

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2024*

VILLAGE HALL

OCTOBER 21, 2024

7:30 PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Village Clerk LoGalbo took roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, Mustafa

ALSO PRESENT: Village Manager Bridget Wachtel; Fire Chief Bob Kopec; Assistant Fire Chief Matt Berk; Director of Police Services Carl Estelle; Acting Chief of Police Keith Taylor; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner; Finance Director Ann Novoa; Assistant to the Village Manager/Communications Manager Nicole Castagna; Acting Village Attorney Karl R. Ottosen; 109 community members, media, and others.

Mayor Nelson reminded everyone that the Village Board meeting was being streamed via Zoom for the convenience of those unable to attend the meeting in person. Public commenters who signed up to speak would be called from the sheet they signed in on. Mayor Nelson explained that when commentators are called for public comment they should approach the podium, state their name, address the Village Board with decorum, and address the comments to the public body as a whole and not a certain member of staff. Mayor Nelson asked that speakers limit their comments to five minutes per person for a maximum of thirty minutes of public comment time. Mayor Nelson introduced Acting Village Attorney Karl R. Ottosen, who was the founder and a partner of the law firm that represents the Village, and that he would be attending the Village Board meetings for a while, Kathi Orr worked remotely.

Mayor Nelson noted that on October 17, 2024, there was a brazen armed attack in the Village of Flossmoor. She requested that the Director of Police Services, Carl Estelle, provide an update on the incident.

Director Estelle explained that on October 17th at 1:35 pm, Flossmoor Police Department (FPD) received notification that an armed robbery and vehicle theft had taken place and were immediately dispatched to the scene. The FPD interviewed the victim and quickly alerted surrounding law enforcement agencies with the details of the vehicle and suspect. Estelle explained that FPD leadership, working together with the E-COM dispatch and using various technologies, were able to quickly assess that there was no active threat or danger to the community. The stolen vehicle was out of Flossmoor's jurisdiction very quickly, as was confirmed by other law enforcement agencies that use license plate readers and confirmed by police officers on the scene. Estelle stated that shortly after the vehicle was stopped, the suspect was arrested in the City of Chicago and that the entire episode took about one hour. With the suspect in custody, the FPD drafted a media release that the Village Manager's office reviewed. The media release contained information regarding the incident and was sent to local media partners on the evening of October 17th. Estelle explained that due to the brazenness of the incident, the Village wanted to share the information with the media to share with the public that the crime had occurred. However, since there was no danger to the community and the suspect was apprehended, FPD recommended no call for action. Estelle noted that in an effort to continue to inform the public regarding the event, information was shared on the Village's website, the FPD, and Village's Facebook pages, and a subsequent update when the suspect was arrested and charges were filed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Estelle explained that the Village has

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historically deployed e-cop alerts as a call for action or to alert the community of an emergency threat and that the purpose of using the e-cop alerts exclusively for calls for action was to make sure that residents receive high-priority information. Estelle explained that the situation would have been treated very differently if the suspect had left on foot and was believed to still be in the vicinity of Flossmoor, and he gave the examples of schools being contacted, alerts being sent out, the possibility of the closest schools being locked down, or that residents shelter in place. Estelle explained that the number one priority of the FPD is to keep residents safe and that after the events of October 17th, the FPD used in place community procedures by sharing the details with the local news media. Estelle noted that the matter was still an ongoing investigation, and a lot of information could not be revealed at the time, but the FPD will work with the State's Attorney's Office to make sure they prosecute the case.

Mayor Nelson thanked Director Estelle for the update and the Village Board, staff, and the FPD for approving the purchase and installing the Flock license plate readers as the license plate readers as they were very helpful in solving the case very quickly. She thanked the FPD for capturing and charging the suspect.

Mayor Nelson requested an update from Director of Public Works John Brunke regarding the Heather Hill detention basin. She noted that the Village was told that there would not be any water in the basin and that it did not seem to be the case. She stated that the Village was still working on some things with the contractor and engineer.

Director Brunke explained that as of last week, the project is substantially complete, and he detailed some of the next steps for both the contractor and Public Works staff and check on the compliance of the plans. Brunke noted that Public Works has the same concerns as the community about the shallow, standing water in the basin. He noted that the project was not closed out, it was not paid out yet, and there was still a punch list to complete. Brunke explained that the other remaining items included the educational and access signage and that the Village is waiting on the School District to approve the language before ordering it. He noted that he hoped all items would be completed in the next month or so. He explained that there is a native deep-rooted seeding at the bottom of the basin and a different type of native seeding at the banks of the basin. They are not mowed and can take up to three years for full growth, and at the top of the basin will be turfgrass, which will be mowed regularly. Brunke also explained that there is a three-year warranty period on the seedings, and there will be six-month and one-year check-ins to see how the seedings are progressing. Brunke noted that the Village Board would receive another update within the next couple of weeks.

Mayor Nelson reiterated that the project was not completed and closed out for final payment.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about the water currently in the basin.

Brunke responded that he had not measured it but estimated that it was two to four inches from what he saw while at the basin.

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Recognitions and Appointments:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #1 – A Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Flossmoor Fire Department EMS Program. Mayor Nelson welcomed members of the Flossmoor Fire Department (FFD) and EMS, the Regional EMS Director Dr. Bernie Heilicser, and many FFD retirees. Mayor Nelson welcomed and thanked Flossmoor's Volunteer Fire Department Corporation for all the fundraising they do year-round and their contributions to new technology for the FFD.

Mayor Nelson read a Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Flossmoor Fire Department EMS Program.

Regional EMS Director Dr. Bernie Heilicser stated that the Village of Flossmoor was one of the first EMS providers in the State of Illinois, noted that the EMS staff work under his medical license, and discussed the success of the program.

Mayor Nelson noted that Gregory Berk, one of the Village's first EMS personnel, was also Flossmoor's first full-time Chief of the Fire Department and instrumental in securing the Village's first ambulance. She noted that his son, Assistant Fire Chief Matt Berk, serves Flossmoor with the same love and care as his father did for thirty-five years.

No vote was required.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #2 – A Proclamation Declaring October 2024 as National Higher Education Month. Mayor Nelson welcomed Vivian Zimmerman and Pam Lessner to accept the Higher Education Month Proclamation. Mayor Nelson thanked everyone present who worked in higher education. She noted that Zimmerman is the higher education chair of the Illinois Education Association Board of Directors, and Pam Lessner is a librarian and instructor at Richard Daley College, an advocate for teachers, and recently won the Illinois Education Association's Dr. Cheryl Thayer Higher Education Advocate Award for 2024.

Mayor Nelson read a Proclamation Declaring October 2024 as National Higher Education Month.

No vote was required.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #3 – Consideration of Appointments to the Community Relations Commission. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Appointment of Anathayee Heyward, Travis Adams, and Monica Zachary to the Community Relations Commission. Trustee Mustafa so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Mayor Nelson provided background information about nominees Anathayee Heyward, Travis Adams, and Monica Zachary.

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The Board thanked the nominees for their willingness to serve and volunteer for the Village of Flossmoor, noted their diverse and unique backgrounds and talents, and noted the importance of serving on the Community Relations Commission.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #4 – Consideration of an Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Appointment of Dominique Smith-Shamley to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Bradley-Scott so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll. Mayor Nelson provided background information about nominee Dominique Smith-Shamley.

The Board thanked Smith-Shamley for her willingness to serve and noted the importance of serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board:

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on an Agenda Item & Non-Agenda Item

(It should be noted that in reporting these comments, the Village has not researched the accuracy of any comments.):

Flossmoor resident Andrea Perry's comments, in summary, were regarding her past and present comments being made as a longtime resident of Flossmoor, and her interactions with the Village Attorney at the October 7, 2024, Village Board meeting and the accusation that Perry's comments were political campaigning for an opposing candidate while she was their campaign manager. Because Perry's comments expressed concerns, raised questions, and were critical of how/ what current leadership is doing, the Village Attorney's comments were designed to suppress her from making more such public comments. Perry talked about a similar situation in Urbana, Illinois, and that Urbana was found to have violated the Open Meetings Act after restricting public comment. Perry asserted that just because the Village Attorney or the Mayor say something is so, does not mean that it is so.

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Acting Village Attorney Karl R. Ottosen explained that the Village's policy prohibits campaigning during public comment. He noted that Perry had disclosed at the previous meeting that she was the campaign treasurer of a political action committee that supports a candidate. Ottosen explained that while he is Acting Village Attorney, he will have the same opinion as Village Attorney Orr if they engage in political campaigning during public comment. He noted that public officials can be criticized during public comment and that campaigning should be done outside of the Board room.

Flossmoor resident Warren Engelberg's comments, in summary, were regarding the financialization of public universities, former Governor of Wisconsin Scott Walker and his assault on unions and public education, the credit ratings of colleges and universities, and the post-secondary education-related debts of students and the impacts of same.

Flossmoor resident Kevin Dorsey's comments, in summary, were regarding him being a twenty-two-year resident and congratulating the FPD's great work on the October 17th incident by apprehending the suspect quickly. Dorsey stated that he understood the thought process behind not alarming the community when an incident is in the works of being resolved, but that there is also an opportunity to share about positive community policing, which should be shared at the first possible time. He noted that between 5 – 8:30 pm, when the Village thought they were not causing panic in the community, he received numerous calls and texts as to why the Village was not providing information when the Village could have instead made a short, positive statement to the community about the status of the matter. Dorsey stated that during the time he lived in Flossmoor, he did not think that there had been a time when there were more than two police officers on the street at any one time. He noted that things have changed in the world and in the community and that the Village should consider changing the status quo. He noted the success of the license plate readers in helping to solve the October 17th Flossmoor incident and suggested that the Village consider more officers on the street for the safety of residents and Flossmoor police officers.

Flossmoor resident Robert Schepler's comments, in summary, were regarding his request for the school zone sign to be replaced near Flossmoor Montessori, where his daughter attends school, as he noticed that the school zone sign had been removed on the southbound side of the street which increased the speed limit where he crosses the street to drop off his daughter. He noted that other residents also walk their children to school at Flossmoor Montessori and then to Western Avenue School. He also requested that the Village consider extending the sidewalk on the western side of the road to the school so that they can take advantage of the crosswalk with the crossing guard during the school drop-off time.

Public Works Director Brunke explained that he would look into the removal of the sign on Western Avenue, of which the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has jurisdiction. He noted that the Village could request that the sign be returned and that IDOT extend the sidewalk on Western Avenue. He noted that IDOT was reviewing a sidewalk extension request near Homewood-Flossmoor High School on Governor's Highway.

Mayor Nelson noted that since IDOT has jurisdiction over Western Avenue, the sidewalk request will go through them.

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Flossmoor resident Matt Epperson's comments, in summary, were regarding him being a fourteen-year resident, his first time making a public comment, and the armed robbery that took place in front of his next-door neighbor's house on October 17th in the middle of the day, within a block of Village Hall and two schools. The alleged suspect approached a woman on the street, seemingly at random, and pulled a gun on her, so Epperson would argue that the incident should be of the highest concern regarding immediate community safety. He noted that he spoke with the Mayor and Director of Police Services, Carl Estelle, about the incident and appreciated the clarification regarding their decision-making. He also commended the law enforcement agencies for working together to swiftly identify and apprehend the suspect. Epperson explained that he was concerned that he and other neighbors were not informed of the incident sooner and that he was not informed that the suspect had been apprehended or left Flossmoor after he was contacted by Flossmoor Police in the evening of October 17th. Epperson opined that although he is not a law enforcement professional, he noted that assumptions were made that the suspect acted alone and that the suspect had not done anything else in the immediate area that could have raised safety concerns and that FPD could have checked in with other households near the incident to check on their safety. Epperson was frustrated that he did not know about the incident for three and a half hours and that FPD did not at least check in with those in the immediate surroundings. Epperson noted that he was also frustrated about the Village's delay in sharing information about the incident and that even if Village officials determined that there was not an immediate threat, the Village could have relieved people's concerns by contacting residents directly in a timely manner. He noted the Village's new alert system and other technologies and said that they would only be as effective as the decisions made by Village leadership. Epperson requested that Village leadership prioritize transparency and community engagement, particularly as it relates to serious matters of community safety.

Mayor Nelson noted that there is a new Rave alert system that the Village was encouraging residents to sign up for, and they could find more information about it on the Village's website.

Flossmoor resident Jessica Groen's comments, in summary, were regarding her attendance at most Village Board meetings as a representative of the League of Women Voters (LWV) in the observer corps. She noted that when participating in formal LWV activities and/ or wearing the LWV pin or hat, members are not allowed to support or oppose a political candidate or party and that the LWV takes positions on various issues. Groen discussed the interpretation of the term 'political' and her concern at the previous meeting when two commenters were asked not to speak on political matters, which could be taken to mean that they cannot speak about matters that pertain to the public, which would be a limitation on what citizens are allowed to say. Groen appreciated the clarification at the current meeting regarding this issue and said that it was reasonable for people not to be allowed to campaign for a candidate or party during public comment. Groen noted that the LWV was glad that so many office holders in Flossmoor were also members of the HF LWV Chapter, and that because it was the season of running for office, the LWV wanted to encourage Village leaders who are also members of the chapter to make sure they are separating those two 'hats' and not use LWV activities as ways to promote our campaigns as it reduces the credibility of the LWV when they run forums. Groen thanked the Board for welcoming LWV observers, which is a valuable service for the LWV and the Board.

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In summary, Flossmoor resident Ben Herman's comments were regarding the recent branch clean-up in August and his positive experience with the two Village employees who were picking everything up. Herman spoke with them and found them very polite and helpful and were wonderful ambassadors for the Village of Flossmoor. He noted that they did not work in a vacuum and that it was also due to their supervisor, their managers, the Village Manager, the Mayor, and the Board, who have the insightfulness to hire the brilliant people who work for Flossmoor and commended them all. Herman noted that he has had other positive experiences with Village staff, including the water department and the FPD. He expressed his appreciation for the wonderful job that Village Staff and the Board do to make Flossmoor a wonderful place to live.

Flossmoor resident Karen Shaw's comments, in summary, were regarding Oaktoberfest and how fantastic it was, that it is great to live in Flossmoor, and she thanked everyone for their hard work.

Flossmoor resident John Flanagan's comments, in summary, were regarding him being a proud Flossmoor resident of seventy-nine years and noted that Brookwood Bridge possibly needed a guard rail and wanted the Village to look into it. He thanked those on the Village Board for serving and noted that they make Flossmoor a great place to live in.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 5-8):

- 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on October 7, 2024*
- 6. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 21, 2024)*
- 7. Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- 8. Consideration of a Contract to Purchase De-icing Rock Salt from Morton Salt, Inc.*

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton.

Trustee Mustafa requested that item #6 be pulled off of the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Bradley-Scott requested that item #7 be pulled off of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve items #5 and #8 of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on Consent Agenda items #5 and #8. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

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Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #6 – Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 21, 2024). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Bills for Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 21, 2024). Trustee Daggett moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about page fifty-two of the agenda packet regarding the invoices and requested a complete description related to the legal services of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. and the significance of the Gamble item.

Village Manager Wachtel responded that Gamble is an appeal of an administrative adjudication ticket by Gamble; the labor invoice includes a handful of different matters, including individual personnel matters and the seeking of policy advice from the Village's Labor counsel.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #7 – Consideration of a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve a Resolution Adopting the 2024 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Trustee Daggett moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the report on page eighty-one of the agenda packet in regard to the CRS system, flood insurance, and the notation that the Village was a Class-7 CRS community and that the Village was working towards improving the classification. She inquired about the provided list on page ninety-one, noting that there were some items that skipped numbers and the cost-related annotations listed.

Director Brunke explained that the CRS program is the community rating system program for the national flood insurance program, which is a voluntary program that the Village participates in. Brunke explained that the Village is always trying to improve the class rating, which is provided by FEMA because if the Village were to get a higher class, there would be a higher discount for flood insurance for homeowners. He noted that none of the smaller drainage projects in the Village do not count towards the rating. Brunke explained that in regard to missing numbers, those were completed projects in the Village's Capital Plan. Brunke explained some of the reasons and benefits of the Village participating in the plan, including the ability to receive federal funding. In regard to the costs, Brunke explained that when the costs of a project are unknown, they do not annotate them but may indicate that it is a high-cost project.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the motion as presented. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

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NAYS: None

Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Mayor Nelson noted that there was no formal report. She thanked the Green Commission and the Chair, Tristan Shaw, who owns a nursery. The Green Commission and volunteers planted one hundred trees to commemorate the Village's Centennial celebration. Since 2021, the Village has planted six hundred trees, which is largely thanks to the Green Commission, Public Works Department, Village arborist Dave Becker, and Village volunteers.

Mayor Nelson noted that the last Flossmoor swag sale was going on until October 27th, the proceeds of which would benefit the Public Art Commission.

Action Items:

None.

Discussion Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #9 – Discussion of Alternatives for the Central Business District Roadway, Pedestrian, and Streetscape Improvements Projects.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Central Business District Roadway, Pedestrian, and Streetscape Improvements Projects (CBD Project) was a landmark project that would set the tone long into the future. She explained that the Village applied for grants for the project multiple times before the Village was finally awarded grant monies, and that construction would start in the Spring/ Summer of 2025. Mayor Nelson thanked everyone on the project Steering Committee for their involvement.

Director Brunke explained that the CBD Project consists of improvements to Flossmoor's downtown business area along Sterling Avenue, Central Drive and Park Drive with a primary goal of improving pedestrian and traffic safety and a secondary goal of downtown beautification. This project is being designed by Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers. The project benefits include: permanent safety measures (following the temporary improvements made in 2018), including slower, safer traffic, maximized parking and bike racks, increased seating, more trees and native plants, and installation of splitter islands and a truck apron around the existing island. Brunke explained that in December 2019, October 2020, and November 2021, Staff and Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers brought discussions to the Village Board on the geometric alternatives for the CBD Project, and since November 2021, much work has been completed on the project planning and design. As part of the project's Phase 2 Design Engineering that began this year, a Steering Committee was assembled from members of the Village Staff, Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers, Teska Associates, business owners, residents, and other governmental agency members. He noted that the Steering Committee met on July 18, 2024, and August 14, 2024, and at the meetings, the Committee was presented with streetscape concepts from Baxter & Woodman and Teska Associates. The Committee considered different concepts and voted on preferred alternatives for consideration by the Village Board. Staff requested direction from the Board following the presentation, regarding which alternatives should be included in the final plan and then Baxter & Woodman will then

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finalize the project plans and submit them to IDOT no later than November 25th so that the project can be placed on the March 2025 IDOT State letting.

Brunke introduced Dan Schug and Colin McGovern from Baxter & Woodman.

Dan Schug discussed the project proposal, covered on pages 97 through 118 in the agenda packet, noting that it was a legacy project and that there had not been any improvements to the downtown area since 2012 with lighting improvements and in the 1990s when the awnings were put up. Schug highlighted that the purpose of the CBD Project is to improve safety, traffic flow, and streetscape improvements. Schug discussed the project's history, including the fact that it started in 2017, funding, and the various ideas that were proposed and discussed with the Village Board at different times. He explained that Phase II design started in early 2024, and that a Steering Committee comprised of twenty members was put together by the Mayor and Village Manager. The Steering Committee, which met twice, consisted of Village Staff, downtown business owners, residents, the Green Commission, and representatives from the Planning Commission and Flossmoor Library and Schub reviewed the Steering Committee's feedback, preferences and concerns such as maximizing bike racks, fewer trees in larger planters for tree health and user space, expand teardrop seating, and create library seating area that also discourages pick-up/drop-off. Schug reviewed the preferred alternatives on page 106 of the agenda packet, and the project costs less grant funding on page 107 of the agenda packet.

Director Brunke explained that in the Budget's Finance and Facilities Plan, there was \$347,217 allocated towards the CBD Project and that there is \$267,170 allocated in the FY25 Budget and an additional Finance and Facilities Plan set aside of \$80,047. The Board had \$523,327 of decisions to make on the Project. Brunke explained other funding considerations including the re-allocation of \$350,000 to the Water and Sewer Fund for the FY26 budget and \$1,000,000 available in the General Fund balance that is unallocated as of FY25. Brunke also noted that additional work with a TBD cost that is needed and related to the CBD Project, is the 15" Sanitary Sewer reroute under the Civic Center; however, that funding is anticipated to come from the Water and Sewer Fund and/or General Fund.

Schub presented and discussed the preferred alternatives for the CBD Project, including the Steering Committee's recommendations, benefits, and costs associated with pages 110-115 of the agenda packet. He also discussed the CBD Project timeline, including that final plans needed to be submitted to IDOT by November 24, 2024, and that Construction was estimated to start between May 2025 and October 2025, depending on material lead time. Schub explained that there are provisions in the construction contracts that will include the requirement for access to all businesses at all times.

In response to Mayor Nelson's questions, Schub noted that he has worked on similar projects in Plainfield, Northbrook, Marengo, Western Springs, and that the landscape architect they are working with on Flossmoor's project has worked on projects in about one hundred municipalities. He explained that the biggest cost driver for the Flossmoor Library area improvements were the seat walls, which are a masonry short walls at sitting height with a concrete foundation, brick veneer sides, and a limestone cap. The estimated costs for the seat walls are \$136,000 for the seat walls at the Flossmoor Library, and he noted

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that for them to last one hundred years as part of a legacy project, they needed to be built so they could last that long.

Trustee Daggett thanked the Steering Committee for their service, noted the importance of safety in the evaluation of his decision-making, and reviewed his preferences for the project and what he would be willing to cut if needed, including the north walls at the Flossmoor Library, and planters suggested for the Park Drive improvements. He had a safety concern about the seating wall at Flossmoor Road and Sterling Ave and suggested adding bollards in front of the seating wall. Trustee Daggett noted that he would suggest cutting the east side bench seating and the teardrop extension if needed.

Trustee Bradley-Scott suggested taking away some of the permanent seating to save on costs at Flossmoor Library and liked the idea of some of the proposed improvements for safety and a congregational opportunity for events. She was fine with the Flossmoor Road bump out and Park Drive improvements; the east side bench seating could be eliminated, and she would not add more bench seating in the teardrop as it would cause more distraction for drivers.

In response to Trustee Bradley-Scott's questions, Schub explained that the Park Drive improvements would include the large extension of sidewalk, which would cause the choking of the traffic lane and cause cars to slow down. Schub explained that the seating wall in the Park Drive area would be protected from the parallel parking spaces.

Trustee Mustafa agreed with removing the north seat walls at the Flossmoor Library to save money and replace them with benches. She also liked the idea of using the area for events. Trustee Mustafa suggested replacing the southern seat walls with annoying shrubs closest to the street and possibly a bench on the north side of them to discourage kids from being picked up and dropped off in that area. In regard to the seat wall in the Park Drive area, she would suggest cutting out the seat wall. She was in favor of the bump out at Flossmoor Road, including Trustee Daggett's suggestion for bollards, and noted that when backing out of the spaces closest to the intersection, cars are backing into the flow of traffic that is coming around the corner. Trustee Mustafa suggested eliminating the planned east-side bench seating and the teardrop expansion.

Trustee Mitros agreed with Trustee Mustafa's suggestion for bushes at the Flossmoor Library and half of the seat walls there. He was in favor of eliminating all of the proposed seat walls and replacing them with benches. He agreed with getting rid of the sod on Park Drive. Trustee Mitros noted that he had been on the Village Board a long time and that the Board has fought to get parking spaces and not eliminate parking spaces, so he will not vote in favor of anything that gives away parking spaces. He was not in favor of the Flossmoor Road bump out, nor the bollards, or the east side bench seating, and he was very cautious about the man-made hill there as it was done for a reason. He was also not in favor of the teardrop expansion.

Trustee Lofton agreed with the Flossmoor Library comments and that he liked the Flossmoor Road bump out proposal. He also noted that the 15-inch sanitary sewer project also needs to be done before the CBD Project and that the Village needed to save money for it. He also agreed with his colleagues' suggestions for the Park Drive improvements, including eliminating the seat wall, and

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In response to Trustee Lofton's question, Schub explained that the crosswalk at Sterling Avenue would be shorter because the new proposed crosswalk would start at the back of the angled parking to the curb versus curb to curb as it is right now, and then pedestrians would be in the crosswalk for a shorter distance.

Village Manager Wachtel noted that the funding for the sanitary sewer relocation project would come out of Water and Sewer funds, which was a different funding source than the CBD Project. However, it was possible that funding could cross from other sources when one fund could not support its services.

Trustee Driscoll agreed with the Board to remove the north seat walls at the Flossmoor Library, keep the seat walls closest to the street, and aesthetically pleasing bushes. He agreed with the Park Drive concrete expansion and suggested that they remove the seat wall there. He was in favor of the Flossmoor Road bump out for safety reasons and to prevent drivers from making 360-degree turns and noted that he had seen many accidents at the intersection from the train platform. He noted that with the expansion of the sidewalk in front of the Civic Center that can be used for outdoor dining, they will be able to reclaim the parking spots that are used for outdoor dining much of the year. Trustee Driscoll was not in favor of the east side bench seating and said that if there was a need to save additional money, then he was fine with the teardrop expansion being eliminated. He noted that the Board had a responsibility to taxpayers not to just take the improvements lightly and that safety improvements were the priority.

Mayor Nelson stated in summary that five out of six agreed with removing the north seating wall and keeping the south seating wall, six out of the six agreed with the Park Drive improvements except for the seat wall, five out of the six agreed with the Flossmoor Road bump out, six out of six agreed with eliminating the east side wall seating, and the Board was in favor of eliminating the teardrop expansion. Mayor Nelson noted that what the Board agreed on strikes a nice balance between safety and security components and aesthetics. She requested that all nine seat walls in the plan be evaluated for their costs.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about funding for the Phase III viaduct project and the importance of saving money with the CBD Project and inquired whether savings from the CBD Project could be used for other smaller flooding projects.

Director Brunke explained that the viaduct project funding was coming from the bond funds.

Village Manager Wachtel answered that there are many projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan in the back of the budget where the Village has identified a need, and they have not identified funding and that they will not be funded by the removal of a few seat walls. The Village is looking at grants to support those projects. She noted that there is also an increasing number of requests for rear yard drainage projects.

Schub explained that with the IDOT funding, they do not allow any alternative bids. He noted that all nine seat walls in the project cost \$460,000.

Village Manager Wachtel suggested seat walls at the post office as people sit there for events.

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After further discussion about the cost and aesthetics, the Board decided to just keep the seat wall at the Flossmoor Library.

Schub explained that the Board had cut out approximately \$400,000 of the \$523,327 that they needed to make decisions on.

Other Business:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #10 – A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

There was no need to enter into Executive Session.

Trustee Mustafa requested the totals so far for Phase II construction for the Heather Hill detention basin. She also requested a year-to-date budget analysis of Village events by event to see how much the Village is spending in 2024 compared to 2023. She also thanked the FPD for their swift handling of the October 17th armed robbery and assault and recognized the forwarding thinking regarding the purchase of the license plate readers by former Police Chief Jones and his command staff. Trustee Mustafa explained that the Village missed an opportunity to communicate the situation directly to residents, and the Village could have applauded the good work of the FPD. She suggests re-examining how the Village uses the alert system.

Village Manager Wachtel stated that the role of the FPD is to keep the community safe, and the police and the village are not the news media. The Village provides the media sources with what has happened, and it was communicated through the media advisory that everyone was safe. The e-cop alert system is not designed to be a media-type alert system but rather a mechanism to get everyone's attention and take specific action. Wachtel explained that if the Board wants the Village to change what they are doing, then they need to have a separate conversation about it. She noted that the Heather Hill detention basin project has not yet been paid out, so fulfilling Trustee Mustafa's request was premature, but they will share the report with the Board when it is closed out.

Trustee Bradley-Scott noted the efforts of FPD and the use of technology to solve the crime. She noted that residents also want to hear from their 'home base' besides the local news media in regard to incidents such as the October 17th incident. She suggested clear policies and procedures for the new alert system and the e-cop system so everyone knows what the expectations are. She thinks residents should be informed in a timely manner of the events, even if to note the good work of the FPD. She also inquired about how the Steering Committee was chosen for the CBD Project and noted her thankfulness for those who served. Trustee Bradley-Scott noted that there was not a Steering Committee for the Heather Hill detention basin. She noted that residents did not feel like they had a voice in the matter and suggested that there was an opportunity for more community engagement on future projects.

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Mayor Nelson answered that there was not an advertisement for the Committee, and they picked from a broad range of residents' neighborhoods, backgrounds, jobs, and ages. Mayor Nelson agreed that community engagement efforts are important and noted that the Village had meetings with School District 161 in a public forum, park district meetings, and an open house and Village Board meetings regarding the project.

Trustee Bradley-Scott noted how residents were concerned about increased property taxes and that there was an opportunity for the Village to get more commercial properties on the tax rolls and reduce property taxes for homeowners. She discussed the 2022-passed Southland Reactivation Act, which is a tax abatement incentive for property developers who purchase tax-exempt commercial and industrial property within Bloom and Rich Townships (among other Townships) in Cook County. She suggested that Flossmoor-owned real estate could qualify for the program.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Village has the Southland Reactivation Act on their radar. She noted that she knows everyone wished an update would have gone out sooner regarding the incident on October 17th and noted that the Village posted updates on the Friday and Saturday following the incident and on the Village's website.

Trustee Daggett noted that the Village's audit report would be coming out in December per Village Manager Wachtel. He also thanked the Olson family for partially funding a speed sign in the Village.

Trustee Driscoll thanked Director Estelle for an excellent summary of the events of October 17th.

Trustee Lofton noted that he agreed that having steering committees for future projects is a good idea and demonstrates transparency.

Trustee Mitros noted the good work of the Steering Committee and Board on the CBD Project decisions.

Clerk LoGalbo noted that Travis Adams was a great choice for the Community Relations Committee, given that besides his wonderful resume, he goes out of his way to do great things with the church youth, including recently hosting an anti-racism workshop.

Mayor Nelson congratulated Finance Director Ann Novoa and the Finance Department for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the 46th year.

Mayor Nelson shared that Flossmoor received a tourism award of merit for its programming from the Chicago Southland Visitors Bureau and thanked staff for their work on making it happen.

As there were no other items to discuss, Mayor Nelson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott, and passed by a voice vote.

AYES: Trustees Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

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ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk*