammie Brown when there would be a housing committee meeting.

Trustee Brown responded as she had at prior meetings that she did not want to hold a housing committee meeting until the village could identify conclusively to which of the many abandoned properties acquired through BP Capital the village had valid claim. In response to Ms. Well's follow-up question about the new neighbor "welcome packet", Trustee Brown said that she would report on its status the second week of October.

AJ Burse, resident, asked if there were any plans for crime prevention regarding economic development. He added that Trustee Henyard had held a town meeting to discuss her plan and noted that "Concerned Citizens" meet every month.

In response, Trustee Holmes cited upcoming apprenticeships, Trustee Tammie Brown cited the new assignments of police officers to specific details, and Mayor Rogers said that the village's image needs to change. In follow-up to resident's further question, Mayor Rogers said that the village is working on a public relations/marketing plan.

Demetrious Walker, *Fathers and Blessings*, asked how much is the mayor's annual spending budget for events.

In response, Trustee House said that there is no specific mayor's budget. Funds are allocated for general purposes.

Mr. Walker further expressed his objections to the recent carnival on Greenwood Road after Village Administrator Scott had rejected his proposal for a carnival in August.

Resident expressed appreciation that Melanie Fitness Center is finally moving forward and that Trustee Steave is there. Regarding crime, resident urged giving police the tools they need.

Barbara Morris, 151st and Sunset Dr., reported speeding on 157th St. between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m.; and high weeds along a neighbor's fence.

Representative of State Rep. Mary Flowers announced a legislative hearing on September 25th at Matteson Public Library on local property tax relief.

Sidik, incoming trainer at Melanie Fitness Center, announced a weight loss challenge.

Stephanie Fletcher, resident, protested that the mayor had ignored her block; asked about the village's census efforts, and protested that Administrator Scott had ignored her and resident Sandra Wells.

Trina Downs, resident, said that she has been asking for a tree in front of her house to be cut since 2012; and asked Trustee Holmes whether he lives in Dolton. Resident further cited her *YouTube* protest of her water bill.

Duane Muhammad, resident and former trustee, urged support of Trustee Henyard's "Stop the Violence March."

Sam Oatis, above, expressed his appreciation to the Dolton Police Department.

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee House, second by Trustee Denton, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Trustees Brown, Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

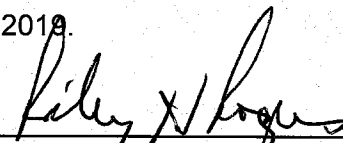
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 7th day of October, 2019.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor