

Village of Riverwoods
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 1, 2022

APPROVED

Present:

Kris Ford, Mayor
Michael Clayton (present electronically)
Liliya Dikin
Andrew Eastmond
Michael Haber
Henry Hollander
Rick Jamerson

Also Present:

Bruce Huvard, Village Attorney
Katie Bowne, Deputy Village Clerk
Russ Kraly, Director of Community Services
Carissa Smith, Village Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

Document Approval

Trustee Jamerson moved to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Haber seconded the motion. There was a minor update to the minutes. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Bills

Trustee Jamerson moved to approve the bills. Trustee Haber seconded the motion. There were a couple questions from the Trustees. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Clayton, Dikin, Eastmond, Haber, Hollander, Jamerson (6)

NAYS: None (0)

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report

Village Attorney Report

Mr. Huvard spoke with Thorntons about the transformer as ComEd said they will not get a transformer until the property is ready. Trustee Jamerson noted Thorntons took the Riverwoods sign down during construction.

Engineer's Report

Ms. Smith received a price for milling the Deerfield Road path. The cost will be \$3500. A contract for approval will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Plan Commission Report

Ch. Breitkopf reported the Plan Commission will meet on November 10, 2022 to continue the hearing on the Lexington Homes project. The hearing's focus will be on the buffer between the Federal Life property and Meadowlake.

Trustee Dikin has been monitoring the social media site NextDoor. Residents would like more information about the potential Federal Life property development. Trustee Dikin asked if the Village could post information on the website. Mr. Huvard will work with Katie Bowne to have the documents posted before the next Plan Commission meeting.

Christy Sherman, Meadowlake resident, asked if they would be talking about stormwater at the upcoming hearing. Mr. Huvard explained the Village is generating discussion points based on the Lexington materials received. Based on the comments and concerns about the buffer as well as conditions for granting a special use ordinance, the Village decided to discuss the buffer at the 11/10/22 meeting. Ch. Breitkopf noted if more information comes in, the Plan Commission will discuss it.

Larry Robbins, Meadowlake resident, believes what is on NextDoor is just a fraction of the angst people are feeling. It is a quality of life issue for those who live in Meadowlake. Mr. Robbins urged the Plan Commission and Trustees to look for another type of development.

ZBA Report

Ch. Graditor reported the ZBA has not met.

Police Report

The police activity is attached to the end of the minutes. Mayor Ford noted the insurance renewal is coming up and the Village has received good news regarding our cyber security insurance. She thanked Officer Tyunaitis for passing out candy to Thorngate trick-or-treaters.

Information Items from the President

Mayor Ford thanked Deputy Clerk Bowne and Village staff for their hard work on the Halloween event.

Visitors wishing to address the Board

Ms. Sherman invited the Trustees to tour Meadowlake. Some people in the Village believe the lakes are retention ponds; however, the lakes and ecosystem are owned and maintained by Meadowlake residents. People cannot swim in retention ponds. In 2004, Lake County performed a study that reviewed the lakes and aquatic ecosystem. Ms. Sherman wants to ensure the Trustees have the ability to walk the

property. Trustee Eastmond will work with Ms. Sherman to coordinate a tour. Trustee Hollander asked if the Lexington development would affect the lakes. Ms. Sherman explained it affects the forestry and wildlife. She noted the residents also maintain the shore life as it is a living ecosystem. Ms. Sherman expressed concern about new residents with children that will want to swim in the lakes as it is a safety issue.

David Oler expressed concern about the trust between the residents and the elected officials. Several years ago, Board meetings were packed with residents concerned about having a 24-hour gas station and McDonald's next to the nursing home. Residents were concerned about traffic and quality of life. The Village purchased the property and residents thought it would be open space. Instead, a large storage facility was built. People live in Riverwoods because of the attractiveness and nature preservation. Building more than 60 townhomes will affect the serenity of the neighborhood. Many trees will come down. Utilities will have to be added. Riverwoods has an architectural heritage with beautiful homes on a minimum of one acre lots. The proposed high-density, three-story townhomes will set a precedent that the zoning codes are no longer needed. The proposed development will affect the home values. Homes are a major investment and source of joy. Mr. Oler asked the Trustees to respect the residents and their investment in Riverwoods as well as uphold the Village codes and standards.

Sheryl Rue-Borden noted the meetings are not being streamed live. Many residents are snowbirds and others are concerned about Covid. She believes the meetings need to be streamed live for transparency. Trustee Dikin is working on streaming the meetings live.

Mike Marshall asked about extending water connection to residents on wells. He asked if the well survey report could be available for review. Mayor Ford noted the information on individual wells is confidential and only summary information is available. Ten wells were tested in various areas in the Village.

Mr. Marshall asked if a survey would be sent out. Mayor Ford explained a survey will be sent out to determine whether there is interest in connecting to municipal water. She hopes the survey will be available by the end of the month.

Ms. Sherman asked if areas with wells have fire hydrants. Trustee Haber explained if they do not have water mains then they do not have fire hydrants. Trustee Hollander noted some residents have wells but have decided not to connect to municipal water.

Trustee Haber asked Ms. Sherman why only 22 pages of the 2004 Lake County report was distributed. The response was that the last 23 pages have other, non-relevant information to the lake versus retention pond issue.

David Modes asked about the wells that were tested. He noted the press release was vague saying 1/3 of those wells require additional testing. Mr. Modes believes if a neighbor has bacteria issues, he may also have bacteria issues. He asked what type of bacteria was in the wells and if those properties have sewers. Mr. Modes asked about maintaining hydrants if the roads become privately maintained by road SSAs. He questioned spending \$20,000+ when equipment is not readily available. Mayor Ford asked Mr. Modes to send an email with his questions so the Village could properly answer them. Trustee

Hollander noted the well owner is responsible for maintenance of their well and the aquifer is typically not the issue.

New Business

Confirmation and Approval of the Appointment of the Village Ecologist

Mayor Ford noted Steve Zimmerman moved to a new employer and the Village followed him. He will have greater support from his new employer. Trustee Jamerson was assured the price was the same.

Trustee Haber moved to approve the appointment of the Village Ecologist. Trustee Jamerson seconded the motion. The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Clayton, Dikin, Eastmond, Haber, Hollander, Jamerson (6)

NAYS: None (0)

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

Committee Reports

Communications – Trustee Dikin discussed streaming meetings. She provided the website traffic report and the majority of visitors are from the North Shore. Trustee Dikin noted the Village will be launching an electronic newsletter that will be emailed to subscribers on a weekly basis.

Trustee Dikin asked why the entire Village packet is not posted on the Village website. Mayor Ford explained the information changes frequently before the meeting. Ms. Sherman believes understanding what is in the agenda is important. Residents can submit questions ahead of time if they know what will be discussed. She believes this will help the Village be more transparent. Mayor Ford noted the agenda is posted the Friday before the meeting. If the packet is needed, there will have to be a strict deadline for getting information to the Village. Trustee Haber noted Riverwoods is a small Village that does not have the depth of personnel to do those things. The Trustees have been diligent in keeping taxes down and are cautious about spending money. The Village does not have multiple levels of personnel. We are doing the best we can with a small, dedicated staff.

Trustee Dikin would like to work with the Plan Commission on a diagram of the process for projects.

Trustee Jamerson believes live streaming is a good idea, but expressed concern about two-way communication. He does not believe many suburbs allow two-way communication. Ms. Rue-Borden believes if two-way communication is not allowed, residents will have to submit information prior to the meeting. Trustee Haber noted many times, residents submit information to be read into the record at a meeting.

Building and Utilities/Storm Water – Trustee Jamerson noted the construction value is up over the past two years. Last year was mostly commercial and this year is mostly residential. The building report is attached to the minutes.

Woodlands/Ecology – Trustee Eastmond reached out to the Village Forester about tracking oak trees. Other communities are working with the Arboretum and are treating public oak trees. Trustee Eastmond asked if the Village would like to add this to the cost-sharing programs. Trustee Jamerson noted the program is still in its infancy and would like additional information. Trustee Eastmond believes everyone has a different approach on how to treat this.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Jamerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Haber seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on November 15, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Bowne
Deputy Village Clerk

Transcribed by:
Jeri Cotton

Attachment:
Building Report

