



Village of Oak Park

123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
www.oak-park.us

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Monday, September 14, 2020

6:30 PM

Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Abu-Taleb called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. He clarified the meeting is being held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is not prudent to have people present at the Village Board regular meeting location due to public health concerns related to that outbreak.

II. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

Absent: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

III. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining and Pending Litigation

It was moved by Village Trustee Andrews, seconded by Village Trustee Moroney, to enter into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) - approval of executive session minutes; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) - collective bargaining; and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) - litigation. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 6 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

V. Reconvene to Special Remote Meeting (anticipated at 7:30 p.m.) in Council Chambers and Call to Order

The Special Meeting was reconvened at 7:39 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

Absent: 0

VI. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Village Trustee Boutet, seconded by Village Trustee Andrews, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

VIII. Regular Agenda

A. [MOT 20-057](#) Discussion regarding Village Board Goal related to the Role of Village Clerk

Sue Humphreys: Sue Humphreys urged the Village Board to not underestimate the importance of keeping Clerk duties separate and apart from other Village departments, responsibilities, and oversight.

Cate Readling: Cate Readling provided a statement urging the Village Board to maintain the responsibilities and current salary and benefits of the Village Clerk.

Yoko Terretta: Yoko Terretta requested in her statement that the Village Board not further diminish the role, salary or benefits of the Village Clerk.

Lisa Pintado-Vertner: Lisa Pintado-Vertner stated the Clerk is imperative to transparency and accountability in her public comment.

Zachary Jean Paradis: Zachary wrote to express his support for the role of the Clerk as critical for transparency.

Zach Johannesson: Zach stated the Village Clerk is absolutely necessary and to keep the position intact.

David Wick: David Wick urged the Village Board to not reduce the position of the Village Clerk, that it can protect the Village from possible litigation.

Brynne Hovde: Brynne Hovde suggested the discussion to reduce the role of the Village Clerk demonstrates that village leadership is overly focused on consolidating power and discouraging civic participation.

Joan Slanina: Joan shared the opinion that the role of the Village Clerk provides for transparency.

Michael Adams: Michael wrote to state the opinion that the role of the Village Clerk should not be diminished.

Kitty Conklin: Kitty Conklin provided public comment with reasons for supporting the role of the Village Clerk as the resident's number one advocate into village government.

Eric Davis: Eric Davis' statement stated that the Clerk provides critical services, and is an elected and directly accountable public servant.

Christina Loran: Christina stated the Village Clerk is vital to our local democratic process in her public comment to the Village Board.

Sarah Phillips: Sarah Phillips provided a statement that the role of the Village Clerk is important and should not be diminished or reduced further in any capacity.

Marty Bernstein: Marty Bernstein's public comment stated that the Village Clerk role is vital to this village.

Teresa Powell: Teresa Powell wrote to the Village Board on the importance of the role of the Village Clerk and reasons for why it should be supported and appreciated.

Camille Grant: Camille provided an essay on the Importance of the Village Clerk describing the role in the Village Manager form of Government and highlighting the value.

Bruce Cox: Bruce Cox believes the Village Clerk plays a vital role in keeping the Village informed and supports maintaining funding.

Kisa Marx: Kisa provided a statement requesting that the position of the Village Clerk and what it entails remain the same.

Charity Anne Caldwell: Charity wrote of the important role of the Village Clerk and her support for that position to remain independent.

Wendy Daniels: Wendy Daniels does not support reducing the role of the Village Clerk.

Teresa Jurgus: Teresa urged the Village Board to not diminish the role and responsibilities of the position of the Village Clerk.

Natalie LaRocque: Natalie provided a statement expressing her opinion that the role of the Village Clerk is an important role.

Matt Cotten: Matt Cotten provided a statement that the role of the Village Clerk is vital to transparency and accountability.

Anne-Marie Guerrier: Anne-Marie provided a statement to voice the opinion that the Village Clerk is essential to the Village of Oak Park.

Candice Martin: Candice provided a statement to support the position of the Village Clerk.

Jenny Jocks Stelzer: Jenny Jocks Stelzer stated her support for maintaining the current roles, responsibilities, and compensation for the person serving in the Village Clerk role.

Village President Abu-Taleb stated that he does not support diminishing the role of the Village Clerk or the Village Clerk's contact with residents. Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla requested clarification on the statutory role of the Village Clerk and would like to see the office have the authority needed to operate within the statute. Village Trustee Taglia complimented the current function of the Village Clerk's office and appreciates the job of the current Clerk. Village Trustee Andrews appreciates the independence of the Village Clerk and its full-time status. He acknowledged that he shares the desire for technology advancements brought forward by the Village Clerk in previous budget season discussions and would otherwise like to see those advance in the future. Village Trustee Moroney stated he is comfortable with the current duties of the Village Clerk. Village Clerk Scaman responded to questions from Village Trustee Boutet to highlight tasks that are related to transparency and oversight from an independently elected office of village documents and service to residents. Clerk Scaman stated her opinion that there is opportunity to utilize the role of the Village Clerk for improvements in transparency and for increasing trust in government. Village Trustee Buchanan expressed her frustration that the true motivation of this agenda is not known. That if it is to discuss reaching Board goals related to services the Village Clerk provides where is the information to guide that conversation. If the intention is to cut the role or compensation she could recommend other positions at Village Hall for finding savings and not in the Village Clerk's office. Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla shared her support for an open portal for FOIA responses. She agrees with Village Clerk Scaman and Village Trustee Buchanan that there was a lost opportunity to utilize this conversation to work towards improved transparency. Village Trustee Boutet would like to schedule a conversation to more directly address Trustee goals for the Village Clerk's office. Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla and Buchanan agreed. Village Trustee Boutet and Buchanan agreed to work with the Village Clerk to provide suggestions to address Board goals. Members of the Village Board unanimously agreed to leave the current duties of the Village Clerk the same.

IX. Adjourn

It was moved by Village Trustee Taglia, seconded by Village Trustee Andrews to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 P.M. The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Village Clerk Vicki Scaman