

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON AUGUST 7, 2023*

VILLAGE HALL

AUGUST 7, 2023

7:30 pm

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Village Clerk Gina A. 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; Police Chief Jerel Jones; Deputy Chief of Police Keith Taylor; Fire Chief Bob Kopec; Finance Director Scott Bordui; Assistant Director of Public Works Dan Milovanovic; Assistant to the Village Manager Nicole Castagna; Village Attorney Kathi Orr; Village Clerk Gina A. LoGalbo; 38 residents

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order. Mayor Nelson noted that public comment was at the end of the agenda and per Board policy, individuals' comments were limited to five minutes per person for a total allotted time of thirty minutes for public comment. As a courtesy for those unable to attend the meeting in person, the meeting was also being live-streamed via Zoom.

Recognitions and Appointments:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #1 – Recognition of the Flossmoor Baseball & Softball Pony Division Team. Mayor Nelson introduced the Flossmoor Baseball & Softball Association's Pony Division Team, the Railriders. On July 22, 2023, they became the 2023 Champions of the South Suburban Youth Baseball League. The coaches are Andy Wettstein and Alejandro Young. It was a three-peat win for the coaches and several players on the team. Their record this season was 11-5-1 and made incredible improvements throughout the season. The Railriders team is comprised of thirteen young men ages 13-15 who are from various communities throughout the south suburbs, including the Village of Flossmoor. FBBSB is an all-volunteer run program that has been around for over forty years. This year the FBBSB had over 325 kids play at different levels, and a record number of sponsorships and donations. The current FBBSB Pony Division Commissioner is Flossmoor resident Jason Rudolph, and the current president is Flossmoor resident Carlo Gozzi. Mayor Nelson congratulated the team and invited Carlo Gozzi and the coaches up to the front to introduce the Railriders.

Andy Wettstein introduced the Railrider team members by name, and noted how proud they were of the team.

Alejandro Young congratulated the team, and noted how the team really improved over the season. Young explained that they want to see improvement by every kid, every season, and that they want the kids to learn and love the game and get better at it. He told the team to keep playing baseball.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Village of Flossmoor was so proud of the Railriders for bringing home the win, and she wished them a great school year.

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Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 2-6):

- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on July 17, 2023*
- 3. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (August 7, 2023)*
- 4. Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24 for the Village of Flossmoor*
- 5. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Agreement between the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois and Hera Property Registry, LLC*
- 6. A Recommendation to Approve a Resolution to Approve a GIS Consortium Provider Contract*

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

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards:

None.

Action Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #7 – Consideration of an Award of Contract and Budget Amendment for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Design Engineering. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to award a contract for the Flossmoor Road viaduct drainage improvements design engineering to Baxter and Woodman and provide a budget amendment as presented. Trustee Bradley-Scott so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Assistant Director of Public Works Dan Milovanovic explained that for the Board's consideration was the award of a contract and budget amendment for the Flossmoor Road viaduct drainage improvements design engineering, and that the project will involve the construction of a large-scale storm sewer from the Flossmoor Road viaduct, south on Sterling Avenue and Lawrence Crescent to a retention basin behind the Heather Hill Elementary School. This project will also include property acquisition of a Homewood-Flossmoor Park District tennis courts parcel next to the school, and an easement on the school property to accommodate the retention basin. Staff and Baxter & Woodman have presented the project to School District 161's Board and HF Park District's Board. Both Boards have given the project concept approval to move forward with the respective intergovernmental agreements. Milovanovic stated that to date, the Village has been awarded \$3.2 million in federal and state grants for the project from FEMA and the DCEO: \$500,000.00 from DCEO - State Senator Patrick Joyce, \$2 million from DCEO – State Senator Napoleon Harris, FEMA - \$200,000.00 from Senator Dick Durbin, and \$500,000.00 from State

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Representative Will Davis. Staff continues to pursue other grant funding to offset the costs of the project, and these efforts include submittals to the Army Corps Grant Program and the MWRD Storm Water Partnership Program. The 2021 Streets and Storm Sewer Improvement Fund will provide the balance of funding needed to complete the project. Due to the complexity of awarded and pending grant applications, the project may be built as two or more projects, which the requirements of certain grant agencies would determine. Baxter & Woodman Engineers submitted an engineering services agreement for the project's design engineering effort. The total cost-plus fixed fee, not-to-exceed of the proposal, is \$597,148.00. The engineering fee represents 7.7% of the estimated project cost, which is in-line with industry standards for project engineering costs, and would be funded by the Villages Rebuild Illinois bond funds and a \$200,000.00 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. Milovanovic explained that it is a complex project that includes coordination with Metra, CN Railroad, and the potential for splitting up the project into separate parts. In regard to the budget amendments, since the engineering contract is \$597,148.00, two budget amendments were requested to cover the balance: amendments to budget line 01-55-7-781 in the amount of \$200,000, line 01-55-7-782 in the amount of (\$200,000), and to line 03-01-7-701 in the amount of \$47,148. Milovanovic stated that Public Works Staff recommends that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve the presented Engineering Services Agreement with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers for a not-to-exceed amount of \$597,148.00, and approve the two presented budget amendments.

Mayor Nelson stated that she appreciated the presentation, and noted that they have been talking about the project for a very long time and that it's great to see it moving forward.

Trustee Lofton inquired whether Baxter & Woodman intended to bid out some of the work since the scope of the project was fairly broad. He stated that the Village of Flossmoor advocates for the bidding process to include minorities and women, and that Trustee Lofton hopes they have an opportunity to include them in this project.

Corey Van Dyk from Baxter & Woodman answered that they have a few subcontractors that they expect to use for survey and GeoTech work. Van Dyk noted that one of the two sub-contractors that they plan to use is a woman-owned business.

Trustee Mitros inquired about the GeoTech subcontractor.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about a possible start date for the project.

Van Dyk answered that they are expecting a portion of the project to be constructed in Spring 2024, and he noted that grant assistance is probably the largest factor that would determine the timeline of the project.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated that with the rising costs of construction and materials, should the Village expect that the line items will increase or can the line items be held to the same cost during the timeline of the project.

Van Dyk answered that if a portion of the project is bid out for next Spring, they could hold the contractors to that portion of the contract.

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Mayor Nelson emphasized that the Village of Flossmoor is waiting to hear if the Village will be awarded another \$1 million grant from FEMA.

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 #8 – Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois Approving an Agreement Establishing a Joint Emergency Telephone System. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois Approving an Agreement Establishing a Joint Emergency Telephone System. Trustee Bradley-Scott so moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that nineteen years ago, staff presented to the Board regarding the move from a single-agency dispatch center to a combined agency dispatch center (E-Com). E-Com originated with four communities: Homewood, Flossmoor, Hazel Crest and Glenwood and then grew to include South Holland, Riverdale, Thornton, East Hazel Crest, and Country Club Hills. A new venture is being presented to the Board, which is to become part of a thirteen-community dispatch center which will be the 10th or 11th largest in Illinois, serving a population of 180,000. E-Com is looking to merge with SouthCom. SouthCom is another consolidated dispatch center that has been operational for just as long as E-Com, and includes the communities of Matteson, Olympia Fields, Richton Park, and Park Forest. Wachtel noted that there is a desire at the State level for additional consolidation, but there is currently no mandate for same. There were mandates around 2018, and it is expected that there will be additional mandates in the future. The merger provides the communities involved an opportunity to control their own destiny and move forward at their own pace. The Village of Flossmoor is pleased to announce that the merger is in part spurred by the receipt of a state grant for consolidation in the amount of \$2.9 million. Wachtel explained that the merger will be very beneficial for all thirteen communities and both agencies. There are not only technology-related benefits, it will also provide for standards of operation for dispatching, police and fire, and it presents opportunities for additional shared resources and shared opportunities in the future for the communities involved. The merger also makes the agency an attractive recipient for additional grant funds, and the agency will be seeking additional state and federal grant monies. Both agencies are in sound financial shape, and able to move forward with the consolidation. The intergovernmental agreement to move forward with the merger was being presented to the Village Board, and all of the E-Com communities have moved forward with the merger with unanimous support. Wachtel also mentioned that all of the employees of both agencies will be needed to move forward with the consolidation and there will be no layoffs as they move towards having a combined center.

Trustee Mitros stated that he thinks the merger is a good idea, and inquired where the group will be located.

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Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that building space is an issue for both centers today, and they will have to move forward with a new building. They are planning to move quickly to make a decision on a new building space moving forward.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about the potential for changing staff, or will they need the same number of employees.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that they will need at least the same number of staff.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated that the proposal sounded great.

Trustee Daggett stated that the proposal sounded good to him as well, and that as new mandates come, the consolidation will allow the costs to be spread among more communities for the same amount of technology.

Trustee Driscoll stated that it was an exciting proposal, but was concerned whether they would be able to keep up the same service as they get bigger. He noted how a few years ago, he called 911 after an accident in Flossmoor, and the dispatcher inquired with him what town the incident took place in. So, he hopes that the level of service is not lost where dispatchers won't have familiarity with a particular area.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that familiarity with all of the communities served is a priority for the dispatch agency, and they work to connect the dispatchers to the police and fire personnel to become familiar with the communities they serve, and she doesn't expect that to change.

Trustee Lofton inquired whether there would be some technology that might help with the geographic location issue.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that there are always technology enhancements in the 911 field, and that the calls are auto-populated to a geographic database. She noted that E-Com operates with both a call taker and a dispatcher who simultaneously allocates resources. She stated that there is a lot of technology involved in their operations, and that sharing those resources financially will benefit all of the communities.

Mayor Nelson inquired whether there is any debt with either agency.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that both agencies are debt-free, and both have healthy fund balances and healthy reserves.

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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Discussion Items:

None.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board:

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

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

Nina Cooper and Donna Cole-Scott's comments, in summary, were regarding traffic-related issues near their homes. They live near Flossmoor Hills School, and experience issues like drivers blocking their driveways when they need to leave their property, and drivers failing to heed the posted signs. They requested assigned police officers to be present at least once a week to help enforcement of traffic violations and issue tickets to parents for violations and requested additional signage.

Mayor Nelson thanked them both for coming to discuss the issue. She noted how she also lives across the street from an elementary school. Mayor Nelson stated that Police Chief Jerel Jones has made an incredible effort to get the school traffic issues under control for the sake of the residents and safety. She encouraged them to talk with Chief Jones about the issues they discussed, and noted how he and Deputy Chief Taylor have already been working with the schools.

Jessica Groen's comments, in summary, were that she could not find a bike rack at Village Hall in order to lock her bike to it during the Village Board meetings. She asked the Village to consider placing one at Village Hall, and that we want to be a bikeable and walkable community.

Assistant Director of Public Works Dan Milovanovic stated that the Village recently purchased a bike rack for Village Hall. Public Works hasn't installed the concrete pad for it, but it is on their list of issues to take care of soon.

Chuck Dieringer's comments, in summary, were that he was with the Kiwanis Club and that he was concerned about the quality and cost of education in this area. He advocates for unifying schools to make them stronger. He stated that a quarter of the kids in high school don't have the requisite math and reading skills, and that on August 18, 2023 they would be launching a project to benefit children.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board on an Agenda Item

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

No residents wished to speak on an Agenda Item.

Other Business:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #9 – 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.

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Trustee Mustafa thanked Village staff for the illustrated Village manager report. She also thanked the Public Works Department for their role in getting the viaduct painted by another entity was very well done. Trustee Mustafa stated that she was very excited about the GIS project, which has a lot of potential and she looks forward to hearing about the various projects where it is implemented.

Trustee Bradley-Scott asked if the Village can underscore how important it is to be nice to neighbors and promote following the rules of the community so everyone can have a pleasant beginning to the school year.

Trustee Daggett noted that in the last two years that he has been on the Village Board, he has routinely heard about grants awarded to the Village. He asked Public Works Director Brunke if he could share information about grants awarded in the recent past. Brunke shared grant details about which the Village has received, has been awarded, and is waiting for. Trustee Daggett noted that it was fascinating to see how much hard work has paid off. He also stated that it was a force multiplier for a Village our size, and that it is amazing that as lean as the Village of Flossmoor is staffed, they get so much done. He knows that it's all departments that play a role in the Village obtaining grants, and just wanted to give props to everyone who works on the grants. He thanked the staff for their work.

Trustee Lofton thanked the Mayor and the Trustees who were able to attend the recent annual Ballantrae picnic, and noted that their presence was well received. He noted that Ballantrae would be having the Wine on the Green event on August 26th. Trustee Lofton congratulated the Railriders, the coaches, and the parents for their good work.

Trustee Mitros commented on the viaduct being painted and how little things can make people happy. He was pleased about the condition of it, and thanked everyone who took part in getting it painted. He also thanked everyone for their work on National Night Out and noted that it was a big success. Trustee Mitros also commented that there are intersections coming out into busy highways that have a non-existent vision triangle due to cluttered bushes and that Public Works should probably take a look at them.

Village Clerk LoGalbo reminded everyone about the Veteran Wall of Honor groundbreaking on August 9th at 2:30 pm and invited everyone to join the event. She stated that the Flossmoor Veterans Memorial Inc group is still taking donations for the upkeep of the Wall of Honor. She added that she really enjoyed National Night Out and meeting one of the Sheriff's Department's dogs, who she also saw the next day at work. Village Clerk LoGalbo also noted that her son Blake was one of the Railriders team members and that she was very proud of the team.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel stated that the Village of Flossmoor has received another grant from the Invest in Cook program for the Village's Central Business District project. She thanked Trustee Mustafa for the compliment about the Manager's Report and noted that the updates were Nicole Castagna's contributions. Wachtel also thanked the Flossmoor Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for their work on National Night Out, and noted that every Department took a lot of pride in showcasing their equipment and talents.

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Mayor Nelson requested the Village Board's feedback. She noted that the Village would be using a new company for vacant and foreclosed properties. The Village currently charges \$300.00, and she wanted to know if the Board would be open to charging more for vacant and foreclosed properties as a semi-annual fee.

Trustee Driscoll noted how the vacant homes become a liability for the Village and supported an increased fee.

Trustee Daggett stated that he was in favor of increasing the fee, and hoped that it would spur movement on the house.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated that she was in favor of an increased fee.

Trustee Mustafa stated that she was in favor of a higher fee.

Trustee Mitros and Trustee Lofton stated that they had no issue with increasing the fee.

The Village Attorney was directed to prepare a Flossmoor Municipal Code Amendment that would increase the semi-annual registration fee for vacant and foreclosed properties to \$500 semi-annually.

Mayor Nelson recognized that Flossmoor lost a gem last Friday. Juanita Mitchell died at age 111 and will be missed, especially by her daughter, her neighbors, and the Ballantrae Belles. Mayor Nelson asked Trustee Lofton to convey to the residents of Ballantrae how sorry the Village was for their loss, and how blessed we were that she was with us for as long as she was.

Mayor Nelson thanked Flossmoor Fire Department Captain Camilli for getting a grant for the Village of Flossmoor for ambulance lifts to help ease back injuries and back issues.

Mayor Nelson thanked Infant Jesus of Prague School for allowing the Village of Flossmoor to use their parking lot for National Night Out. She stated that staff did a great job of working with different departments, including the Cook County K-9 unit. Mayor Nelson noted the support of State Rep. Will Davis and Senator Napoleon Harris.

Mayor Nelson announced that August 16th was the Chalk the Walk event in the evening, and asked people to write inspirational messages to students at schools and neighborhood sidewalk.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Village of Flossmoor is a finalist for the Governor's Hometown Award for the Plant the Gem project, where volunteers planted 300 trees throughout the Village. The Village is up against three other towns from the State of Illinois. The Village of Flossmoor Staff will make a presentation in Springfield at the State Fair on August 16, 2023.

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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
ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None*

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk*