

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON APRIL 7, 2025*

VILLAGE HALL

APRIL 7, 2025

7:00 PM

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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; Finance Director Ann Novoa; Chief of Police Carl Estelle; Fire Chief Bob Kopeck; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Director of Building & Zoning Scott Bugner; Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright; Assistant to the Village Manager/ Communications Manager Nicole Castagna; Acting Village Attorney Joe Miller; 39 community members, media, and others.

Mayor Nelson welcomed Acting Village Attorney Joe Miller who was filling in for Village Attorney Kathi Orr who would be present at the next Village Board meeting.

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. Mayor Nelson noted that she would call people from the sign-in sheet of those who wished to speak, and requested that commentors abide by the Village's public comment policy, which includes stating their name and address and addressing their comments to the public body as a whole and not a single member of staff. Mayor Nelson asked that speakers limit their comments to five minutes or less per person for a maximum of thirty minutes of public comment time.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board:

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

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

Flossmoor resident Andrea Perry's comments, in summary, were regarding Village Manager Wachtel's presentation regarding the Village's General Fund at the March 3, 2025 Village Board meeting, Perry's request for Village Manager Wachtel's PowerPoint presentation from the March 3, 2025 meeting, and Perry's criticism that the presentation was not included in the meeting packet or on the Village's website. Perry quoted an article about democracy in the information age and shared her expectations of transparency and accountability with the Village Board and Village Management.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Village's budget and preliminary budget were located on the Village's website on the Finance page. Mayor Nelson also informed Perry that she could submit a FOIA request for Village Manager Wachtel's PowerPoint presentation.

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Recognitions and Appointments:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #1 – Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Mayor Nelson invited Tristan Shaw, Chair of the Village's Green Commission, to join her in the reading of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Mayor Nelson noted that it was at least the fifth year for the Pledge. Mayor Nelson explained that to take the Pledge, the Village had to commit to doing at least three items out of thirty action items, and the Village was in the Mayor's Leadership Circle because the Village has committed to doing between fourteen to sixteen tasks. She recently presented at the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus about Flossmoor's efforts, the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and encouraged others to take the Pledge and improve sustainability in their communities. She noted that Tristan Shaw, owner of Possibility Place Nursery, was instrumental in helping the Village obtain a large grant to plant 300 trees in the Village, among other notable efforts.

Mayor Nelson read the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Mayor Nelson thanked the Green Commission, the Public Works Department, Homewood-Flossmoor High School and students, Community Engagement Manager Stephanie Wright, other Village Staff, the organization that runs the Hidden Gem, Flossmoor's Future, and residents for their assistance and efforts.

No vote was required.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 2-5):

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on March 17, 2025
3. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (April 7, 2025)
4. Consideration of a Purchase of a Storage Area Network.
5. Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Regarding Pension Plan Election and Participation

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

Trustee Mustafa requested that items #3 and #4 be pulled off of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve items #2 and #5 of the Consent Agenda. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Daggett.

Mayor Nelson called for a vote on Consent Agenda items #2 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

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Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #3 – Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (April 7, 2025). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee dated April 7, 2025. Trustee Lofton so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about various bills and expenses related to the sewer degreaser and Flossmoor Police Department non-mandatory training at Northwestern University, which Public Works Director Brunke and Police Chief Estelle answered respectfully. Trustee Mustafa also inquired about the attorneys' fees for Ottosen and whether labor fees could be included in the retainer and requested that the Board consider a retainer review.

Acting Village Attorney Miller responded in regard to the options for the retainer and retainer review.

Village Manager Wachtel elaborated regarding the Village's retainer, labor expenses, which occur on a more irregular basis, and how the Village's retainer includes TIF and economic development work. Village Manager Wachtel explained that no cash bid legal work and tax exemption legal work are done by Scott Dillner's firm.

Mayor Nelson stated that she would like to check with other municipalities regarding what they are spending on legal fees, as she thought the Village was getting a good deal with Kathi Orr and her extensive experience and the extra services that Orr provides for the Village.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about charges for The Retail Coach and when the Board would need to approve another contract for them, which Village Manager Wachtel addressed, and shared that their contract would need to be approved at one of the next two meetings.

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #4 – Consideration of a Purchase of a Storage Area Network. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve the Purchase of a Storage Area Network. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about what a Storage Area Network is, which Assistant Village Manager Bogue described. He noted that the Storage Area Network at issue would be used for on-demand network work, that the agreement was for five years as part of the capital program, and the importance of the item.

Trustee Mustafa noted that the proposal came in \$15,000.00 under budget.

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The Board made inquiries about the agreement and technology and congratulated and thanked Bogue for coming in under budget.

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

Reports of Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for helping to pick up litter for the Southland Cleanup the previous Saturday.

Action Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #6 – Consideration of a Contract Award for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve a Contract Award for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3 to Airy's Inc. in the amount of \$1,549,520. Trustee Mustafa so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Public Works Director Brunke explained that included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget is \$500,000 in the 2021 Streets and Storm Sewer Improvement Fund, and \$1,500,000 in the General Fund for the construction of the Phase 3 of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Project. The Phase 3 project includes the installation of an 84" storm sewer on Lawrence Crescent, from the newly constructed Heather Hill Detention Basin to the existing 60" storm sewer on Maryland Avenue that was constructed as part of the Phase 1 Berry Lane Drainage Improvements project. Brunke explained that the Phase 3 project will be partially funded with two DCEO grants that total \$1,500,000, which offsets the General Fund budget. The DCEO grant funds will be expended first on the project, followed by the 2021 Streets and Storm Sewer Improvement Fund monies. Brunke discussed the bids, and shared that the lowest bid was received from Airy's, Inc. in the total base bid plus alternate amount of \$1,549,520.00. Their bid came in \$211,480.00 under the engineer's cost opinion for the project and \$450,480 under the budget allocation for this phase of the overall project. Given the cost savings of the bid alternate, Public Works Staff recommended that the alternate be accepted in the contract award.

Brunke explained that Airy's, Inc. has completed similar work for the Village in the past, including emergency water and sewer repair work and the Berry Lane Drainage Improvements Project, which was Phase 1 of the overall Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements. According to Brunke, Airy's has always been a good contractor to work with, and their past work with the Village has been excellent. Brunke explained that since a portion of this project will be funded through grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), there is a required Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Goal of 28% for the project, as determined by the DCEO. 18% of the grant funds must go to minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs or WMBEs) and 10% of the grant funds must go to women-owned

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business enterprises (WBEs or WMBEs). Airy's, Inc., a veteran-owned business, has indicated in their bid that they will fully meet this BEP Goal requirement through their subcontractors on the project. Brunke noted that Public Works Staff recommend that the Mayor and Board of Trustees approve a contract with Airy's, Inc. of Joliet, Illinois, in the base bid plus an alternate amount of \$1,549,520.00. Brunke explained that following a pre-construction meeting, staff will plan a public open house for the project, which is anticipated to be held in late April. The next phase of the overall project, Phase 4, should be bid out in the coming month by the USACE, and that project should be starting this summer. Brunke explained that the final phase, Phase 5, is slated to be bid in late summer with construction starting in the fall. The timing of this final phase is dependent on the timing of multiple outstanding grant applications that are currently pending.

Brunke explained the differences in the manhole sizes and the costs associated with the same. He also explained that the Village does not have any of the money yet from the grants because they are reimbursable grants. Brunke discussed the pending grants.

Village Manager Wachtel explained that Congresswoman Kelly had listed Flossmoor as a community to receive grant set-asides for the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations. However, without an approved budget at the federal level, those grant set-asides are in limbo, and they would have been new monies.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the Village having project and contract requirements for minority-owned businesses.

Acting Village Attorney Miller explained that because of bidding requirements under State law, it would be challenging to implement a program for requirements related to minority-owned businesses and that the Village could have a goal versus implementing a requirement. He explained that the Village could not usurp a lower bidder because of a Village goal to hire minority-owned businesses.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about the DCEO requirements related to minority-owned businesses, whether there had been budget amendments on Airy's previous work, signage for residents, and trench backfill costs and bid estimates.

Public Works Director Brunke explained that the contractor has to sign off that they can meet the requirements which the DCEO approves and there is no verification of the workforce on site, that there was no budget amendment needed on Airy's previous work, explained how estimating trench backfill work is difficult because it is not measured, and explained how the Village cannot scrutinize the unit prices of the bids.

Acting Village Attorney Miller explained that the Village cannot scrutinize the lowest responsible bid, but the Village can have conversations with the bidder after they awarded the contract. He explained that not meeting the specifications of the bid would be a separate issue.

Trustee Mitros inquired about the manhole cover sizes, and Brunke responded that there were no issues.

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Trustee Lofton whether Airy's already had the minority owned subcontractors identified and getting a list of the minority owned businesses to work with.

Brunke explained how Airy's would have already identified subcontractors to work with in order to obtain pricing for the bid, including Lincoln Paving and a trucking company that is also certified as a minority owned business, and that the Village could add the subcontractors to the Village's bidder list.

Acting Village Attorney Joe Miller explained that the Village could invite the minority owned businesses to bid on projects but could not award contracts to them if they were not the lowest responsible bidder.

Trustee Daggett inquired about project timing and noted the importance of communication with the community about the projects. He also inquired about communication with bidders pre- and post-bid award and the open house.

Brunke responded that the project was scheduled to start in May and finish mid-August, and that this project would also be going on at the same time as Phase 4. Brunke explained that the open house for the project, hopefully late April, would not really be helpful as a recording since there is no formal presentation.

Acting Village Attorney Miller explained that the Village has to publish a notice of the bid, he did not know of an issue with regard to communities inviting bidders to bid on their work, and stated that he did not have an issue with Staff discussing a bid with a company after the bid is awarded but cautioned that it should not appear as giving the company an unfair advantage.

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #7 – Consideration of an Award of Contract for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3 Construction Engineering. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve an Award of Contract for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3 Construction Engineering to Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$123,440. Trustee Driscoll so moved, seconded by Trustee Daggett.

Public Works Director Brunke explained that as part of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3 Project, construction engineering services will be needed to oversee and manage the construction of the project. The project is slated to start the first week of May and be substantially completed by August 15, 2025, with final completion on or before October 30, 2025. Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers submitted a proposal for the construction engineering services needed for the construction of the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3. Brunke explained that Baxter & Woodman is completing the design engineering for the overall project, so it makes sense to have

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them also complete the construction engineering services for this phase for continuity reasons. Since construction for this project will commence directly in a residential neighborhood, construction engineering services are critical to ensure the work is being done appropriately, safely, and in a timely manner, and it is noted that the proposed contract is comprised of five specific tasks. The total not-to-exceed cost for this contract is \$123,440.00, and the construction engineering services are budgeted for in the FY 26 Budget in the 2021 Streets and Storm Sewer Improvement Fund. Brunke explained that Public Works Staff recommended that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award the contract for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Phase 3 Construction Engineering Services to Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers in the not-to-exceed amount of \$123,440.00.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated that there were security breaches during phases of construction of the Heather Hill Basin Project and inquired about safety requirements onsite for the proposed project.

Brunke responded that the project manual contains the safety requirements of the project and discussed the Village's role and the contractor's role with enforcement.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about two different provisions related to hours worked.

Brunke explained that the engineer would only be on site when the contractor was on site.

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 an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois Approving a Development Agreement by and between the Village of Flossmoor and On the Fly Hospitality Group Co. (Flossmoor Smokehouse). Mayor Nelson called for a motion to Approve an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois Approving a Development Agreement by and between the Village of Flossmoor and On the Fly Hospitality Group Co. (Flossmoor Smokehouse). Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Mayor Nelson explained that the Board listened to a great presentation by On the Fly Hospitality Group at a previous meeting, and that the development agreement was the formal agreement that the developers had already signed. She noted that the property at issue was donated to the Village in 2021.

Village Manager Wachtel explained that the agreement was similar to the one regarding the Flossmoor townhomes project. In the agreement, the Village would give the land at issue to the developers and support a Class 8 abatement. In exchange the developer would be making the Village whole for property taxes owed to the Village, there was a timeline for the developers to reach certain steps and when the Village would relinquish the property among other provisions.

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Trustee Daggett inquired about whether a phase one environmental was done and if not, would there be flexibility in the agreement if something is found and a phase two is needed.

Village Manager Wachtel answered that there was not a phase one environmental.

Acting Village Attorney Miller cited the provision that discusses the ability to extend the timeline of the agreement.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about whether there was a broker fee at issue and whether the developers had to pay for permit fees.

Village Manager Wachtel responded that there was no broker fee and that the developer only had to pay for out-of-pocket expenses that the Village had to incur regarding inspections and state permits.

Trustee Lofton inquired about when the six-to-nine-month period started, and Village Manager Wachtel responded that within sixty days of the execution of the agreement, they needed to start the process with the submission of a planned unit development and application for the property to the Plan Commission, among other requirements.

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 #9 – Discussion of Water & Sewer Rates.

Finance Director Ann Novoa explained that traditionally, as part of the analysis associated with preparing and approving the annual budget, there has also been a review of the Village's water and sewer "retail" utility rates. Novoa explained that prior to last year, the Village used water purchase as the denominator for calculating rates, and starting last year, the Village changed its methodology and considered recovering a portion of operating utility costs. Novoa referenced her prepared memo with proposed rates, options and methodologies utilized in formulating the rate options A through D. Novoa recommended option A, which solely includes a passthrough of the increase being mandated by the Homewood contract in accordance with the Village's contract to purchase water, and discussed her reasons for recommending option A including the new meter project. She noted that the cost increase of 2.9% is beyond the Village's control and subject to the Village's contract. Novoa also noted the increased balance of the Water & Sewer Fund and described the reasons for the same.

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Novoa recommended that the sanitary sewer surcharge fee and storm sewer fee remain unchanged this year, consider a change next budget cycle after a year of collecting data from the new meters, and explained the reasons for the same.

Mayor Nelson explained that the Village's typical decision to choose option C in the past makes sense, but because of the increase last year and the balance of the Water & Sewer Fund is building, she thinks option A makes sense.

There was discussion among the Board and Novoa about the options, and the Board ultimately agreed upon option A.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about an option to return money to residents, and Acting Village Attorney Miller explained that, pursuant to Dillon's Rule, it is probably not allowable.

Novoa noted that there was an extensive list of water projects that the Village has, and that an increased fund balance would be designated for those projects.

Village Manager Wachtel explained that ten years ago, the Village only repaired the worst 6% of the system, and that the Village needs to put monies away to be able to reinvest in the system with water and sewer revenues and not use the General Fund balance. She noted that the Board could revisit the options at the mid-year review and make a change then, if needed.

Public Works Director Brunke noted that the amount of water breaks for 2025 is the same as the average amount of previous years.

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #10 – Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026 Finance and Facilities Plan.

Mayor Nelson explained that the discussion was the third of four budget discussions and that the Board would vote on the budget at the April 21, 2025 meeting.

Village Manager Wachtel provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 Finance and Facilities Plan (Plan), which included a discussion of projects happening and planned for the next three years, and unplanned projects. Village Manager Wachtel explained the components of the Plan, which continues to uphold the Village Board's "save then spend" philosophy toward capital projects. Village Manager Wachtel discussed planned projects over the next several years including their costs and funding as outlined in the Plan, including water distribution improvements, pump station improvements, replacement of water service lines, Flossmoor Road Viaduct Improvements Project Phases 3-5, street and sidewalk improvements, the Central Business District Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements, the Dartmouth Pedestrian Bridge and Streambank Stabilization Project, a new salt storage facility, rear yard drainage improvements projects including an extensive one on Latimer Lane, and Central Drive lot resurfacing.

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Village Manager Wachtel explained that the Plan documents will be finalized and put into the final budget that will be presented to the Board at the April 21st meeting.

Trustee Mitros inquired about the Dartmouth Pedestrian Bridge and Streambank Stabilization Project and whether the stabilization could be done first, and Brunke responded that the area would then have to be restored twice so the goal is to repair everything at the same time.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about whether the Board could address the yard drainage projects of approximately seven residences listed in the Plan, which are 1.16% of the total projects listed and discussed her reasons for same including increased costs in the future.

Village Manager Wachtel explained that the higher-rated projects have the most need based on the rating schedule and policy that the Board previously approved, which included how to address the projects. The scores at approximately fifty and lower are more like nuisance flooding and do not cause structural damage. She also noted that in looking at the Storm Sewer Fund, there should be consideration about not running the balance down to a level that the Board is not comfortable with or overspending, and with the three projects that the Village identified, there would be about \$200,000.00 left in the fund balance. Village Manager Wachtel also noted the workload component of factoring in whether Staff could manage that many more projects in conjunction with other projects.

There was discussion among the Board, and the majority of the other Trustees were not in favor of proposing a change to the planned projects.

Brunke explained that Staff would continue to reassess the Plan and projects over the next three years and add additional projects during that time as staffing and resources permit.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about the referenced service line inspections needed for thirty homes. Village Manager Wachtel responded that they were homes visually inspected to identify the service line material. At the time of the meter replacement project, it was unclear from a visual inspection and conditions as well as in some cases, vacant homes, whether those service lines that needed to be included in the lead line replacement program.

Brunke explained the process for checking the lines and how they did not have access to those thirty vacant homes to conduct the inspections. He also discussed that the Village still has to determine the plan and funding for replacing the lead service lines.

Trustee Daggett inquired about the Sterling Avenue Water Tower and what would happen to the land post removal as well as what would be included in the streets and sidewalks budget and monies left in bond funds.

Village Manager Wachtel noted that the vacant parcel on the corner belonged to the Village as it was acquired through the no-cash bid process, and that, post water tower removal, the Village has an interested

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buyer for the parcel. Village Manager Wachtel also responded that she was hoping there would be an additional \$1M in bond funds for the streets and sidewalks budget.

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 into Executive Session.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about whether the LPR cameras were installed at three residences as planned, and Assistant Village Manager Bogue responded that Staff would provide an update by the next Board meeting.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about updates on the community integrated living arrangements in the Heather Hill neighborhood and whether anything could be done about the occupants not being good neighbors and causing havoc since they aren't from Flossmoor. She had received a complaint regarding same which seemed to be about their employees and that she encouraged the resident making the complaint to contact Village Manager Wachtel.

Director of Building & Zoning Bugner explained that with regard to the referenced homes, the Village has to treat the occupants just like any other resident and cited a legal case that the City of Springfield just lost regarding the same.

Acting Village Attorney Miller explained that he would be concerned about the liability issues depending on what the Village was considering doing or considered prohibitive.

Village Manager Wachtel added that the residents of the community integrated living arrangements are considered Village of Flossmoor residents, and that there have been complaints over the years about poor facility management and residents at the homes not having the resources they need. Sometimes the facilities impact the greater neighborhood, resulting in calls to the Flossmoor Police and Fire Departments. Village Manager Wachtel also noted that they can be challenging cases, but the Village has been successful over the years at mitigating issues, sometimes with the assistance of Illinois Department of Health and Human Services which licenses the facilities.

Trustee Mustafa shared her concern that the Village's Strategic Plan is not being used as a living document, and that, according to the advice of the company that assisted the Village with the Strategic Plan, there should be an organized process for tracking the progress of the implementation and follow-through, among other suggestions. Trustee Mustafa also cited the International City/County Management Association (ICMA)'s recommendation that the annual plan should be used to create the budget, and she shared her concerns that the Village was not doing the same.

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Mayor Nelson noted that Trustee Mustafa could also review the Strategic Plan and should share her concerns if the budget does not align with it, and that the Village has to legally adopt the budget by a certain date.

Acting Village Attorney Miller noted that he did not necessarily agree with the recommendation of the ICMA, that the budget process was fluid, and the Board could address their concerns about items in the Strategic Plan during one of the several discussions about the budget.

Trustee Daggett stated his concerns about following the ICMA's recommendations and Staff time needed to follow same, and that the Board could bring forth their comments about the Strategic Plan during Board discussion throughout the entire year. Trustees Driscoll and Mitros shared their similar concerns and that the Strategic Plan is more of a mission statement.

Village Manager Wachtel discussed the background, reviews, and reporting process of the Strategic Plan. She shared that the proposed budget assumes the level of service provided today and budgets for it for tomorrow, and that the budget and services the Village is providing are in line with the Strategic Plan. She also shared that there would be a report about the Strategic Plan to the new Board in May, and the new Board would start the process this coming year to develop and adopt a new Strategic Plan in 2026. She noted that the Board could set a target on how often they would like Strategic Plan reports, but the Board should not hamstring Staff with a municipal code requirement on the strategic plan given that there is only so much time and resources for Staff to be able to accomplish needed work, in reference to Trustee Mustafa's suggestion about passing an ordinance to bind Staff to report on the Strategic Plan.

Trustee Bradley-Scott commented on past practices reviewing the Strategic Plan and suggested that the Board should have the same expectations about when the Strategic Plan will be reviewed.

Mayor Nelson noted that an annual review of the Strategic Plan is the goal.

Trustee Bradley-Scott reported that she was not feeling well and left the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Trustee Lofton noted that the Village has done well with economic development, which is one of the items in the Strategic Plan, and that the Board should consider an Economic Development Commission.

Trustee Mitros inquired about the status of crack sealing on Village streets which he is strongly in favor of, and Public Works Director Brunke responded that the Village will continue the program and fill cracks as needed.

Village Clerk LoGalbo commented about the Wind Creek Casino now being open 24 hours a day, and her wonderful experience at the Village of Park Forest's Nathan Manilow Freedom Hall theater.

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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 Driscoll, and passed by a voice vote.

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

ABSENT: Trustee Bradley-Scott

ABSTAIN: None

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina A. LoGalbo

Village Clerk