

Village of Dolton Board of Trustees
Meeting of the Committee of the Whole
Monday, November 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at the new village hall at 6:42 p.m.

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

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 Trustee Steave

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Brandon Dyer introduced representatives of the American Red Cross who summarized assistance available to residents. Red Cross is donating 30 smoke detectors per month for installation by the fire department at residents' homes. Residents may call 708-201-2995 to sign up.

Chief Brandon also announced that during the current cold weather the Melanie Fitness Center and the Dolton Park District are open daily to residents. Residents in need of shelters overnight should call Bud's Ambulance Services at 708-201-3240.

Trustee Holmes urged residents to take advantage of the smoke detectors installation program.

Trustee House announced that the Finance Committee would not meet in November and December. Residents may contact Trustee House at 708-625-1105 or at jhouse@vodolton.

Trustee Steave announced that the Public Works Committee will meet in December.

Trustee Henyard announced her free pre-Thanksgiving Dinner tomorrow at her *Good Burger* at South Suburban College between 4-6 p.m. Trustee Henyard further announced a Christmas giveaway of her daughter's clothes ages 1-9 months, free wigs for seniors and cancer survivors.

Trustee Henyard said that in response to recent news reports, she reached out to an organization called Everybody Counts, Inc., in Merrillville, and urged the board to accept its proposal to train police officers to deal with those suffering from mental illness. Trustee Henyard said that she may be reached at 708-297-6859.

Mayor Rogers announced the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner would take place for Dolton residents only on November 26th at the Dorchester from 3-6 p.m.

In response to Trustee Denton's question, Mayor Rogers confirmed that he would again be distributing turkeys to Dolton residents on November 23rd.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Security Cameras Ordinance

Acting Chief Ernest Mobley responded to Trustee Henyard's comments that crime is high, stating that crime is down since the random incidents earlier this year, and that he took offense at Trustee Henyard's comments. He urged trustees and residents with concerns to meet with him.

Trustee Henyard reasserted that crime is high and that not everything is reported.

Chief Mobley replied that everything Trustee Henyard puts out on *Facebook Live* about the village is negative and sometimes reports incidents before the family knows.

Mayor Rogers added that he has reviewed crime number with the county which reports that crimes are down.

Trustee Holmes noted that the biggest police is the community with eyes and ears block by block.

There was a consensus of the trustees to approve the proposed ordinance.

2. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Process

Trustee Henyard said that she had received "a lot of" complaints about the village's failure to respond to FOIA requests.

Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan said that she had nothing new to add to her previous statements to the board that the village lacks staff to timely comply to all requests.

3. Melanie Fitness Center – Rental of Massage Therapy Room – Trustee Steave

Trustee Steave presented his proposal for a message therapy room at the Melanie Fitness Center.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Cheryl Hill, resident, said that she agreed with the chief. She added that she will report the "trash tree mountain" on 142nd St. to authorities.

Pat Byrd, resident, asked whether the Melanie Center massage therapist will carry insurance. She reported that she recently called 911 to report young men hollering outside and the police came directly to her house.

Sandra Wells, resident, said that it was great that the Melanie Center was moving forward. She asked about the status of the housing agency working with the village and the possibility of the agency providing the village a revenue stream. She added that security cameras should be "precautionary." She asked if tax dollars were used to house the tenant of the mold-infested house on Dearborn St.

Mayor Rogers responded that the housing agency was providing a service, and confirmed that tax dollars paid for the temporary relocation of the tenant and her family as it was a serious situation.

Valerie Stubbs, resident and former trustee, said that person had filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on her behalf on August 12th and did not receive a response until October 3rd. She added that on several occasions others have filed on her request who did not receive a response.

Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan replied again that she had nothing new to report regarding the difficulty of complying with numerous requests for information while the village departments are understaffed. She urged anyone who may be dissatisfied to contact her directly.

Former Trustee Stubbs next asked if anyone had the "mold" property tested, and whether there was a vote to pay for relocation of the tenant.

Trustee Steave responded that there was no time for a vote, and he wanted to know whether Trustee Henyard planned to repay the village for relocation of her tenant.

Beth McBride, resident, said that it is dangerous to allow marchers on Sibley Blvd. She reported that this past Friday there were about 25-30 Thornridge High School students milling at 155th Dobson, and they were there today. She went to Thornridge to complain.

Kiana Belcher, resident, asked what happened with code enforcement regarding the mold infested house. She said that others have been displaced and no one did anything about it. She told Trustee Steave to stop asking for the money back.

Trina Downs, resident, reported that her water was still shut off unjustly and demanded a response from the board of trustees. There was no response.

Duane Muhammad, resident and former trustee, asked why there have been no new postings to the website as required by the "transparency ordinance" in over a year. He added that he had filed a FOIA request for village accounts records for August through October of this year and received one file for August.

The village clerk responded that at the time the board was considering the "transparency" ordinance, she had publicly stated to then Trustee Muhammad and the trustees that she would not be able to comply with its requirements. As to the FOIA request, Trustee Duggan explained that the file she emailed Mr. Muhammad was a zip file containing 14 separate files of village accounts for the time period requested.

Cheryl Hill, again, objected to the water department director reporting in public on a resident's business.

Mrs. Crayton, resident, asked Ms. London, the water department director, about her qualifications. She asked whether water is being cut off for any amount of outstanding balance.

Mayor Rogers explained that by the time a resident receives a second quarter water bill, the resident is already 90 days past due. A shut off notice is included on the bill. Ms. London urged residents to make payment arrangements.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Holmes, House, Steave

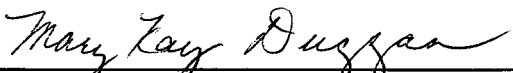
NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1 Trustee Brown

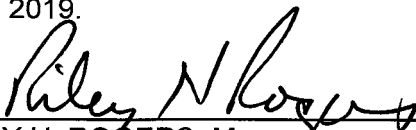
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 2nd day of December, 2019.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor