

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Held on October 12, 2022

Derrick Blasingame – Chief of Police

Chief Blasingame stated we have a letter from Sharpwatch. It just says, “Chief, I am very impressed with the hiring of the new officers. As we had discussed, you allowing Sharpwatch to show our appreciation by offering all of the police force lunch from Lawrence Fishery for their service.” He went on to say, “We have the gift cards. And I would like to give them to you personally. Please let me know when you are available.” Then he ended it with, “Thank you, Chief, once again, for initiating the Community Engagement Program for our Village. We are extremely impressed with the direction of the present police force. We offer our support for anything we can do to make this community the safest and most livable city in the South Suburban area.” That came from the President of the Sharpwatch, Eugene Broyles.

We also received a letter from Emmaus Church on Western. They gave each officer popcorn. We also have people who have left voicemails expressing their appreciation for the police department and the community engagement. Officers are stopping when they see our residents cutting the grass, or walking their dog. They are stopping and introducing themselves and presenting their cards to the residents, and responding in a timely manner.

The HALO Program is going well. We would like a little more community engagement, but we are working on that. At the present time, the HALO officers are meeting with the Presidents from the Homeowners Associations.

Village President Burke inquired does everybody understand that this doesn't happen everyday where a citizen gives every police officer in our town a \$25.00 Gift Card to go to lunch to one of our newly opened eating establishments? This is a really, really, really big deal. Sharpwatch has always been an organization that kind of really watches what goes on with all the municipalities and governments around here. Historically, we've been under their scrutiny quite a bit. And for the leader of the Sharpwatch which has roughly a thousand people that subscribe to their outlet, come in here and present the Chief with Gift Cards for all of the police officers, and take a picture with him, that's a really, really, big thing. I didn't want to let that get by. You should have taken a few more bows on this. This is a really big deal. The morale in the police department is sky high. The public feels that way about our police department. Unlike some other towns around us right now who have kind of been in the news. We are in the news because of the relationship between our police department under the leadership of Derrick Blasingame and our residents.

I just wanted to again, publicly acknowledge the police department, the Chief, and I think we should all be very, very proud of what the police department has done. Trustee Pennington stated Here, here.