

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE OF FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS HELD ON MARCH 6, 2023*

VILLAGE HALL / ZOOM MEETING

MARCH 6, 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; Flossmoor Police Department Deputy Chief Keith Taylor; Fire Chief Bob Kopeck; Finance Director Scott Bordui; Director of Public Works John Brunke; Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner; Program & Event Coordinator Stephanie Wright; Village Attorney Kathi Orr; Village Clerk Gina A. LoGalbo; 33 residents

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order. Mayor Nelson noted that the meeting was being held in person and via Zoom, which is permitted by Public Act 101-0640. Mayor Nelson noted that the public was invited to monitor the meeting via Zoom or attend the meeting in person. Public participation would be permitted only in person during the citizen comment portion of the agenda. Members of the public could submit comments on items on the agenda by emailing info@flossmoor.org. Emailed comments would be shared with the Village Board.

Recognitions and Appointments:

None.

Mayor Nelson referred to the Consent Agenda (which encompassed Agenda Items 1-3, 5-8):

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on February 20, 2023*
- 2. Presentation of Bills for Approval and Payment as Approved by the Finance Committee (March 6, 2023)*
- 3. Consideration of a Contract Amendment for the Flossmoor Road Viaduct Drainage Improvements Detention Options Assessment*
- 5. Consideration of the Public Works Service Center Security Fence Project*
- 6. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Clarifying Vehicle License Charge for Volunteers, Elected and Appointed Officials*
- 7. Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Amending Chapter 150, Article 5 of the Village of Flossmoor Municipal Code (Increasing Treatment and Transport Fees of Mobile Intensive Care Unit)*
- 8. Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving Membership in the National Purchasing Cooperative (BuyBoard)*

Mayor Nelson noted that item #4, Consideration of a Contract Award to Denler, Inc. for the FY23 Pavement Crack Filling Program, would be pulled off of the Consent Agenda. Mayor Nelson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Trustee Mustafa so moved, seconded by Trustee Lofton.

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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

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #4 – Consideration of a Contract Award to Denler, Inc. for the FY23 Pavement Crack Filling Program. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of a Contract Award to Denler, Inc. for the FY23 Pavement Crack Filling Program. Trustee Mitros so moved, seconded by Trustee Driscoll.

Public Works Director John Brunke explained that included in the FY23 approved General Fund Budget is \$150,000.00 for annual street maintenance work. The purpose of this budget is to use it towards the creation of a pavement crack-filling program in the Village. The purpose of a pavement crack filling program is to clean out cracks in newer asphalt pavement and fill them with a fiber asphalt sealant that prevents water and debris from filling the cracks, which leads to deterioration and potholes from the winter freeze/thaw cycles. It is estimated that a good pavement crack filling program can extend the life cycle of pavement for five plus years, which is years more than a pavement that does not receive this treatment.

Brunke explained that having a crack filling program would be new to the Village of Flossmoor. Baxter and Woodman recommended the program several years ago in a pavement management report. The asphalt pavement streets that benefit most from a pavement crack-filling program are those that are still in good condition, but have minimal to moderate cracks forming on the surface. Streets that have a severe amount of cracking (alligator cracking) are not good candidates for crack filling – it's not efficient and can cause more damage. The Village will focus on the streets with spider cracking or longitudinal cracks. Public Works Staff reviewed the Village's streets with PASER ratings of 6-8 because those are the ones that are good candidates for crack filling to help make them last. Staff identified thirty-six (36) streets that should be included, which total 6.93 miles. The Village has forty-two (42) miles of streets total. Brunke presented a chart with the streets, length, and PASER rating.

Brunke explained that Staff estimated the amount of crack filling material needed by multiplying the total length of streets by 1.50 pounds per lineal foot (the industry standard) which resulted in an estimated bid quantity of 54,902 pounds. Staff spoke with representatives from other towns that have successful crack filling program. In February 2023, the four (4) bids were opened, and the lowest bid was from Denler, Inc. at \$1.40 per pound. Denler has done work in several other towns, and Brunke spoke with one of the town's engineers who spoke positively of Denler.

Brunke explained that since the bid quantity of the project was estimated, Staff wants to build a 4% contingency into the project in the event the actual pavement crack filling material needed came in over the estimated amount, so they recommended that the Village Board authorize the Village Manager to approve expenditures on the project up to 4% more than the awarded amount (\$80,000.00). The remaining \$70,000.00 budget amount can then be used towards other pavement maintenance, such as a pavement patching program. Staff recommended that the Mayor and Board of Trustees award the FY23 Pavement Crack Filling Program contract to Denler, Inc in the amount of \$76,862.80 and authorize the Village

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Manager to approve expenditures up to the amount of \$80,000.00 in the event that additional pavement crack filling material is needed.

Mayor Nelson thanked Brunke for his time putting the program together. She stated that it's critical for the Village to implement the program in order to catch up on needed resurfacing projects.

Trustee Driscoll stated his support for the program.

Trustee Daggett stated that it looks like five (5) years will be added to the life of a road that's been crack sealed. He inquired how long the project will take and whether cars could be driven right away on the roads post crack sealing.

Brunke answered that the work will take about one (1) month or less, and that cars can drive on the roads very soon post crack sealing. The roads will not be closed down to traffic when they are being worked on – they will work on one side of the road at a time.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired whether all of the streets with a 6-8 PASER rating were presented in the materials submitted by Public Works, and about the allocation of funds going forward for the project.

Brunke answered that all of the Village's 6-8 PASER rated streets weren't included in the presentation because they don't all need crack sealing yet, or some are too far gone and need to be resurfaced. He explained that this year will probably have the most crack sealing done, and moving forward, less should need to be done per year. Brunke stated that Staff was not planning to re-budget the \$150,000.00 again, and they don't see it coming back every year. If they had a smaller crack-filling program next year, they could use local MFT funds for the work.

Trustee Mustafa stated she had no concerns, but asked about previous work done on Sunset Avenue, why there would be cracks in it already, and how they arrived at the 4% contingency request amount. She also inquired about the resurfacing plans for streets with a 3-5 PASER rating.

Brunke answered that Sunset Avenue had been resurfaced a couple of years ago and has cracks in it. He stated that cracks are common at that point, and that crack filling is typically done two to three years after the roads are resurfaced. He explained that the 4% isn't standard, and noticed that other towns put in a contingency of about the same amount. He stated that 3-5 PASER rated streets are not all scheduled for resurfacing yet, but they will be. The Village isn't proposing any resurfacing projects this year and is planning to save the money for 2024.

Trustee Mitros stated his support for the program, and how the crack filling will pay dividends into the future.

Trustee Lofton inquired about the life of the crack filling.

Brunke answered that roads are crack-filled one time, generally speaking and that the life of the road is estimated to be extended by five (5) years.

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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 referred to Agenda Item #9 – Presentation by the Community Relations Commission Regarding Community Forum. Mayor Nelson stated that the Community Relations Commission (“CRC”) is comprised of residents from across Flossmoor from varying backgrounds. It’s an advisory board that provides a conduit for all segments of the community to talk and work together for the benefit of the Village. The CRC was asked to advise the Village Board on recommendations related to educational opportunities for residents stemming from the community forum held in October 2022. Mayor Nelson asked the CRC what suggestions and recommendations they had to help facilitate future sessions in a productive environment. She asked the CRC what format the sessions should take, and asked whether they had other educational recommendations based on the information in the community forum report.

CRC Chairwoman Phillipa Leon-Thompson introduced Commissioner Stephen Ramsey and noted that Commissioner Sandy Hatcher-Holmes was in attendance at the meeting. She stated that although the CRC members aren’t experts, they gladly took on Mayor Nelson’s request. They are proud Flossmoor residents and love the community. The CRC consolidated their response and identified three (3) pillars of characteristics that are necessary to bond the community, educate, and build a culture of understanding and acceptance: effective communication, relationship building, and ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CRC Commissioner Stephen Ramsey discussed the pillar of communication, its importance, and that messages be shared in a timely, clear, and concise manner. The CRC recommends using all available forms of communication. The Flossmoor Police Department could use email, text messages, and develop social media profiles to communicate with stake holders.

Chairwoman Leon-Thompson discussed the pillar regarding relationships and the importance of building trust, developing/ improving relationships between the Village and residents, the police and residents, and among residents themselves. She noted that programs like DARE, Coffee with a Cop, and National Night Out help with relationship building, and that the CRC encourages parents in the community to participate in those events with their children. Ride-alongs with police officers are another way for residents and police to build relationships, trust, and respect. Other opportunities for relationship building are basketball tournaments between HF High School students and police, bike rides with the police, a conversation with a cop series, citizen police academy, and an ‘ask me a question’ opportunity are other ways to build relationships between the police and community. She noted that education, training, certification, and recertification of police officers are controls that can help to improve their response in the community, and that de-escalation and mental health training can provide police officers with the necessary tools to adapt

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and become accountable to the community. The CRC believes that the training and certification of police officers, recognitions, and policies should be shared with the community on the Village website.

Commissioner Ramsey discussed the pillar of collaboration and how the diversity of the Village allows for brilliant reflection of the community – welcoming, beautiful, and connected. The CRC suggests establishing a diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) council to enhance those characteristics, and it should consist of residents with expertise in the DEI area. The CRC members also noted that using One Book, One Flossmoor and the right book selections could bring the community together.

Commissioner Leon-Thompson stated that, in summary, the CRC recommends the expansion of communication through social media platforms, promoting transparency and educating the public about where to locate information, promoting best practices, providing additional opportunities for relationship building with youth, bringing back the citizens’ police academy, introducing a conversation with a cop series, and collaborating with the community to optimize race discussions. The CRC recognizes the events that brought about their presentation and the loss of life, and are now forward thinking to take the next steps toward partnership with residents and police to build on the foundation and influence the necessary changes.

Mayor Nelson thanked the CRC for their time and efforts.

Trustee Daggett shared that he appreciated the CRC’s work and recommendations.

Trustee Bradley-Scott thanked the CRC for their work and presentation and noted that communication is of the upmost importance with the community. She mentioned the DARE program for younger kids, and wondered if there was similar police interaction for the junior high and high school students and would like to see more of those opportunities.

Trustee Mustafa complemented the CRC for their efforts and putting their report together so quickly, and looks forward to next steps. She stated that she was particularly enthusiastic about the DEI council and increased use of social media.

Trustee Mitros complemented the CRC for their efforts and suggestions.

Trustee Lofton complemented the CRC for their work, agreed that communication is/will be key to relationship building, and was very fond of the DEI council proposal.

Trustee Driscoll complemented the CRC for their presentation and their mention of police training. He added that with block parties, police officers and fire trucks would visit and interact positively with the residents.

Mayor Nelson stated that in terms of next steps, the Board will review the CRC’s recommendations along with the Village’s strategic plan to see where they align.

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Action Items:

Mayor Nelson referred to Agenda Item #10 – Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Amendment to a Special Use Permit – Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233 – 999 Kedzie Avenue. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of an Ordinance of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Amendment to a Special Use Permit – Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233 – 999 Kedzie Avenue. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Bradley-Scott.

Building and Zoning Administrator Scott Bugner explained that the Homewood-Flossmoor High School (“HFHS”) was seeking an addition for new science labs. The footprint of the addition would be approximately 26,150 square feet, two (2) stories tall, and would be next to the south campus building near the softball fields. It would be constructed to net zero standards, including the installation of a geothermal well system for heating and cooling, rooftop solar panels, and a partial green roof, as well as environmentally friendly sustainable construction practices.

Jim Glascott, civil engineer with the WT Group that’s working on the HFHS project introduced himself.

Ryan Kelly, from DLA architects who are handling the HFHS project, explained that the addition would be a total of 42,000 square feet. Over the last five to seven years, the HFHS has been renovating about one science classroom per year while looking at the long-term goal to meet their curriculum goals. The existing classrooms are smaller, and an addition would give them appropriately sized classrooms and collaboration space. The concept of the building is to treat the building as an educational tool. In pursuit of that, HFHS is seeking a grant to offset some of the technology costs. This would be one of three buildings in the State of IL, and only one of two high schools that have a net zero building.

Trustee Bradley-Scott shared that she walked the proposed site online and that it was an exciting project.

Trustee Mustafa spoke favorably of the project and noted that she thinks the design of the building fits the space well.

Trustee Mitros spoke favorably of the project and inquired about the difference in sizes of the classrooms and the plan for the old classrooms.

Mr. Kelly answered that the size of a classroom in the new addition would be 1,200 square feet, whereas the size of the old science classrooms are about 600 square feet. He noted that the old classrooms that have been renovated will continue to be used as classrooms.

Trustee Lofton spoke favorably of the design and project.

Trustee Daggett spoke favorably of the project and the use of geothermal technology.

Mayor Nelson inquired about the garden, green house, and zoobot’s home, amount of gender neutral bathrooms, noise from geothermal pumps, and the construction schedule. She noted the award-winning

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Hidden Gem Half Marathon that runs through the campus, and hoped that everyone will work together for a workaround for a successful event.

Mr. Kelly answered that the garden, greenhouse, and zoobot's home would all remain, and the building would be parallel to their location; there would be numerous bathrooms throughout the building; the pumps wouldn't make noise after instillation, and that they were planning to put the project out to bid in April 2023 with construction starting in May 2023 and go through September of 2024.

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 #11 – Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Agreement with The Retail Coach. Mayor Nelson called for a motion for Consideration of a Resolution of the Village of Flossmoor, Cook County, Illinois, Approving an Agreement with The Retail Coach. Trustee Daggett so moved, seconded by Trustee Mustafa.

Mayor Nelson explained that economic development is a long-game, and the Village works very hard to promote all aspects of Flossmoor. The Village has developed relationships with almost a dozen brokers, developers, and end users. While there has been interest in building warehouses, auto parts stores, and car washes, the Mayor doesn't think they are what Flossmoor residents seek. Residents are looking for entertainment and more dining options. She noted that Trustee Mustafa previously heard a presentation by the Retail Coach, and that Village Manager Bridget Wachtel and the Mayor have been talking to representative Aaron Farmer about the company and their services. Mayor Nelson noted that there is not an economic development arm at the Village of Flossmoor, so the Retail Coach would be part of the "staff" for development in the Village.

Aaron Farmer from the Retail Coach stated that he has come to Flossmoor several times to analyze what opportunities there are for Flossmoor. He explained that the Retail Coach has been in business for over twenty-three (23) years and they've helped recruit over five (5) million square feet of retail space to their client communities in the last five (5) years. They've brought in millions of additional sales tax to those communities, and have a 90% repeat client rate. Mr. Farmer stated that he would be the project lead for Flossmoor if hired. He explained that the Retail Coach has a multi-step approach, and they are the ones who are talking on behalf of the Village to developers, prospects, and retailers. Mr. Farmer discussed the type of work that the Retail Coach would do on behalf of Flossmoor if hired.

Mayor Nelson noted that according to Village Manager Bridget Wachtel, there hadn't been a market analysis completed since 2009 and that it didn't include cell phone data.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel stated that she spoke with some of the Retail Coach's references, and they all commented on the quality of their work, noted that they are hands on and responsive to their clients,

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and great for smaller communities. She stated that Staff are supportive of hiring the Retail Coach to help with the Village's economic development efforts that the Mayor, Wachtel, and Scott Bugner provide.

Trustee Mustafa inquired about the Retail Coach's timeline, the timeline for filling a space after the Retail Coach's work is done, and the difference between brokers and the work that the Retail Coach does.

Mr. Farmer elaborated on their timeline and noted that after the first twelve months, they would return to the Village to seek more work with the Village. He explained the process of working with developers to do business in Flossmoor. He explained that the Retail Coach is not a broker and elaborated on the different perspectives of brokers and consultants.

Trustee Mitros stated that if, at the end of the year, they don't have any offers except from car washes and auto part stores, it will be a disappointment. He inquired about the pay structure for Retail Coach.

Mr. Farmer explained that they just focus on the consulting and recruitment side and they get paid by municipalities.

Trustee Lofton inquired about their top prospects and how many have expansion plans in 2023. He also inquired if the Retail Coach's analyses would be able to determine where Flossmoor residents are dining and shopping.

Mr. Farmer responded that there are more retailers and restaurants that are expanding than pulling back, like Ross. He explained that the Retail Coach is able to obtain data about where Flossmoor residents are shopping and dining.

Trustee Driscoll noted limitations with people the Village hired in the past for economic development efforts, and noted that he is optimistic about the Retail Coach.

Trustee Daggett noted the Retail Coach's results in other communities and stated that he thought bringing them in was a good idea to help the Village's economic development efforts. He asked about other nearby municipalities the Retail Coach is working with.

Mr. Farmer responded that they are working with four (4) nearby municipalities, but aren't working with any directly competing municipalities.

Trustee Bradley-Scott inquired about one of the columns next to the growth column on their presented slides, and she inquired about the lease time that most of the retail spaces are contracting for.

Mr. Farmer explained that the column she was referring to was the compound annual growth rate. They are looking for a 1-2% compound annual growth rate overall, which is a gauge of the sectors with the highest opportunities. He explained that five (5) years is the minimum lease period, but they are trending more towards ten (10) year leases.

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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 #12 – Discussion of the FY24 Preliminary Budget.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that FY23 is about ¾ through, and staff have been working on the FY24 budget. Over the next several Village Board meetings, there will be presentations and discussions about the budget. The full preliminary budget is on the Village's website, and the Village can answer questions as needed. She explained that the beginning of the budget discussion over the past several years includes a discussion of the Water & Sewer Fund, given its relationship to the General Fund. The revenues that the Water & Sewer Fund generates should sustain the Fund's expenses. The health of the Water & Sewer Fund has been a concern for many years and continues to be an ongoing concern that impacts the health of the General Fund. In 2013-2014, the Village undertook some massive water main improvements and the rehabilitation of the Vollmer Reservoir had positive impacts on the system functionality and financial health of the Fund. The purchase-to-bill ratio increased from 59% to 83% and has recently fallen as far as 76% in FY22. She explained that the water meter replacement project remains a priority and that she was excited to share that the water supply transition, which was a big undertaking, is now complete. The Village is now successfully receiving water supply from Hammond via Chicago Heights and Homewood. She noted that the Board should be pleased that they were able to obtain a contract with Homewood with guaranteed rates for the next twenty-five (25) years and will be capped at 3% while there is such an inflationary market right now.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that the FY23 budget is seeing a small operating surplus due mostly to the \$300K administrative transfer that was delayed for the third quarter. Water supply costs are projected to be about \$80K less than budget, with a projection of receiving \$53K less in sales than budget. For FY24, the Village is budgeting about \$54K less in sales, and supply costs are budgeted to be about \$53K less. The hydrant sandblasting program will not be needed next year, and there will be a short-term savings of \$40K per year.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that the General Fund is supporting the general operating costs of the Village, like the Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and general administration services. FY23 projections are better than budgeted, and FY24 preliminary budget shows a small operating deficit and the use of fund balance for finance and facilities plan projects. She noted that when it comes to property taxes and EAV, the 2021 EAV was 10% below the 2020 EAV. Historically, there hasn't been significant growth. The Village is working with a 2021 EAV that is trending around the 2012-2014 era, yet the Village is supporting a 2023 budget with record setting inflation. She noted that sales tax has been critical, and Meijer and the development of southwest Flossmoor has changed the picture of what revenues are supporting the operations. She noted that personnel and fixed costs represent 89% of this year's budget. The fixed costs include personnel and related benefits like insurance.

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Village Manager Bridget Wachtel stated that in analyzing the budget numbers for FY23 and FY24, the Village looks at the FY23 budget as it was approved on May 1st, inclusive of any budget amendments, compared to FY23 projections, and then compares budget to budget and engage in revenue and expenditure comparisons between years. The Village is projecting to end FY23 with an operating surplus and a small total fund deficit due in part to improved revenues, deferred capital and operating expenses, and vacant positions. She noted that several grants offset some capital projects, and that the Village is at an all time high for receiving grant funds. The Village is projecting to have more revenue come in than what was budgeted for, and the Village is projected to spend less than what was budgeted.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel highlighted some of the summary points, such as the short-term savings through personnel vacancies and turnover, a decrease in workers' compensation and liability insurance premiums, a decrease in fire department expenditures like overtime and less paramedics being available to work in the duty shift program, and savings from not having to make E-Com payments from the General Fund. Items that were over budget (which included effects due to the inflationary market) included the contract for parkway tree maintenance; snow and ice supplies; IT costs; overtime in public works and police departments; and increased costs of maintenance/repair of Village facilities, especially as they are aging.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel explained that on the revenue side for FY23 and in regard to the state income tax revenue (LGDF money), the Village is currently receiving around 6% when it should be 10%. This is a major legislative priority for the Mayor and Village to get our fair share of the state income tax. Outside of property and sales taxes, state income tax represents the third largest revenue source to support Village operations. She noted that FY23 revenue is projected to be greater than budgeted. Wachtel noted various reasons for this, including areas where the revenues are projected under budget. She noted that the previous sales tax average, pre-Meijer, was \$250K in 'regular' sales tax, whereas now it's \$1.1 million. In 2018, the Board presented and the Village passed a non-home rule sales tax, which is trending to come in at \$684K in FY23, for a total of \$1.8 million in sales tax. The Village has increased its sales tax by 164% since 2018, and six times the revenue collected pre-Meijer.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel noted that the Village has a history and philosophy of save and spend. The Village has been fortunate over the years to save money to support the capital infrastructure projects and improvements so that the Village is hardly ever going to bond or debt. The Village is projected to spend less capital than what was budgeted. Moving into FY24, the Village is budgeting more for operating expenses than before to be able to maintain services in light of the inflationary market. She noted that the Capital Equipment Fund is a sinking fund and will be discussed further at future meetings. That fund is used to save for equipment like police cars and dump trucks. Wachtel noted that the General Fund contribution for this fund is going to be greater in FY24. She noted that other operating expenses are going to be greater in FY24, and certain revenues are projected to be greater in FY24, like property taxes. She noted that the FY24 project goals include Brookwood Bridge/Butterfield Road culvert reconstruction; water system improvements project including a water system SCADA upgrade; residential water meter replacement with radio read; and the Flossmoor Road viaduct drainage improvements.

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Village Manager Bridget Wachtel noted other highlights of the report: the Water & Sewer Fund is trending away from its previously healthy status; FY23 General Fund projections are better than budget, and preliminary FY24 shows a small operating deficit; capital projects will be financed mostly through grants this year; the drop in EAV is by 10% this year, which follows the 15% increase in 2020; sales tax has been critical to maintaining Village services, and losing a main sales tax source would be detrimental; personnel and fixed costs represent 89% of the Village's budget; the preliminary budget doesn't include any salary adjustments or carryovers; and that the Board will have three (3) additional budget discussions. She thanked staff for their work on the budget.

Mayor Nelson thanked Village Manager Bridget Wachtel for analysis, department staff for their work to put the numbers together, and the Board members for their support of economic development and grant work.

Trustee Mitros thanked Village Manager Bridget Wachtel for her work and presentation. He noted that the Water & Sewer Fund has always been an issue and hopefully with the water meter replacement project it will help reverse that trend. He noted that we are a fortunate community, and that the budget looks good.

Trustee Lofton congratulated Village Manager Bridget Wachtel and the departments for their work and presentation.

Trustee Driscoll thanked Village Manager Bridget Wachtel for her presentation and noted that the numbers were great news. The Board had tough decisions to make years ago, and they made the right decision with the sales tax referendum.

Trustee Daggett echoed what the Board members said and appreciated the work that was put in to coming up with budget numbers.

Trustee Bradley-Scott stated that it was an excellent overview. She stated that she would like the information and good work of the Village, including the record number of grants, to be shared with residents. She inquired about video gaming revenue and where it shows up in the budget.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel answered that video gaming revenue is included with licensing revenue.

Trustee Mustafa agreed with Trustee Bradley-Scott's comments and noted how Village Manager Bridget Wachtel's presentation reflects her experience. Trustee Mustafa requested that information be shared with the community about how the Village is managing the budget and thought that the executive summary should include even more of the Village's achievements.

Citizens Present Wishing to Address the Board:

Mayor Nelson reminded everyone of the Board policy for public comments and that each person is only allowed to speak once during public comment, for a maximum amount of five (5) minutes, and that all

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attendees must act with decorum. There is a total allotted time of thirty (30) minutes for the public comment portion of the agenda.

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.):

Markyshara Poole's comments, in summary, were that she was an eighteen (18) year resident of Flossmoor. She discussed an incident that occurred at her home on February 28, 2023, where an unknown White man approached her property, and she advised him not to step on her property and he blocked her from entering her driveway. Flossmoor Police Officer Freeman arrived after Ms. Poole called the police, and as she was explaining why she called the police, Officer Freeman was talking to her disrespectfully. Ms. Poole filed a detailed complaint based on his unprofessionalism, and she has yet to receive a police report or information about the trespasser. She stated that Black residents are entitled to be respected by police officers and that Flossmoor Police Officers have a negative reputation for their interactions with Black residents.

Mayor Nelson asked Acting Police Chief Taylor if he could follow up on Ms. Poole's issue.

Acting Police Chief Taylor responded that he is already following up on the issue.

Warren Engelberg's comments, in summary, were that he wanted to inform people about the senior freeze exemption on property taxes that residents would have to apply for. He stated that in the Massachusetts area, the Labor Federation voted in January 2023 to condemn the conduct of President Biden's administration when the President mandated the return of railway workers who were on strike or were threatening to go on strike. President Biden's administration threatened to jail people when they had a right to strike. Mr. Engelberg read the resolution out loud, and stated that people need to think about their pensions and the health of said pensions.

Jenny Curtis' comments, in summary, were that it has been one (1) year she had been attending Village Board meetings and her presentation of a petition of names of people who wanted above-ground pools in their Flossmoor yards. She noted previous comments made by Mayor Nelson at a Board meeting and how the Trustees voted with Mayor Nelson's proclamation. Mrs. Curtis' stated that shortly thereafter, Madeline Miller was shot and killed by the Flossmoor Police Department and noted how the way it's been handled was familiar to how the request for above-ground pools was handled. Mrs. Curtis noted that as a concerned resident of Flossmoor, it was an understatement to say that she was disappointed with the Village leadership. She noted that for concerned residents, there's a link on the Village website about the officer involved shooting that hasn't been updated since August 2022. She noted Chief Kamleiter's retirement and how his information is still on the Village's website. She noted how a Black woman in Flossmoor contacted her group after trying to get help from the Flossmoor Police Department. Mrs. Curtis listed complaints about the community forum and the CRC's involvement. She stated that she wanted police accountability by the Village and noted programs and initiatives to prevent police-involved shootings.

*MINUTES OF MAYOR NELSON AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
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VILLAGE HALL / ZOOM MEETING

MARCH 6, 2023

7:30 pm

Mark Kuehner's comments, in summary, were that it's outrageous that no one on the Board has mentioned the murder of Madeline Miller by Flossmoor Police and that the Village Board and CRC won't talk about the murder of Madeline Miller. He noted that the CRC talked about communication and that the Police Chief said that the officers acted correctly. Mr. Kuehner stated that the Flossmoor Police murdered Madeline Miller on purpose and that the Village Board was complicit since they oversee the Flossmoor Police Department. He stated that the Board could fire the officer, but they won't do it. He noted that the Board could put out a statement in their policies about police not murdering residents. He stated that the Board won't take steps to take away the guns of the Flossmoor Police officers. He stated that the Flossmoor Police Officers don't need guns to patrol the community and that the Board could take steps about mental health, outreach to the community, and deal with the bias of the Flossmoor Police Department. He stated that the citizens of Flossmoor know that they have targets on their backs, especially if they are Black women.

Bill Beaulier's comments, in summary, were regarding training for police officers and other initiatives.

Sandy Byron's comments, in summary, were that she's lived in Flossmoor for thirty-seven (37) years and most of the years across the street from Heather Hill school. She stated that she was currently working as a crossing guard at Heather Hill School and noted how Mayor Nelson and Commander Filkins had recently visited her while she was working. She came to the Board meeting to petition for a three (3) way stop at the corner of Lawrence Crescent. She said that ten (10) years ago, she petitioned past Village staff for the same request about the three (3) way stop and was told that no one had been in an accident. Ms. Byron said that someone had been hit previously. She noted that recently on February 7, 2023, a car drove erratically while she was crossing a child through a crosswalk, and she had to sprint to avoid being hit. Ms. Byron noted the car make, license plate, and address of the driver. She invited the Board to visit her on the corner of Lawrence Crescent to see what goes on there. She commended the Village for its work, Trustee Driscoll for his work on analyzing license plate data in regard to Meijer shoppers, and thanked Trustee Bradley-Scott and Village Manager Bridget Wachtel for calling her.

Janice Ginsler's comments in summary, were that she encouraged the Board to use reusable water bottles at the Village Board meetings. She said that racist zoning boards allow refineries to be built in poor communities of color, and the refineries emit toxic chemicals from the water bottle production, and people end up getting cancer like in the St. Joseph Parish of Louisiana.

Casey Kuelto's comments, in summary, were that he was glad that the CRC did what they were asked to do, but they could have done more. He said that more needs to be done and issues need to be addressed, including how the Village will implement CESSA and the communication of the implementation of 988. Mr. Kuelto stated that Flossmoor Police killed a woman, and he thinks that the Board isn't grasping that and that it's going to take more than coffee and donuts with the police. He stated that the Village could fire the officers involved and/ or name them. He noted the incident between Ms. Poole and Officer Freeman and asked whether the officers are vetted. Mr. Kuelto stated that there is an issue because Black women in the community aren't being treated correctly, and the Village needs to look into it. He noted that he's involved in the initiative to stop the industrial development of the Calumet Country Club and wanted Mayor Nelson to make a statement about it like Mayor Hofeld did. He noted that the Village of Flossmoor would definitely be affected by the truck traffic.

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MARCH 6, 2023

7:30 pm

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 #12 – 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 Driscoll stated that on Sunday, March 12, 2022 he would be participating in a fundraiser for St. Baldricks along with the Illinois State Police and his law firm and that people could contact Trustee Driscoll if they wanted to make a donation.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel thanked Sandy Byron for her comments and said that she was sorry, Ms. Byron had faced reckless driving. Wachtel noted that a traffic study has been commissioned on the corner to see if a three (3) way stop is warranted.

Public Works Director Brunke stated that it would be an approximately one-month process for a determination on the stop signs to be made.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel stated that she would follow up with Acting Chief Taylor regarding Ms. Poole's comments.

Village Manager Bridget Wachtel stated that in regard to the CESSA update, there isn't tangible progress to report. The State of IL is working on the implementation, and the Village is tuned in and trying to be influential in the process where they can. The Village has identified one mobile response team that is local to Flossmoor, and the Village is working on having a meeting with them about their services.

Mayor Nelson stated that the Illinois State Police finished their report on Madeline Miller, and that report was turned over to the State's Attorney's Office. The Village is waiting on the State's Attorney's Office report to be completed. The Illinois State Police wouldn't share their report with the Village at this time.

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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 Bradley-Scott, Daggett, Driscoll, Lofton, Mitros and Mustafa.
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
NAYS: None

The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina A. LoGalbo
Gina A. LoGalbo
Village Clerk