



# VILLAGE OF DOLTON

Tiffany A. Henyard.....Mayor  
Alison Key.....Village Clerk

## TRUSTEES

Andrew Holmes                      Stanley Brown                      Kiana L. Belcher  
Tammie Brown                      Brittney Norwood                      Jason House

**SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DOLTON PARK DISTRICT  
14700 EVERS, DOLTON, IL, 60419  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024  
6:30 PM**

## MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – at 6:35 pm by Mayor Pro Tem House. Present (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House, Deputy Clerk Aris Montgomery. Absent (1) Mayor Henyard, Clerk Key & Trustee Holmes. A quorum was established.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Pro Tem House
3. PRAYER - Trustee Stanley Brown
4. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL
5. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS –  
**Trustee Belcher** – Please understand what a trustee does. The trustees are the legislative body. We would never take anyone’s escrow off of the warrant list. Escrow funds have not been removed from the warrant list, we remove unapproved spending. We do not remove things that are in the benefit of the community. Despite all of the chaos, we have come together as a community. I’m going to try to host Pray for Dolton next month October. This community needs healing.  
**Trustee Norwood** – Happy to have the support of the residents. We have a few partnerships that helps the board. A special thank you to the Dolton Park District. Every year they help with the Youth Empowerment Program and partner with Dolton to provide the youth with jobs. I would also like to thank Chicago Sky Game and the residents who attended the game.  
**Trustee S. Brown** – I’m here because your concerns are my priority. I am here for all of the residents.  
**Trustee T. Brown** – I would like to thank the Dolton Fire Department who continuously worked without a contract for years. This Saturday, September 14, 2024 will have Tea with the Trustees.  
**Mayor Pro Tem House** – I received several calls regarding the unofficial board meeting. Any procedures and attempted appointments are not valid. We are here to defend the residents of Dolton. Moving forward we will not be recognizing any comments made by the Mayor. We have real issues that we’re here to address. We have to make sure that we stand together, stand strong and stabilize this community.  
**Attorney McGrath** – The Illinois Attorney General issued a binding opinion in response to complaints made by three (3) residents. September 3, 2024, the Attorney General’s office concluded that the village violated the Open Meeting Act by failing to make meetings convenient and open to the public. You have to have a quorum in order to have a legal meeting. No action taken at that meeting will be up held. Any



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appointments made has to be done in a board meeting where the trustees are present and has the chance to give the advice and consent.

**Mayor Pro Tem House** – There was news on the Comptroller’s office freezing some funding for the Village of Dolton. Working through the Village Administrator and the Finance Director, we’ve been in constant contact with their office. They’ve communicated that as long as we have a plan in place by September 15, we can begin the process of getting our funding restored.

We are in the process of doing a reconciliation for the previous fiscal year. Our next fiscal year budget is past due. We expect to have that within a month’s timeframe.

Audits have not been completed since this administration has taken over. The auditor that we have on record has refused to issue an opinion because of the many reports, subpoenas and allegations of fraud. We’ve reached out to ten (10) firms who share the same concerns. As of today, we have two (2) firms that are interested in picking up the mantle and moving things forward for FY 2022 and FY 2023 to get us back on track.

Lastly, the board voted for an approval of all of the checks that were deemed appropriate. When those checks were presented for the Mayor to sign, she declined. Fortunately, we have an ordinance in place that states when the Mayor refuses to do her job the Mayor Pro Tem is in power to do that. Thank you to the board for having foresight for a situation like this. With that, Clerk Key and I signed checks to ensure that vital services continued. The Mayor’s office then contacted our bank claiming false signatures on the bank account. The bank issued a 60-day notice stating that our accounts would be closed within that timeframe. Despite allegations there has been no binding opinions against the board and we will continue to follow the advice and consent of the attorneys. We expect to have a new banking relationship within the next 30 days.

## 6. VILLAGE CLERK’S REPORT

A. August 05, 2024 Special

**Motion to approve by Mayor Pro Tem House. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (4) Trustees Norwood, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem. Abstain (1) Trustee S. Brown. Motion passed.**

B. August 05, 2024 Regular

**Motion to approve by Mayor Pro Tem. Second by Trustee Belcher. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem. Motion passed.**

C. August 08, 2024 Special

**Motion to approve by Mayor Pro Tem House. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (4) Trustees Norwood, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem. Abstain (1) Trustee S. Brown. Motion passed.**

## 7. CORPORATE BILLS

A. Electronic Warrant Lists



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**Motion to approve by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

### B. AP Warrant Lists

**Motion to approve the AP Warrant Lists removing the vendors listed by Trustee Belcher. Second by Mayor Pro Tem House. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- KNM Ventures Inc.                      \$6,000.00
- R.E. Walsh & Associates, Inc.                      \$8,403.75

**Total: \$14,403.75**

**Trustee Belcher** – Last month we paid KNM Ventures \$35,000 because of a storm that we needed them to come out for. We were very grateful for their service. As Trustee Norwood and I went through their invoices and visited homes where service was provided, there are still tree trunks, branches, etc. that haven't been removed. On the invoice's it stated that it would be removed. Why would we pay them more money if they haven't completed what we've already approved?

My other concern is R.E. Walsh & Associates which is a law firm that stated that they did the investigation for Las Vegas. The board still has not received a report of what was done.

My last concern, Senior Trustee House requested a draft copy of the budget about a month and a half ago. We pay our accounting firm between \$40-60,000 a month. Whatever we request we should receive. We shouldn't have to have outside entity's come in and subpoena information when all of those records are in the hands of our accounting firm. I want it on record that this is our money and they should be providing the necessary information we need to move this village forward.

**Trustee Norwood** – We've been fighting hard for transparency. We will continue to remove things that are not in the best interest of the community and hold this administration accountable.

### 8. OLD BUSINESS – None

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion to Approve an Ordinance #24-010 Establishing and Adopting a Policy Governing Reimbursement of Elected Official and Employee travel, meal and lodging expenses, and necessary employee expenses;

**Motion by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

B. Motion to Approve an Ordinance #24-012 Amending the Village Code Amending the Village Code Amending Check Signing Requirements;

**Mayor Pro Tem House** – I would like to amend this motion to remove the Finance Director so employees are not in fear of retaliation of the Mayor.



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**Amended motion by Mayor Pro Tem House removing the Finance Director. Second by Trustee Belcher. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- C. Motion to Approve an Ordinance #24-009 Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Reimbursement of Elected Official and Employee travel, meal;

**Trustee Belcher** – It's not that we don't want to get information or go to conferences but we have to be diligent about how we are spending the money until we can get our house in order.

**Trustee T. Brown** – In our budget there is funding for us to go to IML and to stop the training but the Mayor has stopped that. If we didn't spend the \$10,000 that was set aside for that, where did the money go?

**Attorney McGrath** – It's important to go back to Ordinance 24-010. It is an ordinance establishing a travel policy which the village never had before. This puts a halt on extreme travel expenditures and entertainment. This ordinance takes it a step further by putting an actual freeze on travel expenses with an exception to the IML.

**Motion by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee T. Brown. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- D. Motion to Approve an Ordinance #24-011 Establishing a Policy on Village Cell Phones and iPads;

**Trustee Belcher** – Can we amend the Ordinance to include all electronic devices?

**Attorney McGrath** – The amendment will be added to the ordinance.

**Motion by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- E. Motion to Approve an Ordinance Declaring a Village –Wide Hiring Freeze;

**Tabled.**

- F. Motion to Approve a Settlement Agreement for *Camille Williams v. Dolton*; 1:23-cv-05670;

- G. Motion to Approve a Settlement Agreement for *Mashawn Murdock v. Dolton*; 2024 CH 02995;

- H. Motion to Approve a Settlement Agreement for *Parris Dawson v. Dolton*; 1:22-cv-00548;

- I. Motion to Approve a Settlement Agreement for *Dolton Park District v. Dolton*; 2023 CH 07493;

- J. Motion to Restore Keith Freeman as Village Administrator pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-10 and Dolton code 1-8-1B;

**Attorney McGrath** – The law is very clear regarding appointments. The Mayor can remove or add an appointed position or official with the advice and consent of the board. It has to be done in writing and there are time constraints and it has to be done in a meeting. If the Mayor fails to follow these steps, then it's not a proper removal. Then the corporate authority can move to restore that appointed official with a 2/3 vote. There is a number of grounds on why his removal has no merit. I asked for this to be added to the agenda in case it was challenged in court.

**Trustee S. Brown** – It's kind of confusing right now. I don't understand how he can carry out the job of a Village Administrator if he's working from home. I'm not comfortable with that.



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**Trustee Norwood** – It was stated that the board brought Keith Freeman to the village and that couldn't be further from the truth. The first time he was not approved because he wasn't brought before the board properly. Now that he's finally doing the right thing and he's protected by the whistle blower act but they want to remove him. I understand the concern is him working from home but I've got more work done for the residents within the last two (2) months than ever before.

**Trustee T. Brown** – Everyone knows that Keith and I have not had the best working relationship but since things have changed we are able to get things done. Things were put in place to prevent him from coming to work. He will be returning to the building and so will the residents.

**Motion to approve items F, G, H, I and J with a change of the language to item H with a motion to approve settlement authority for Parris Dawson v. VOD by Mayor Pro Tem House. Second by Trustee Belcher. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- K. Discussion of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between IAFF Local 3766 and Village of Dolton-  
**Trustee Belcher** – For the past 5 years our firefighters have been working diligently without a contract. Not only were we successful in negotiating a contract but we got it until 2027. This is about doing what's right for the community and making the firefighters whole.

**Letter read into record by Firefighter President Adam Local 3766.**

**Motion by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee S. Brown. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- L. Ratification of the Termination of Former Deputy Chief Lewis Lacey  
**Mayor Pro Tem House** – The official termination was August 6, 2024 but it was not done in a public setting. We want to make sure that we do this in a proper setting.  
**Trustee Belcher** – After 21 days the moral of the Police department has gone up. (Letter of *No Confidence* by the Dolton Police Department read into record.)

**Motion to approve by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- M. Approval of 2024-2025 Business Licenses  
**Trustee Belcher** – We don't want to lose businesses. It affects the taxes and revenue that we receive from licenses.  
**Trustee S. Brown** – As long as those 18 businesses' paperwork is correct with the state and the village, let's get all 18 open.

**Motion by Trustee Norwood. Second by Trustee Belcher. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

- N. Approval of Transfers from MFT account to General Fund



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**Trustee Norwood** – Because of our failed administration were forced to make some hard decisions.

**Motion by Trustee T. Brown. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

10. Executive Session (to discuss litigation and personnel matters)

**Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:17 pm by Trustee S. Brown. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

**Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:02 pm by Trustee Belcher. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

**Motion to resume Regular session at 9:06 pm by Mayor Pro Tem House. Second by Trustee Belcher. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

11. Adjournment – at 9:08pm by Mayor Pro Tem House.

**Motion to adjourn by Trustee T. Brown. Second by Trustee Norwood. Ayes (5) Trustees Norwood, S. Brown, T. Brown, Belcher & Mayor Pro Tem House. Motion passed.**

Approved, by the Board of Trustees this day, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALISON KEY, Village Clerk

Present:

Absent:



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Ayes:

Nays: