

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 27, 2017**

Mayor Robert E. Polk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson, Travis Claybrooks, Mayor Robert E. Polk and Village Clerk Lus Chavez  
ABSENT: Village Attorney Stanley Pagorek

Motion made by Trustee Travis Claybrooks and seconded by Trustee Denise Bonner to approve the corrections of the minutes of the June 13, 2017.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion made by Trustee Graciela Garcia and seconded by Trustee Brenda Greer to open the meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- Aleka Rias addressed the Board with a question; she noticed the meeting was being videoed, and asked if it was accessible online.

Mayor responded that a private person was doing that, it has nothing to do with us.

Ms. Rias asked if the Village videotaped the meetings.

Mayor responded No.

Trustee Denise Bonner said that could be something that can be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Mayor said No we are not going to put that on the Agenda.

Mayor said for the record that there are some towns that do record the Board Meetings and they are just a mockery and we are not going to have that, and if anybody wants to record that's up to you, it's a public meeting and there is nothing against the law, but the Village of Burnham will not.

- Andrew Johnson addressed the Board that he really appreciates that the Torrence Bridge is now open and it's very nice.

- Manuel Romero addressed the Board with the following concerns:
  - Alleys having holes
  - Would the Village ever pave the alleys?
  - Because of the condition of the alley, he has had expensive costs to his vehicle

Mayor responded that was a good question, and that the alleys have already been paved, there were bad holes and one alley by Saginaw Avenue was done by Mr. Bults not by the Village. Mayor also stated that the Village cannot afford to pave the alleys and he will not promise that we can do that. When we pave the streets it costs about thirty thousand dollars per block when it is done, we would use the MFT Funds. It would be very difficult to pave the alleys. And if we paved this alley and not this alley there would always be a conflict as to how we made that decision and somebody would still be dissatisfied. Mayor said certainly if the money comes available we would do that.

Trustee Claybrooks asked Mr. Romero his name and where he lives.  
(He lives on 142<sup>nd</sup> and Greenbay Avenue)

Mr. Romero said that this was a great community and doesn't want to leave.

Mayor mentioned that the Village did take care of a sidewalk on that end of the block.

- Debbie Ziemkowski addressed the Board with the following concerns:
  - She has a list of questions that she would like to ask the contractor to get some answers.
  - how low did they lower the water table and did they do soil testing
  - the dropping of the concrete starts at 6 o'clock in the morning
  - and she has cracks in her foundation

Mayor stated that we had a meeting with them along with the Clerk and they were supposed to get back to us to have a community meeting. As soon as they give us that date we will do that. But they did assure us that the banging would stop by this week. Mayor said we are working on getting those answers. And we will give that to the Chief to get with them to set a date for the meeting and hopefully they will get back to us soon. Mayor said that this week would be the last of that and they should be concluding this week.

Trustee Bonner asked where this was located at.

Ms. Ziemkowski said 138<sup>th</sup> Place.

- Gerald Hunter had the following comments:
  - Funds used from Block Grant Funds, will never be used on the east side of town. Those funds are used primarily around the area of the village hall side
  - The agenda was not posted on the website as of this evening nor was it posted on the board on time, The Open Meeting Act...requires 48 hours
  - Why human relations was being out sourced like other items have

Mayor said first of all.

Gerald Hunter rudely interrupted the Mayor and said it was his turn to talk and that he wasn't going to take away his time to talk.

Mayor said he was not trying to take his time but what you say is not true.

Gerald Hunter said you could answer after I am done.

Mayor stated that he was in charge of the meeting. Mayor asked the Clerk if the Agenda was posted on time. Clerk responded that it was posted that Friday. Mayor stated that it was true that the East side of Burnham no longer qualifies for the Block grant nor does his area. The only area that does qualify is East of Torrence Avenue. But we can use MFT funds and that would have to be taken into consideration. And as far as employees not doing certain things, we will leave that alone.

Gerald Hunter blurted out that he was fired and worked here for 16 years.

Juan Galvan had the following concerns: (he spoke in Spanish)

- o The construction is also making cracks in his foundation and in the morning the house shakes from the work they are doing

Mayor stated that as soon as a meeting is set with the contractors everyone will be informed.

Motion made by Trustee Travis Claybrooks and seconded by Trustee John Cap Jr. to close the meeting to the public at 7:17 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Polk mentioned that we did have a meeting with the builders the other day and they assured us that the vibration would be done if not by today definitely by tomorrow, and the issue with the dust, they did put more watering trucks out.

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

Village Clerk, Chavez reminded everyone that the Village stickers are still on sale and passenger stickers are \$50.00 and Trucks start at \$70.00. They expire June 30, 2017. The office is open Monday thru Friday and Friday's we are open until 7 p.m. and please bring your vehicle registration in order to purchase your sticker.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION, HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE:**

Trustee Brenda Greer mentioned the Illinois Housing Authority having financial assistance for Cook County for homeowners. The grant is worth up to \$25,000.00. Thornton Township provides transportation to seniors. Also in response to the growing Latino Community, South Suburban College has established the Latino Center for Information and Services. The Center is located in the Counseling Center Room 2350. The mission of the Center is to Help Latinos Achieve the Dream through education. Anyone in need of the neighborhood watch sign, please see Trustee Greer.

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS:**

Trustee Travis Claybrooks mentioned the following:

- that the street sweeper has been out
- some of the alleys have been graded
- The area by Yates Street, Public Works has trimmed the trees so the light can shine better and make the area more visible
- Vacant lots have been cut and cleaned
- On 143<sup>rd</sup> & Yates street a tree had fallen on a car by the storm

He wanted to wish everyone a safe and Happy Independence Day.

## **ORDINANCE, RESOLUTION AND PLANNING:**

Trustee Graciela Garcia mentioned that the strip mall under construction located on Burnham and Brainard is looking really good. It is picking up.

Mayor said they should be looking at the engineering plans for the sewer and the water works.

## **FINANCE:**

Trustee Bonner had a question if this was an out source for HR, and if they are going to do payroll and time keeping. And if this company currently carries our workman's comp? Our current issue is fairness, ethics and transparency, is this going to take care of this

Clerk Lus responded with the following:

- Flat monthly fee going forward of \$2,275.00
- Any new employee would be added at a cost of \$50.00
- They would create policies one of which would be an employee policy
- They would document any disciplinary action against an employee as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- When an employee would leave- they would have an exist interview and cover all necessary items to be addressed
- This would help us be proactive
- In addition these policies and having the 3<sup>rd</sup> party company for HR would show our insurance carriers that we are working on reducing any type of risk in regards to HR. Currently besides us having high premiums and difficulty for our broker to have our current carriers continue to take us on.
- We have Illinois Public Risk for workman's comp but a different broker. and they are not included in this packet.
- This company would cover the issues and create policies to be in place

Mayor stated the issues of what is fair is different and depends on who's eyes you are looking thru because sometimes those people do what they do and in their eyes it is correct.

Trustee Bonner had other concerns:

- Paying this additional money a month for HR, when we have a person as an Administrative Assistant in the police department and have three fulltime people in the office.
- For further discussion of this, she suggested that we table this to the next meeting.

- According to Illinoispolicy.org, we are one of the worst south suburban municipalities when it comes to online transparency. Such as when we were being investigated, instead of being more transparent, we shut our website down. We have to do better to work toward better government. Instead of shutting down or getting rid of what we may not agree with, let's work toward making it better.

Mayor stated that we would not table this and we needed to proceed, and at that time shutting the website, we had more important issues back than to take care of.

1. Motion made by Trustee John Cap Jr. and seconded by Trustee Carmella Richardson to approve the contract from Connor & Gallagher OneSource to handle our Human Resource's. OneSource will implement Human Resource policies and handle all the Human Resource duties including payroll. The proposal cost is a monthly fee of \$2,275.00.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: Trustee Denise Bonner

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

Trustee Bonner asked if he was certified.

Mayor asked her if she read the agenda.

Trustee Bonner asked if we had his resume.

Mayor responded that we did.

Trustee Bonner asked if he would be answering the alarm calls

Mayor said we haven't had any but that he would.

Trustee Bonner due to pump station alarms coming to the console she had many concerns about dispatchers not being there 24/7

Mayor stated that it will be addressed and it would be as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

1. Motion made by Trustee Carmella Richardson and seconded by Trustee Travis Claybrooks to approve the hire of Andre Lewis as a temporary certified operator of the pump station, for the amount of \$800.00 on a monthly basis

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Trustees John Cap Jr., Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Trustee Denise Bonner

ABSENT: None

Mayor stated that whatever we do at these meeting and we are going to try to make sure that we are in order and not disrespectful and whatever the case maybe we need to try to deal in with it in a professional way and sometimes you can't give an answer that is not acceptable to them. And we would just have to proceed.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** None

Smoke detectors are still not up

Mayor addressed to Trustee Bonner that every Trustee was assigned a particular committee and you were assigned Parks and Recreation, Trustee Richardson assigned Public Utilities and Trustee Cap was assigned Finance and Trustee Garcia was assigned Ordinance and Resolutions and Trustee Claybrooks was assigned Public Works and Trustee Greer was assigned Public Education, Health, Safety and Welfare and is fitted and proper when one has a comment to make, it is addressed at the time of that committee and not jump all over the place.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS: None**

**COMMUNICATIONS, MEMORIALS,  
AND REMONSTRANCES: None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Trustee Bonner is still waiting for the commendation of the two officers and concerned for the safety of the community.

Mayor stated that would come from Public Education, Health, Safety and Welfare committee and would not come from your committee and sometimes when things happen we can't always or should not bring to the public right away and sometimes there are investigations that have to be done sometimes we do not want to speak too soon. Just like some people feel that they should see a squad car all the time. Just because you don't see one, they may be in an unmarked car. The people want safety, but they don't necessarily need to see the car to know there is presence. We use different techniques. We are going to continue to safeguard the Village of Burnham and the Village of Burnham is not about to fall into Lake Michigan or the Calumet River so it doesn't have to be saved by anybody and we are moving ahead.

Motion made by Trustee Travis Claybrooks and seconded by Trustee Carmella Richardson to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**


**AYES:** Trustees John Cap Jr., Denise Bonner, Graciela Garcia, Brenda Greer, Carmella Richardson and Travis Claybrooks

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

  
Village Clerk

  
Mayor