

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2024*

VILLAGE HALL

OCTOBER 7, 2024

7:30 PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Village Clerk LoGalbo took roll.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Village Manager Bridget Wachtel; Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue; Fire Chief Bob Kopec; Assistant Fire Chief Matt Berk; Acting Chief of Police Keith Taylor; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner; Finance Director Ann Novoa; Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright; Assistant to the Village Manager/Communications Manager Nicole Castagna; Village Attorney Kathi Orr; 40 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 commenters 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.

Recognitions and Appointments:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #1 – A Proclamation Declaring Friends of Libraries Week. Mayor Nelson requested that Marybeth Beno join her for the reading of the Proclamation. Mayor Nelson explained that Friends of the Flossmoor Public Library do a lot of great work including book sales that support the Flossmoor Library, the summer reading program, and hosting family friendly events.

Beno noted that there would be a Trivia Night coming up soon.

Mayor Nelson read a Proclamation Declaring Friends of Libraries Week.

No vote was required.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #2 – A Proclamation Declaring October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mayor Nelson introduced Darnesha Evans from the Cancer Support Center and two ladies who have had their own battles with breast cancer, Nanette Driscoll and Jill Kopec. Driscoll is married to Trustee Brian Driscoll, and Kopec is married to Flossmoor Fire Chief Bob Kopec.

Mayor Nelson read a Proclamation Declaring October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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Mayor Nelson noted how fortunate the Village was that the University of Chicago Ingalls Center facility is in Flossmoor and provides mammograms, and she discussed how fast her experience was getting a mammogram there recently.

Darnesha Evans stated that the Cancer Support Center would be having a Pink a Boo Walk on October 13th in Homewood, and she explained that the Cancer Support Center's services, including classes in Homewood and Mokena, were free to their clients who have cancer and their caregivers.

No vote was required.

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 Warren Engelberg's comments, in summary, were regarding his critique of government spending, worker co-ops, and capitalism.

Village Attorney Kathi Orr noted that Engelberg's comments were political speech since he was advocating for a direction of certain governmental operations. Orr wanted to remind Engelberg and everyone present that taking a political stance and advocating for a political position is not within the policy of the Village Board.

Flossmoor resident Andrea Perry's comments, in summary, were regarding the Mayor not following the Village's policy on public comment on numerous occasions, such as rule number four that Board members may ask questions of the public speaker and not make comments based on what the speaker has said. Perry requested that the Mayor adhere to the rule going forward. Perry discussed a recent League of Women Voters presentation on various topics, including authority bias, the tendency to attribute greater accuracy to an authority figure regardless of the actual expertise, and the implications of authority bias. Perry asserted that the Mayor has demonstrated a pattern of using the power of authority bias to invalidate public comments that she does not like by making comments about public commentary and the implications of same.

Village Attorney Kathi Orr noted she was advised that Andrea Perry had a position on a mayoral candidate's campaign.

Perry responded that she was treasurer on a mayoral candidate's campaign.

Orr explained that given Perry was working for an opposition candidate to Mayor Nelson, using the format of public comment during Village Board meetings to criticize the Mayor was politicizing, so Orr had to admonish Perry from using the public comment to advocate her political position for a candidate.

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Perry denied Orr's assertion, noted that her speech was not political, that she was in search of the truth, and that it was about the Mayor not following the rules.

Orr noted that according to Roberts Rules of Order, the Mayor as Chair of the meeting can invoke the rules of the meeting that she chooses, and it does not change the fact that Perry has used the Village Board meeting public comment to criticize the Mayor for the second Village Board meeting in a row and that her political speech was not within the policy of the Village Board.

Mayor Nelson stated that while Village Attorney Kathi Orr was correct, Mayor Nelson would still invite Perry to finish her comments.

Perry asserted that with the Mayor having the last word on public comments, it becomes the Mayor's comment, and the speaker has no recourse for the commenter to respond back to the Mayor. She discussed a recent Village Board meeting where it happened to her. Perry noted she was a thirty-seven-year resident of Flossmoor, and her public comments were heartfelt to make Flossmoor better.

Flossmoor resident Troy Holmes' comments, in summary, were regarding the Village Board agenda item, Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Sculpture, Reaching for the Sky, its purchase price of \$7,000.00 when the Public Art Commission's revenue per the FY24-25 budget is \$10,700.00 and would be 70% of the Commission's revenue of the year for one piece of art at Leavitt Park. Holmes discussed how the 2024-2025 budget's art program fund balance, excluding maintenance, was \$27,700.00, and the Village would be spending 25% of the public art fund balance to purchase one piece of art. He encouraged the Board to consider why they would spend that much money on one piece that will sit in Leavitt Park. Holmes discussed how more residents would be engaged in the Village's Public Art program if the art was spread throughout all Flossmoor neighborhoods, fostering a more inclusive Public Art Commission and spurring more donations and involvement. Holmes claimed that at the February 19, 2024, Village Board meeting, the Board directly asked the Public Art Commission to make their procedures public and suggested that the Public Art Commission create a rubric for how public art pieces were placed. Holmes stated that it had been 231 days since the Board made their request, they had been reminded of the Village Board's request multiple times, and he requested that the Board not take action on purchasing any new public art until the Board receives procedures and a rubric of how pieces are placed in the Village, which will also foster transparency between the Village and residents. Holmes noted the Board's adopted guiding principles for diversity and inclusion in August 2018, including that the Village's programs operate in a way that is fair and equitable, opined that the Public Art Commission was not adhering to that principle and that now was the time for accountability. Holmes thanked the Board for their appreciation for the public art program and inclusivity in the Village.

Flossmoor resident Derrick Roberts' comments, in summary, were regarding the support of breast cancer awareness for those with breast cancer and those who lost loved ones, as he had lost two sisters to breast cancer. He noted that his house was lit up in pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Pastor Roberts shared his concern for parking rules within the Village and how a no parking sign at the Heather Hill neighborhood entrance for not parking on the side of the street with the hydrant is not adhered to, nor is it

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ever adhered to, because there is not enough signage in the Village and many residents are not aware of the ordinance. He discussed how, recently, on Oakmont, cars were parked on both sides of the street during two nearby events, and cars coming from both directions on the street could not get through. Pastor Roberts noted that years ago, when the ordinance was instituted, there was a house fire, the fire trucks could not get through the street, and the house burned down.

Mayor Nelson thanked Pastor Roberts for the reminder, and the Village would take a look at the signage, remind residents of the parking ordinance regarding not parking on the fire hydrant side of the street, and look at increased enforcement.

Trustee Lofton stated that the Village had a program to provide residents with signs when they were having events so that their guests would not park on the wrong side of the street and that the signs were helpful.

Trustee Bradley-Scott noted that in the new resident packets, the parking ordinance used to be highlighted but that it is not highlighted in the current new resident packets. A large number of new residents have moved in recently, and the parking ordinance does not stand out from the others anymore in the new resident packets.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel noted that when the ordinance was passed in 2015-2016, the Village did a campaign, 'Park on the safe side,' with postcards that were distributed throughout the Village and that police officers also had the postcards in their vehicles. She stated that the Village would look at starting the postcards again and that the new resident materials were in the process of being updated, and they would highlight the referenced ordinance. Wachtel also encouraged residents to contact the Flossmoor Police Department if they encounter a situation such as Pastor Roberts described, and residents do not know the car owners and/or are not able to politely ask the car owners to move their vehicles. The Village is not looking to ticket everyone; instead, it is looking to make the property owners aware of the ordinance and ask people to move their cars so others can get through.

Flossmoor resident Beth Larocca's comments, in summary, were regarding her appreciation of the fact that the Village was purchasing artwork instead of just renting it and that the Village's public art is one of the things that makes the Village unique. She noted that she was pleased that the Public Art Commission was able to purchase the piece on the agenda as everyone is trying to raise money and in competition with each other. Larocca noted that the public art program in Flossmoor started as a walkable initiative in the downtown area, and that the methodology is changing which is also a good thing. She noted that the Village already has the sculpture at issue in hand, the Public Art Commission raises money every year and gets to recommend what the Village buys, and she appreciates their volunteerism. Larocca stated that she liked the sculpture on the agenda and would like it to stay in Flossmoor.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 3-7):

- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on September 16, 2024*
- 4. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 7, 2024)*

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- 5. Consideration of the Capital Equipment Replacement of Two Police Patrol Vehicles*
- 6. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between E-Com and Individual Members for the Use of the Motorola Radios and Repayment to E-Com*
- 7. Approval of the Capital Equipment Purchase of Genesis Extrication Tools*

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

Trustee Daggett requested that item #7 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Mustafa requested that items #4 and #6 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve items #3 and #5 of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on Consent Agenda items #3 and #5. 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 – Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 7, 2024). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Bills for Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (October 7, 2024). Trustee Daggett moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton.

Trustee Mustafa complimented the monarch project that was done in collaboration with the Jack & Jill organization, the Green Commission, and staff. She was confused that there was no mention of the project in the Village Manager's report and that there was no line item on the invoices. Trustee Mustafa inquired about how projects like it are typically initiated and approved and the procedures for same.

Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright explained that it was a project brought to the Green Commission from Monarch Cities Jack & Jill organization and that there was not a bill with the invoices because she did not have it and that payment for the project would be coming out of the Public Works Department budget. Wright explained that she consulted with the Village's arborist about the project, and it was agreed that it was an area in which the Village wanted to improve the landscaping, so they went ahead with the project.

Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue explained that the project was not planned ahead of time as an event, but the community group inquired with the Village whether it was possible, and then Wright and Public Works worked on a program to benefit the community.

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Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that the project was a typical process and not unusual for different groups to contact the Village about service hours and then staff will take that opportunity to check with other Departments and see if there is a potential partnership. She noted that this project had nice synergy because it was an area where the Village wanted to make improvements anyway.

Mayor Nelson thanked the Jack & Jill Monarch Cities organization for their community advocacy and noted that they are setting a great example for their kids.

Trustee Bradley-Scott noted that she was a member of the Jack & Jill Monarch Cities organization and that it was presented in the group's meeting that there was an in-kind donation from Possibility Place Nursery, and also heard that a member of the Green Commission made the donation. She requested clarification regarding the same, and noted that she wanted to make sure everything was in line with the funding, given the Jack & Jill Monarch Cities organization's 501(c)(3) status.

Wright answered that there was a misunderstanding in that the materials were not donated but instead purchased and that Possibility Place Nursery would be submitting a bill. She noted that she only spoke with Village staff about the funding and not the Jack & Jill Monarch Cities organization. Wright also noted the service provided by the Jack & Jill Monarch Cities organization volunteers.

Bogue added that Possibility Place Nursery has donated many other things to the Village, such as trees and milkweed.

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 #6 – Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between E-Com and Individual Members for the Use of the Motorola Radios and Repayment to E-Com. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between E-Com and Individual Members for the Use of the Motorola Radios and Repayment to E-Com. Trustee Bradley-Scott moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton.

Fire Chief Bob Kopeck explained that over the past few months, the Flossmoor Fire Department and all E-COM Dispatch Center fire agencies have faced several unplanned outages with their primary Very High Frequency (VHF) fire radio channel, their main form of communication for emergency dispatch and daily fire operations. Chicago Communications has been out several times to look at the network, and it is basically at the end of its life, so choices have to be made regarding whether to make significant investments in rebuilding the antiquated infrastructure. E-COM Executive Director Kowalski, Chicago Communications and Motorola Solutions, and in conjunction with Cook County, which supports the 800 MHz system for the Police, the best option for the Fire Department is to move to the 800MHz system. Given

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the issues experienced with the low band frequency used by the Fire Department, it would be best to move to the 800MHz system. Chief Kopec explained that the Fire Department's current equipment is not compatible with the 800MHz system and that making the move will allow them to be on the Police Department's same frequency and realize cost savings over time due to not having to maintain the existing infrastructure. The Fire Department received a proposal for a seven-year lease/ purchase agreement for all nine ECom communities at a 4.25% APR or pay in full at anytime with no pre-pay penalty, and after a financial review, it was determined that it would be the most beneficial to purchase the equipment when making the first payment end of fourth quarter FY2025 and that purchasing the equipment would be a savings of about \$40,000.00 over the term of the lease agreement. Chief Kopec noted that in the case that all of the capital funds are spent for the capital schedule budgeted FY25-26, the Fire Department would be looking for an additional \$40,000.00 to fund the project.

Trustee Mustafa stated that she understood the need for the equipment, and asked follow up questions about where the cost was referenced in the current budget and in regard to the net savings assertion. Trustee Mustafa also inquired about the additional subscription fees referenced in the memo.

Fire Chief Kopec referred to the capital schedule that includes the budgeted items, and noted that paying for the radios now for \$40,000.00 would result in a savings of \$50,000.00 in interest over seven years for a net savings of \$10,000.00.

Village Manager Wachtel explained that the subscription cost would become an operating cost borne by each municipality, which would not be part of the financing by Motorola. She added that the Village was undergoing the project in conjunction with the municipalities of SouthCom and that together, they will be seeking grant funding to hopefully make all of the communities whole for the equipment purchases.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the budget source for the funding and whether the radios were shared between police and fire. She also inquired about the \$2.5 million grant that the Village received last year related to E-COM and whether some of those monies could be used.

Chief Kopec answered that since they are all moving to that technology, the true life of the radio is 10-12 years for portables and 15-20 years for mobiles and that they use that information as a reference with the capital budget calculations.

Village Manager Wachtel noted that the Village last purchased police radios in 2020, and after consultation with Motorola determined that the radios had a ten year life. They would have been replaced in 2026, but that will not be needed until 2031 so those monies could be reallocated for this purchase without losing the savings toward the next purchase of police radios. She noted that the referenced grant was for the consolidation of E-COM and does not include radios.

Trustee Daggett inquired about the life cycle of the 800MHz system and whether there would likely be a migration to another system before the new equipment would need to be replaced.

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Chief Kopec answered that he was not familiar with anything better than the 800MHz system and that it was not likely there would be a migration to another system before the new equipment would need to be replaced.

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 – Approval of the Capital Equipment Purchase of Genesis Extrication Tools. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Capital Equipment Purchase of Genesis Extrication Tools from Equipment Management Company using the HGAC cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$154,993.00. Trustee Daggett moved, seconded by Trustee Mustafa. Assistant Fire Chief Matt Berk explained that the Flossmoor Fire Department was seeking approval to purchase new battery-powered extrication tools from Genesis Rescue Systems as outlined in the FY24-25 capital replacement schedule. These tools are intended to replace the Fire Department's current set, purchased in 1996. During FY 22-23, the Fire Department identified that a capital schedule did not exist for the extrication equipment during the budget process, and then placed the equipment in FY24-25, knowing that it had surpassed the ten-year life based on the manufacturer's recommendations and their inability to provide maintenance. Berk explained that over the past two years, the Fire Department has diligently pursued grant funding to offset the costs of this purchase but was unable to secure any grants. He noted that while their existing extrication tools have served them well in the past, they are now increasingly outdated and unable to meet the demands of contemporary emergency responses. Manufacturers such as Genesis Rescue Systems recommend a replacement schedule every ten years, while the Fire Department was at twenty-eight years. Berk explained that by adopting this proactive approach, the Fire department can ensure that their extrication tools remain aligned with the latest advancements in vehicle technology and that the commitment to modernization will significantly enhance their operational efficiency and effectiveness in providing safe and exceptional service during rescue operations.

Berk explained that the Fire Department was currently five standards behind, according to the NFPA guidelines, highlighting the urgent need for updated tools. Since 1996, developments in extrication tools have enabled rescuers to operate more flexibly without being tethered to a hydraulic pump within the vehicle, and that the industry has introduced innovative construction techniques, including the use of forged blades, resulting in tools that are both stronger and more durable. Berk noted that advancements in ergonomics have been prioritized, allowing rescuers to use these tools for extended durations with reduced fatigue. The Fire Department has conducted a comprehensive assessment of their current equipment and thoroughly evaluated various market options, and after careful consideration, the battery-operated tools from Genesis Rescue Systems have emerged as the optimal choice due to their competitive pricing through the HGAC cooperative purchasing program, which the Fire Department joined via resolution 2024-25, and Genesis's strong reputation for reliability and effectiveness. Berk noted that while other extrication equipment providers are available through HGAC, Genesis, the manufacturer of the Fire Department's

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current equipment, has demonstrated consistent reliability in their operations over the past 28 years. Additionally, these tools are designed for seamless integration with our Department's existing battery-operated equipment, utilizing a standardized battery type that can be easily replaced locally. Berk added that their widespread use in surrounding communities will facilitate seamless rescue operations during automatic or mutual aid situations and that the investment will significantly enhance the Fire Department's operational readiness and improve emergency response times in critical situations, benefiting the community and visitors. The new extrication tools cost \$154,993.00, and the Fire Department allocated \$165,000.00 within their capital budget for this fiscal year, allowing the Department to stay within budget and utilize the remaining funds to install this new equipment on their apparatus. Berk noted that Genesis Rescue Systems indicated that their price will increase by 10% effective January 1, 2025, and that once ordered, delivery lead time would be approximately 100 days.

Trustee Daggett stated that he was in favor of the Fire Department buying the tool, and that he was able to recently see the comparisons in the two extrication tools. He noted that the new one was very expensive and wanted a conversation about why they cost so much.

Assistant Fire Chief Berk answered that it is due to the technology of the new extrication tools, and he provided examples of what the new extrication tool will be capable of.

Trustee Lofton inquired about the battery life and whether there will be extras.

Assistant Fire Chief Berk answered that the batteries generally last 30-60 minutes, depending on what they are doing, and that they would carry extra batteries on each vehicle.

Trustee Mitros agreed that it was an inexpensive purchase but that it was needed and well overdue.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about Assistant Fire Chief Berk's statement that the Village was five standards behind according to the NFPA guidelines and whether the Village has any certifications with the NFPA that are in jeopardy.

Assistant Fire Chief Berk answered that the NFPA was regulatory and that there were no implications for the Village by not being compliant, and that the standards were in reference to the most up-to-date technology.

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

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Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Mayor Nelson that there was no formal report. She thanked the Green Commission for the trees they provided at OaktoberFest, and for their work during Recyclepalooza. She thanked the Public Art Commission for a recent tour of Sculpture Park.

Action Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #8 – Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Sculpture (Reaching for the Sky). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Purchase of a Sculpture (Reaching for the Sky). Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Mayor Nelson welcomed Charlene Gordon and Michael Cheney from the Public Art Commission.

Assistant to the Village Manager/Communications Manager Nicole Castagna explained that the Public Art Commission ("Commission") in 2024 has had four art installations (in four different locations in the Village), two sculpture restorations, and fundraisers that have raised approximately \$9,000.00 to date. The Commission is requesting that the Board approve the purchase of a well-loved rotational piece made by a female artist who is otherwise set to leave the piece this fall.

Commissioner Charlene Gordon stated that she has been a resident of Flossmoor on Evans Road for over sixty-five years. An original member of the Public Art Commission since 1997, she discussed her professional background and noted the experienced and talented members of the Commission. Gordon explained that the sculpture, Reaching for the Sky's loan of three years, has expired, and the Commission has unanimously voted to purchase the piece. The original price was \$15,000.00, and Gordon was able to negotiate a price of \$7,000.00 because the artist likes being in the Flossmoor collection and being near a Richard Hunt sculpture. Gordon noted that the Commission had fundraisers and raised enough money to purchase the sculpture and sought approval from the Board to purchase it, which would be a tremendous addition to the collection. She noted the people and students who sit at the park near the statue and enjoy it.

Commissioner Michael Cheney thanked Troy Holmes for his public comments earlier. Cheney loves his passion and noted that he and Qadree Holmes are one of the few people in the Village who attend the Public Art Commission meetings, and they appreciate that. Cheney stated that Holmes is probably correct that the Commission owes him and the Board a statement about how the Commission decides where to put their sculptures and noted that they have not done it yet because they struggle internally on where to put the next piece of art. Cheney noted that he will bring up the need for the statement at the next meeting he is at. Cheney recommended that the Board approve the purchase of Reaching for the Sky, given the great price that Gordon was able to negotiate, and if they do not purchase it, there will be an empty pad there until they obtain another rotational piece, which will cost about half of the purchase price of Reaching for the Sky. Cheney also noted that the maintenance would not be expensive and that Commission members could do small touchups as needed.

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Mayor Nelson noted that Michael Cheney was named Artist of the Year three times and that actor Vince Vaughn owns one of his pieces. Mayor Nelson thanked Charlene Gordon for all of the work she's done for the Commission and Public Art program.

Trustee Driscoll thanked the Commission for their work and stated his support for purchasing Reaching for the Sky.

Trustee Lofton thanked Gordon for work, and noted that in the nineteen years he has lived in Flossmoor he has seen the culture grow, which he knows people consider when deciding whether to move into the Village. He stated that his neighbor Troy Holmes is on to something and now that the Village has so much great art it should be spread around the Village as residents want it. He noted that he would support those initiatives moving forward.

Gordon agreed that the beauty of the public art have impacted people's decision to live in Flossmoor. Gordon noted that the important thing was to have public art in the Village and Sculpture Park so that people could see the art when they shop, go out to eat, go to the post office or library, and the students of Parker Junior High who are also interacting near the art. Gordon also noted the Commission's walkable tours of the sculptures that are located near each other, which makes the tours easier for people to see all of the sculptures in one area. In regard to the discussion about placing art all over the Village, Gordon opined that it is easier to have art near each other so people can walk from one sculpture to the next and see the art when they come into the Village or walk through the Sculpture Park and that the Commission is open to suggestions. Gordon explained that when the program was started, a woman donated \$300,000.00 in 1997 for the Village to build a park for sculptures.

Trustee Mitros noted that the Village has a distinguished Public Art Commission, and he thanked them for their work. He was on the Board in 1997 when a donation of \$350,000.00 was made, that the sculptures were placed in the downtown area so people could walk around to see them, and that there was never an intention to neglect anyone - it was meant to be a big, beautiful flower in the center of town. Trustee Mitros noted that it was not a bad thing to get away from that and put art everywhere. He noted his support for the purchase of Reaching for the Sky and that the Commission raised the funds to purchase it.

Trustee Mustafa stated that art is life, that her mother was an artist, and she appreciates all that the Public Art Commission is doing. She discussed the value of art and posed hypothetical scenarios with the artist regarding the purchase of Reaching for the Sky.

Gordon shared information about her conversation with the artist, that she was happy to have a piece near the Richard Hunt sculpture.

Trustee Mustafa noted that she was confused about Village Manager Wachtel's response to her inquiry about comments made by the Board asking for a written document to articulate the process and decision making of the Commission, that there was not an official request because they were just comments by the Board. Trustee Mustafa asked whether they needed a motion or an agenda item to direct the Commission.

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Wachtel responded that the current Board meeting was the first time she heard that there may have been direction from the February 19, 2024 Board meeting and that she would need to look at the minutes as she was present for the detention basin discussion at another meeting. She explained that, generally speaking, the direction from the Board should come from the Board through a consensus discussion and not necessarily a formal agenda item. Wachtel noted that her comments to Trustee Mustafa were regarding a public commentor's suggestion versus direction given by the Board.

Assistant Village Manager Jonathan Bogue confirmed that the discussion was regarding the piece entitled Paradise and that there was not consensus from the Board.

Trustee Mustafa made a motion to table a decision on the purchasing of Reaching for the Sky until the Board and a motion to create a directive to the Commission to document the way the Commission has made the decision to purchase the piece.

[There was no second to the motion, and Trustee Mustafa later took the motion off the table.]

Mayor Nelson recognized Trustee Mustafa's motion and noted that she would allow the other two Trustees to make their comments before asking for a second on the motion.

Trustee Bradley-Scott thanked Gordon and Cheney for the presentation, their passion for the art, and the work that goes behind it. She also noted that the public art brings life to the community. Trustee Bradley-Scott also thought that in the February 19, 2024, meeting, they were moving toward a direction where there would be a rubric developed to determine where the art pieces would go. She noted that a rubric would help the Board to be equitable in deciding the sculptures' placement around the community. Trustee Bradley-Scott appreciated the historical information about the Sculpture Park and noted the community's increased desire for art.

Trustee Daggett noted his appreciation for art as a poet and maker, his appreciation for the work done by the Commission, and acknowledged Troy Holmes's concerns. He opined that having world-class art in the Sculpture Park and around the Village were not mutually exclusive and that there could be solutions to make it work for everyone. Trustee Daggett inquired whether Trustee Mustafa's motion was asking for a date for the Commission's direction to be placed on the agenda or a fulfillment of the direction.

Trustee Mustafa stated that she would like to see at least a draft document from the Commission presented to the Board for discussion.

Trustee Daggett stated his support for that document, but was concerned about time constraints for purchasing the sculpture and given the meeting schedule. He proposed a compromise where the Commission makes a commitment to fulfill the request of a document that explains the process regarding the Commission's criteria for choosing where the art goes, the finances involved, and the equity discussion. Once the Commission shares its process, the Board could consider asking them to tweak the process.

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Gordon noted that the Village cannot wait a long time to act on purchasing the sculpture because, given her experiences, someone else may want to buy it, and the artists want to get paid.

Trustee Mitros opined that the requested rubric should come from the Board and not the Commission but that he would be in favor of learning about their process.

Trustee Driscoll opined that the issue of the Commission's process should not be linked to the discussion regarding the purchase of the sculpture as most of the Board was in favor of purchasing the sculpture and that the process discussion should be placed on a future agenda where the Public Art Commission can come prepared to discuss it. He noted that his recollection of the February Board meeting was that members of a Commission other than the Art Commission made comments regarding the Public Art Commission's practices.

Assistant Village Manager Bogue requested that Commissioner Cheney speak to the unique process involved with choosing sculptures for the Village.

Trustee Lofton stated that the Public Art Commission's plan should include a plan for placing art in locations other than Leavitt Park.

Cheney answered that the sculptures in the collection, like the Richard Hunt, are so significant that other artists want to be associated with those pieces and the artists. Another helpful aspect is the Manilow collection at Governor's State University, which is considered one of the top five sculpture collections in the USA and; that the person who runs that collection, Jeff Steveson, is on the Public Art Commission and has brought pieces to Flossmoor from his connections. Cheney noted that coming up with a document will not be easy for the Commission because they are artists and have different ideas on how to structure the collection. He noted that he did not recommend breaking up the current downtown Flossmoor collection and spreading the pieces throughout the Village, as it is a recognized collection. Cheney noted that Skokie has a powerful sculpture collection that is all grouped together and that spreading out sculptures loses its impact.

Trustee Mustafa discussed the consideration of a tiered structure for artists and purchasing artwork. She noted that the Commission could use Skokie or the Manilow Park as examples for guidance on documenting their processes.

Gordon provided additional background on how pieces are chosen and obtained by the Public Art Commission and noted that she was not sure how the Board expected the Commission to come up with a plan about why they choose the art they choose and that they put a lot of thought and effort into their decisions. She noted that if the Board wanted to hold off on buying the piece, then they might as well say goodbye to it and that it was not expensive for the artists to pick up their pieces. She also reiterated that the Commission had raised enough money to purchase the piece.

Trustee Bradley-Scott requested information from the Commission in terms of how much is spent over the year on art compared to how much money is raised over the year. She noted that if the Board had more

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information about the process, then it would minimize the amount of similar discussions they have every time a piece of art is on the agenda.

Mayor Nelson agreed with Trustee Daggett's proposal, noted the amount of staff time that would also go into the requested process and the consideration of whether that was the best use of their time, and that it would take the Commission longer than a week to put together a proposal but that there was agreement by the Board they would like to know more about the process.

Trustee Driscoll noted that the Board had to agree on the assignment to the Commission, that individual Trustees could not make individual requests of the Commission, and that the Board should come back in the future to discuss the request to the Commission.

Trustee Mustafa noted that she would defer to the majority of the Board, but that she prefer to not purchase the piece and work on formalizing the Commission's process, even if it means losing the piece, as the issue keeps getting kicked down the road.

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

AYES: Trustees Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros, and Mustafa.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: Trustee Bradley-Scott

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel asked for clarification on the next steps, given all of the different suggestions and discussions.

Mayor Nelson responded that the Board was looking for the considerations given to finding a piece and where the piece is placed.

Wachtel would send follow up information to the Board regarding additional requested information.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #9 – Consideration of the Creation of a Full-Time Property Maintenance Inspector. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to create a position of a Full-Time Property Maintenance Inspector. Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner explained that the Building Department was recommending the creation of a full-time property maintenance inspector and that creating a full-time position for the role of property maintenance inspector would be a prudent decision as doing so would provide additional daily presence where more time can be dedicated in the field to ensure that the housing stock of the community is maintained to a high standard. He noted that the Department currently only has two full-time staff and that the creation of this position also provides depth in covering the Department's operations by allowing for a career development path and educational opportunities for a future expanded role within the Building Department. This would include building inspection and plan review functions as well as acquiring more advanced knowledge of the administration of the Building Department. Bugner explained that currently,

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part-time inspectors face challenges balancing field inspection time and maintaining records as required, as well as attending adjudication proceedings due to the limited number of hours worked. This balancing act has an impact on the ability to adequately cover all areas of the Village on any given day or week, and creating this position will increase coverage across the Village. Currently, there is an annual budget of \$44,631.00 for part-time property maintenance inspectors, of which the average annual expenditure has been approximately \$28,000.00. One of the reasons that full budget utilization of the part-time property maintenance inspector is not realized is the fact that one of the Village's inspectors serves in a dual role as a part-time community service officer, where that inspector is often required to provide additional coverage in the CSO function. Bugner explained that hiring an additional part-time inspector to supplement existing staff has proved to be difficult, given the nature of the position and the fact that it is only a part-time position. The recommended salary range of the position is \$50,611.00 to \$63,264.00, which is in line with neighboring communities. Bugner provided a breakdown of the budget impact for the remainder of the FY25 budget that would be incurred by creating a full-time position of property maintenance inspector with a starting salary of \$50,611.00 and including fringe benefits under various insurance package scenarios, as well as an estimate for a full budget year. The staff has identified several options to offset the budget impact, including the elimination of the part-time building inspector position, which has an annual budget of \$10,357.00, and the implementation of an annual contractor registration program. At this time, the recommendation of staff would be to eliminate the part-time building inspector position and to re-allocate that annual budget amount of \$10,357.00 to a single part-time property maintenance inspector position moving forward to supplement the full-time position as needed. Bugner requested that the Mayor and Board of Trustees consider creating a full-time position of property maintenance inspector as presented, and if approved, the position would be filled by the current primary part-time property maintenance inspector.

There was discussion among the Board regarding them being in favor of the Creation of a Full-Time Property Maintenance Inspector, and they were in favor of the selected staff member being chosen for that position.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the budgeting and projected funding for the position.

Bugner responded that the estimates were based on looking at information from other communities and what revenue they have brought in.

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

Discussion Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #10 – Discussion of a Contractor Registration Program.

Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner explained that the Building Department staff is recommending the implementation of an annual registration program for all contractors doing business within the Village

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of Flossmoor. Contractors are already required to provide the Village with certain documentation depending on the type of contractor, such as electrical, plumbing, and roofing licenses, as well as surety bonds before a permit is issued, and Building Department staff are tasked with maintaining that documentation to ensure that they remain up to date and valid. He explained that the Village of Flossmoor is currently the only municipality in the surrounding area that does not issue contractor registrations or licenses. Staff has studied the registration/licensing requirements of other area municipalities regarding fees and submittal requirements, and while the submittal document requirements are generally akin to what the Village of Flossmoor currently requires, every other municipality in the area issues an annual registration or license for a fee. The range is between \$50.00 to \$300.00 for annual registrations. Bugner noted that the Building Department is recommending a flat annual registration fee of \$100.00, valid from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. Conservative annual revenue estimates from the implementation of a contractor registration program are expected to be \$25,000.00.

Mayor Nelson noted that it was a creative way to improve services in the Building Department and bring on a full-time inspector.

There was discussion among the Board regarding them being in favor of the creation of a Contractor Registration Program.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the processes for reporting permit violations.

Bugner responded that the Village has gone after their surety bonds.

Trustee Daggett inquired about whether there could be a punitive provision in the program as he experienced reports of shoddy work as a building inspector, licensing requirements and whether the program applied to sub-contractors.

Village Attorney Kathi Orr responded that it could be written into the ordinance.

Bugner responded that they had to be licensed in Illinois and that the program was applied to subcontractors.

Other Business:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #11 – A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

There was no need to enter Executive Session.

Trustee Daggett noted recent residents' concerns about traffic issues and asked for an updated report and Board discussion regarding same.

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Trustee Driscoll thanked the Village for the approval for the Knights of Columbus to conduct a fun ID drive and fundraiser for children and adults with intellectual disabilities which was very successful. He also thanked Director Estelle, Acting Chief Taylor, Fire Chief Kopec, the Police and Fire Departments for attending and participating in the Knights of Columbus recent Blue Mass.

Trustee Mitros complimented the new flooring in Village Hall, which was previously approved by the Board.

Clerk LoGalbo noted the flock of Flossmoor turkeys and the joy they were bringing to residents seeing them around the Village.

Village Manager Wachtel noted that at the next Village Board meeting there would be a presentation on the downtown improvements project.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Village applied for the large grant three times before it was awarded and provided to kudos to staff for their work on it.

Mayor Nelson applauded Stephanie Wright and staff for their work on OAKtoberfest, which was a fantastic event both in the morning and afternoon/ evening.

Mayor Nelson noted that on October 19th at 8:00 am there would be a tree planting and residents should check out the Village's website for more information.

Mayor Nelson noted that it was Fire Prevention Week, and thanked the Fire Department for all they do.

Mayor Nelson thanked Trustee Driscoll and the Knights of Columbus for organizing the First Responders Mass at St. Veronica's, which was very special to be a part of.

As there were no other items to discuss, Mayor Nelson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mustafa 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

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk*