MINUTES OF MAYOR BRAUN AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON AUGUST 3, 2020

VILLAGE HALL *AUGUST 3, 2020* *7:30PM*

Mayor Braun called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Village Clerk Ananda Billings took role.

PRESENT: *Mayor Braun, Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, Williams and Village Clerk Ananda Billings (via Conference Line)*

ALSO PRESENT: *Village Manager Bridget Wachtel, Assistant Village Manager Allison Matson, Finance Director Scott Bordui; Police Chief Tod Kamleiter, Interim Fire Chief Greg Berk; Public Works Director, John Brunke, Village Attorney Kathi Orr, and Building and Zoning Administrator, Scott Bugner; 9 residents*

Introductory Comments

Mayor Braun stated that in order to mitigate the transmission of the virus and reduce risk of COVID-19 illness, the Village has been advised and directed by the State to allow no more than 50 people to congregate for public gatherings. As such, this meeting of the Board of Trustees will be attended by those who voluntarily choose to attend physically as well as by those who voluntarily choose to attend via conference line. The public is invited to attend the meeting in person, so long as each individual undergoes a temperature check prior to entering the meeting space and wears a mask during the meeting. Citizens are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

This meeting along with all subsequent remotely held Board meetings will be recorded. Public comment will be only available during the portion of the meeting during which the public is invited to address the Board. As communicated to the public earlier, those questions that were submitted to staff in advance of the meeting would also be addressed during this time.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on July 20, 2020
Mayor Braun asked the Board if they had any further changes or comments. He called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2020. Trustee Williams so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll, and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: *Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT: *None*
ABSTAIN: *None*
NAYS: *None*

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Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board

Mayor Braun noted that in order to ask for public comment via conference line, without confusion, he would inquire after comments alphabetically. He called for comment via groups of last names starting with: A-G; H-N; O-U; V-Z.

Sonya Tompkins from the Cook County Treasurer Office addressed the Board. She thanked the Board for having her. She noted that the Treasurer has been on an outreach mission and has discovered $79 million in overpayment in homeowner taxes and $35 million in missing exemptions. For those who are delinquent in taxes, there is a delay in collections right now as well, and it is important for citizens to check to see if they are on the tax-sale list to be sure they do not owe any delinquent taxes. The Treasurer will go back over 20 years to look for overpayments to refund to the citizens. As of Monday, August 10th, the Treasurer will be doing outreach by television to support "Black Homes Matter" as most tax refunds are owed to black homeowners.

Trustee Williams inquired as to how people can find out if they are delinquent or if overpayment has occurred and Ms. Tompkins stated that they should go to www.cookcountytreasurer.com. They can also call the treasurer's office.

The Mayor referred to Agenda #1 - A Resolution Honoring Ruben Martinez for His Life Saving Service

Mayor Braun read the resolution for Ruben Martinez for his life saving service to an individual who suffered an automobile accident and was pulled from her car as it was on fire. Had Mr. Martinez not intervened when he did, her injuries would have been much more extensive. His bravery and quick thinking helped to save the citizen's life.

Mayor Braun referred to Agenda Item #2:– A Resolution Honoring Raul Lara for His Life Saving Service

Mayor Braun read the resolution for Raul Lara for his life saving service to an individual who suffered an automobile accident and was pulled from her car as it was on fire. Had Mr. Lara not intervened when he did, her injuries would have been much more extensive. His bravery and quick thinking helped to save the citizen's life.

Mayor Braun asked the Board if they had any further questions and as they did not, he asked the Board to approve the resolutions honoring Ruben Martinez and Raul Lara for their life-saving services. Trustee Bradley-Scott so moved, seconded by Trustee Williams and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES:	*Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT:	*None*
ABSTAIN:	*None*
NAYS:	*None*

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Mayor Braun referred to Agenda #3: Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Amendment to a Special Use for a Second Sport Court at 1833 Cornell Road.

Scott Bugner, Building and Zoning Administrator addressed the Board with regards to a permit request by Velinda Llorens to build a second sports court on her property. There was a public hearing about this matter and some neighbors voiced their concerns which were taken into consideration and analyzed by staff. The Plan Commission voted 5-0 in favor of recommending that an amendment to a Special Use Permit be approved with the conditions that no additional lighting shall be installed to illuminate the sport court, and the Public Works Director review the site prior to permitting for drainage impact.

Trustee Hoag and Trustee Kimmons inquired about the neighbors who originally voiced their concerns, and if any further communication was conducted. Mr. Llorens answered that they have taken all objections into consideration and are constructing the sports court with regards to these considerations.

Mayor Braun asked the Board if they had any further questions and as they did not, he called for a motion to approve an ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, aapproving an Amendment to a Special Use for a Second Sport Court at 1833 Cornell Road as presented. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES:	*Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT:	*None*
ABSTAIN:	*None*
NAYS:	*None*

Mayor Braun referred to Agenda Item #4: Discussion of a Referendum to Issue G.O. Bonds for Infrastructure Improvements

Village Manager Wachtel presented background information and options for a potential referendum to authorize the issuance of General Obligation bonds for the purpose of funding improvements to streets, sidewalks and stormwater system improvements. The Village has made significant investment in its infrastructure over the past twenty to thirty years, details of which can be found in the Finance and Facilities Plan located in the annual budget. As an older community, the investment in infrastructure is constant and necessary. Over the past couple of fiscal years, the Village has been discussing issuing G.O. Bonds in 2021 once the library bonds are paid in full. The G.O. Bonds that financed the library construction in 2002 were just under $8 million. This new G.O. Bond would fund street resurfacing and reconstruction and/or storm water management projects. A G.O. Bond would need to be approved by voter referendum. The Board and staff have discussed placing the question on the November 2020 ballot. If successful, staff would be able to manage the administrative preparation of the bonds over the winter/spring with the intent to begin construction in the summer. The last date that the Village can establish a referendum question for the November 2020 election is August 17, 2020 which needs to be filed with Cook County by August 27, 2020. Ms. Wachtel informed the Board that tonight's discussion was to review the Village's options with regards to a referendum and receive feedback on priorities. The ordinance approving the question will need to be approved on August 17, 2020.

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In 2017, the Village completed a Pavement Management Report using the PASER rating system. That study assigned a rating to each street and identified nearly $20 million in street maintenance and rehabilitation. In 2019, Public Works Director John Brunke identified three bond level options to accomplish the majority of this work. Recently, the Village retained a traffic management engineer to review the 2017 report and confirm the validity of this budget. Based on that analysis, Public Works Director John Brunke is recommending that the Village aim to make improvements to all the Village-owned streets to bring them to a PASER rating of at least 8, which would require $13,988,265 to reach this goal.

It's no secret that the Village's flooding issues have compounded in recent years with an increase in the frequency and severity of the rain events. Staff has identified several subareas that need to be addressed and funding is a concern. One of those areas is the Flossmoor Road viaduct and the basin areas that contribute to the conveyance of that storm water. Staff has been aggressive with the pursuit of grants for this work through MWRD, DCEO, FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and soon, the EPA.

Ms. Wachtel then outlined the options available to the Village with regards to funding for the projects under consideration. Option 1 is to have one question that covers both street resurfacing and reconstruction and sidewalks as well as stormwater improvements for the Flossmoor Road viaduct and upstream parts of the storm sewer system. This question puts both issues in one question, which could be a challenging educational campaign. Based on our past experience with the 2006 police and fire property tax referenda, it is conceivable that voters would be willing to agree to one issue but not both issues.

The advantage to one question is that it permits the Village flexibility to use more money toward streets should grant opportunities for the viaduct become successful. While there is no guarantee of grant funding, the Village has three grant applications in progress, one of which (Army Corps of Engineers) appears promising. If the Village is successful with grants for the viaduct, more of the bond can be allocated to the street project.

Option 2 is to ask two questions; one for the storm sewer and a second for streets and sidewalks. To illustrate, staff assumed a $6 million investment in the Flossmoor Road viaduct. If the Board's priority is the viaduct, then asking this question separately should be highly considered. Then, depending upon how much additional monies the Village wishes to borrow, we ask a second question of whether the Village should issue $5 million or $2 million in General Obligation Bonds for street resurfacing and reconstruction?

Option 3 is to exhaust the grant opportunities for the viaduct before issuing debt and ask a question only authorizing funding for street resurfacing and reconstruction at this time. However, this approach must be balanced with how much tolerance the Board and community have for flooding. Short-term, the Village would have another opportunity to ask voters for funding the viaduct improvements in April 2021 and then again in the Spring of 2022.

Mayor Braun then commented that the Village has done everything we can to maintain the streets but with regards to the funding it would take for the projects in question, the Village is at a point where it must consider alternate funds. Residents have spoken out for years about improving the streets, and therefore, we must consider these presented options if we wish to continue. He then noted that he didn't want to consider a new Bond until the Library Bond was paid off, which is nearly paid. The original Library Bond was about $8 million and this new Bond will likely be a replacement of that debt. Therefore, with the Library Bond paid off, the new Bond will financially only be a replacement and not a massive additional

burden. His preference, per the options presented, was Option 1. Should the community decide not to proceed with this Bond, then the Village will continue to try to maintain the streets with its current program.

Trustee Hoag asked Village Manager Wachtel to provide an estimate for the grant funds we are awaiting. She replied that the most likely grant is for $1 to $1.5 million from the Army Corps of Engineers. Public Works Director Brunke added that we would expect moving forward with this, should we be approved, in FY2021. The Village has also applied through DCEO Rebuild Illinois and FEMA. We were not successful with the MWRD grant. The Village is also pursuing additional EPA and MWRD grants for the Berry Lane portion of the project.

Trustee Hoag inquired if moving forward with a Bond would affect our grant status but Village Attorney Orr noted that should we receive a Bond, this will positively affect our rankings for grant status. Trustee Hoag then commented that as long as the referendum does not jeopardize the grants, then he is in favor of this.

Trustee Williams inquired about the timeline for the decisions of the various grants. Ms. Wachtel replied that several grants have only just been announced, several others are in progress, and we anticipate a few others to be decided this fall. Her concern was that we have a better understanding of our incoming grant funds as we make a decision on how to best allocate the funds of the Bond. Ms. Wachtel said that we can look at the using the bond funds in a series so that we can get started with some street work, for example, and then proceed as needed after we receive notice of other incoming grant funds. Trustee Williams then noted that we will need to properly educate the residents on these options so that they can vote with the necessary information. Mayor Braun agreed.

Trustee Mitros noted that he also supports Option 1 and that right now the rates would be ideal for us to proceed with funding.

Trustee Kimmons said that he favors moving forward with this as it offers the Village a prudent and fiscally responsible option.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated she is also in favor of Option 1 and stressed that we need to educate residents on the plan. She inquired if FEMA offered a loan option or whether there are other low interest loan options. As of right now, the only low interest loan that the Village is aware of is the IEPA loan which would involve a longer process.

Trustee Driscoll commented that the streets have needed repair for a long while and now with the increase in rain, the Village needs to address the water issue immediately. He is in strong support of Option 1, as well. He inquired what the plan would be if we do not receive enough money from the Bond for the full repair. Mr. Brunke answered that should that be the case, we would tackle the worst streets first and then apply the remainder of the funds to other areas.

Trustee Kimmons requested that we provide residents with a cost estimate as to the impact on taxes. Finance Director Scott Bordui ran a few potential numbers by hand and estimated that on a $200,000 home, the dollar amount would be around $17.00 per million. Trustee Williams also mentioned that in previous instances, the Board would knock on doors to help educate the public on the referendum but given COVID19, other education options will need to be considered.

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Trustee Williams asked for confirmation that the water portion of the work would include Berry Lane and Mayor Braun and Ms. Wachtel responded that Berry Lane is a top priority. With regards to timing, the earliest the work could begin would be in 2021.

Mayor Braun summarized that the Board supports Option 1 at the amount of $10 million and directed staff and the Village Attorney to prepare the ordinance for consideration at the next meeting.

There was no vote required.

Mayor Braun referred to Agenda Item #5: Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 20-21 for the Village of Flossmoor

Scott Bordui, Finance Director addressed the Board. The Board previously approved these budget amendments and the resolution allows them to be filed with the Cook County Clerk.

Mayor Braun asked the Board if they had any further questions and as they did not, he called for a motion to approve the resolution amending the Budget for Fiscal Year 20-21 for the Village of Flossmoor as presented. Trustee Williams so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll, and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES:	*Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT:	*None*
ABSTAIN:	*None*
NAYS:	*None*

Mayor Braun referred to Agenda Item #6: Consideration of an Ordinance Granting Emergency Powers to the Mayor of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois

As the State is still under a disaster order, Mayor Braun asked that the Board approve the ordinance. He called for a motion to approve the Ordinance Granting Emergency Powers to the Mayor of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois as presented. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott, and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES:	*Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT:	*None*
ABSTAIN:	*None*
NAYS:	*None*

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Mayor Braun referred to the Finance Committee – Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment (August 3, 2020)

Trustee Driscoll made a motion to approve hand checks in the amount of $577.71 and invoices in the amount of $244,721.36 for a total of $245,299.07. The motion was seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott and passed by a voice vote.

AYES: *Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT: *None*
ABSTAIN: *None*
NAYS: *None*

Other Business:

Mayor Braun noted that today is Trustee Kimmons' birthday and wished him a happy birthday. Trustee Kimmons then announced that a few days ago was Trustee Bradley-Scott's birthday and wished her a belated happy birthday.

Mayor Braun referred to Agenda Item #6 on the Agenda: A Motion to go into Executive Session to Discuss the Employment of Specific Individuals, Property Acquisition, and Litigation.

There was no need to go into Executive Session, and therefore, no vote was required.

As there were no other items to discuss, Mayor Braun called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Williams and passed by a roll call vote.

AYES: *Trustees Bradley-Scott, Driscoll, Hoag, Kimmons, Mitros, and Williams*
ABSENT: *None*
ABSTAIN: *None*
NAYS: *None*

The Regular Meeting ended at 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ananda Billings

Ananda Billings
Village Clerk