

1 Village President Burke stated that we are recording this meeting. A copy of the completed
2 Minutes will be posted to our website when approved. All votes shall be conducted by roll call
3 and a verbatim record of this meeting shall be made and maintained in accordance with the Open
4 Meetings Act. I, Village President Burke, is physically present at our regular meeting location.
5 Now, let's get started with the meeting. Village President Burke asked the Village Clerk, Drella
6 Savage, to please call the roll.

7
8 Village Clerk Drella Savage proceeded with the roll call. Present were: President Burke, here.
9 Trustee Finley, here; Trustee Matz, present; Trustee Oliver, present; Trustee Pennington, present;
10 Trustee Watkins, here; We have already been informed by email that Trustee Thomas, due to
11 work obligations, would not be present today, that she would be absent from the meeting.
12 Village Administrator Saenz, present; Village Attorney Murphey, no response; She stated that he
13 may be joining us a little later. Chief Morgan, here; Mr. Landini, here; Miss Stine, here; and I
14 believe we have representatives from Baxter & Woodman, and also Mr. Kolb from Operation
15 Recovery joining us tonight. Is that correct?

16
17 Mr. Amann stated that this is Steve Amann with Baxter & Woodman. He stated that Mike Kenny
18 from Baxter & Woodman is also on the call. Mr. Andrew Kolb stated I am with Recovery and
19 Rehabilitation, LLC, and Kelly Mottl as well, here. Village Clerk Drella Savage inquired how do
20 you spell Kelly's last name. Mr. Kolb stated M-O-T-T-L. Village Clerk Drella Savage stated
21 thank you. And I am Drella Savage, the Village Clerk.

22
23 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

24
25 Village President Burke stated that next on the agenda is the approval of the Minutes from
26 December 3rd, 2020, and the Minutes from January 20th, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting.
27 **Motion by Trustee Matz, Second by Trustee Watkins to Dispense with the Reading of the**
28 **Minutes of the December 3rd, 2020, Board Meeting; and the Minutes of the January 20th,**
29 **2021, Board Meeting; and to Approve the Minutes of the December 3rd, 2020, Board**
30 **Meeting, and the Minutes of the January 20th, 2021, Board Meeting as Presented.**

31 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**

32
33 **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

34
35 **February Bills for Approval - \$324,870.43** - Village President Burke stated next on the agenda
36 is the February Bills for approval to the tune of \$324,870.43.

37 **Motion by Trustee Pennington, Second by Trustee Matz to Approve the Bills for February**
38 **2021 in the Amount of \$324,870.43.**

39 **Roll Call: Ayes (5-0) Motion Carried.**

40
41 **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

42
43 **Report of the Village President:**

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45 Village President Burke stated that he doesn't have a report per se. He stated for the record, he
46 would like to make a comment and have the Chief speak up afterwards.

1 Village President Burke stated that it has come to our attention that an article from the Chicago
2 Sun-Times has characterized the Village of Olympia Fields, and one of our gas stations, as
3 unsafe and in need of a private security firm providing security services to protect “women and
4 senior citizens.” The article suggested that Olympia Fields is unsafe. The article suggested that
5 the Speedway is unsafe. We have 21-sworn police officers. And 70% of our General Fund is for
6 our police department. We have the lowest crime rate in the southern suburbs. It is also
7 insinuated in the article that the Olympia Fields Police Department cannot protect its residents.
8 The article potentially erodes confidence in our police department and our standing in the
9 southern suburbs.

10
11 Village President Burke stated so for the record, he has asked the Chief of Police to give the
12 Board and the public an update on these carjacking’s that have occurred in our community. He
13 inquired Scott, could you give us an update on where we are on this?
14

15 Chief Morgan stated sure. Going back into 2020 for the entire year, we only had three
16 carjackings. Two of those carjackings were at a Speedway Station, and one was at a Shell Gas
17 Station. Two of those three occurred in the month of November. And one of them occurred in the
18 month of December. This we all know because the Village sent out an E-alert. We had a
19 carjacking on February 19th in the area of Cumnock in our town. That is the only one that we’ve
20 experienced in the year of 2021.
21

22 Chief Morgan stated that the article that the Village President refers to talks about the City of
23 Chicago. They have had 219 carjackings just in the month of January of this year. We are
24 comparable to all the surrounding communities around us. We are not having a big crime spree
25 in Olympia Fields. It’s unfortunate that these crimes do occur in our town. I assure you that our
26 police department is working very diligently to solve these crimes. Out of the three carjackings
27 that occurred in 2020, we did solve two of those and made arrests on those. Our Detective, Don
28 Dean, has been working very hard on these. Any questions?
29

30 Village President Burke inquired of these carjackings, how many of them were citizens from the
31 Village of Olympia Fields.
32

33 Chief Morgan stated for 2020, he doesn’t believe any were. Obviously, the one this year so far,
34 one.
35

36 Village President Burke inquired were any of the ones that were Village of Olympia Fields that
37 occurred this year that was a resident, was there any females involved in it. Chief Morgan stated
38 that as far as female victims, he believes one of the victims we had at the Shell Gas Station was a
39 female. Everybody else he believes has been a male victim.
40

41 Village President Burke inquired the woman that was carjacked at the Shell at Western, that was
42 not a resident. Chief Morgan stated no, it was not.
43

44 Village President Burke stated that he just wants to go on the record that Olympia Fields is one
45 of the safest communities in the southern suburbs. And we need to be careful about what we say
46 in the public, because it can erode not only our reputation, but it also causes our citizens to
47 potentially have less confidence in our police department. We have an excellent police

1 department. The fact that these crimes for the most part have been solved. They happened except
2 for one outside of what he calls “the box.” Inside of the box which is our town, there has been
3 one situation where there was a carjacking. He would hope that all of us be very careful what we
4 say in the public, be very careful in how we promote our Village. We have a stellar reputation.
5 And we all have a responsibility to ensure that it continues in that vein. So, with that, we are
6 going to move on.

7
8 Trustee Watkins stated that she would like to make a statement. Village President Burke stated
9 certainly, go ahead. Trustee Watkins stated yes, the Operation Safe Pump was something that she
10 brought to the table because of the last incident with our neighbor that was an ex-police officer
11 that was carjacked in his driveway. So, not only did he and other people reach out to me, this is a
12 proactive approach. Trustee Watkins spoke to the Speedway Manager today. The Manager
13 indicated there have been carjackings every other week. That means every other week, not just
14 the few that we’re talking about tonight. So, that’s of concern. Like you mentioned Chief, she
15 was actually carjacked as well. So, this is not about taking an approach of Olympia Fields not
16 being a safe community because we are a safe community, and we want to keep Olympia Fields
17 as a safe community. This is a proactive approach, not a reactive approach. So, when things
18 happen, we have to address them. We can’t run away from them and we can’t shy away from
19 them. So, not only are these people coming to Olympia Fields, but they’re coming to the south
20 suburbs, other municipalities as well. The reason for this, and she did reach out to the police
21 department, and to have additional security pro bono sit and protect our citizens is an added
22 value. Trustee Watkins stated that she is proud of the fact that she brought Operation Safe Pump
23 to Olympia Fields.

24
25 Village President Burke inquired of Trustee Watkins, so you spoke to our police department.
26 Trustee Watkins stated she did. Village President Burke inquired of Trustee Watkins whether or
27 not she talked to the Chief. Trustee Watkins stated that she spoke to the police department.
28 Village President Burke inquired of Trustee Watkins whether or not she talked to the Chief of
29 our police department, or the assistant, or our sergeant. Trustee Watkins stated that she spoke to
30 several people at the police department. They can’t sit there at the gas station all day. This is
31 something that is an added value. This is an umbrella to cover everyone, regardless of if it’s a
32 person that lives in Olympia Fields or not, we are responsible for every business that’s in our
33 community. If they come from Chicago Heights, or if they come from Hazel Crest, or if they
34 even come from Flossmoor, if they’re at our gas station pumping our gas, it’s our responsibility
35 to protect them period.

36
37 Chief Morgan stated that he appreciates everything that Trustee Watkins said. And no, he wasn’t
38 contacted about this. He doesn’t know who was contacted at the police department about this.
39 You are right, everybody whether they are a resident in town, or somebody just driving through,
40 should feel safe in our town.

41
42 Chief Morgan stated that he saw this article today and he contacted Steve White. Unfortunately,
43 he was unable to speak with the Manager there because she had surgery. He will speak to her
44 hopefully, Thursday. The Speedway will be looking into this with you. They have to get their
45 corporate security involved. If this is what they think would help them, that’s a good thing.
46 Otherwise, the police officers do a real good job. They patrol the neighborhood and the
47 businesses to the best that we can.

1 Trustee Watkins stated absolutely. This is not even a question about the Olympia Fields Police
2 Department. She has a very good relationship with the police department. She respects the police
3 department. This has nothing to do with that. This is just another layer of protection for the
4 people that come into our Village. Trustee Watkins stated that she appreciates everything that
5 you do and the entire police department in Olympia Fields. So, this is just added protection. She
6 doesn't see why anybody would turn away added protection.

7
8 Trustee Finley stated that she would like to make a comment. She wanted to take a beat to talk
9 about process. Trustee Finley stated Trustee Watkins, you said you brought it to the table. The
10 Board is the table. And this is the first that she is hearing of it at the table. It sounds as though the
11 Sun-Times heard about it before the table did. It also sounds like the Sun-Times heard about it
12 and this whole program was enacted before any kind of conversation with the police department,
13 or the Chief of the police department anyway. She doesn't know whether or not the Trustee
14 Liaison to the Board for Public Safety knew anything about it. So, bringing it to the table may
15 well be welcome if the table gets an opportunity to hear what the proposal is, and to properly
16 engage it if the table determines it's of use to the Village, and connect in a way that makes it
17 completely supported whatever it might be.

18
19 Trustee Watkins stated well, this was last minute. So, it wasn't something that was planned out
20 for three or four months in advance. It was something that was brought to her attention. The
21 people reached out to her. They didn't reach out to you or anyone else. So, she took the
22 opportunity to make sure that we were at the table. And when we talk about being at the table,
23 there are plenty of things that have been said and have been done that were never, never
24 communicated to everyone on the Board. She just spoke to someone last week from the School
25 District where you have gone over to the School District and done certain things that Trustee
26 Watkins had no idea about. So, we can't talk about bringing things to the table when that doesn't
27 apply to everyone.

28
29 Trustee Finley stated that she will say this last thing and then she will gladly yield. She has not
30 brought any programs to the School Board, or to the Board from the School Board. So, that's a
31 fact of it. The bottom line is, that all of us are out here in our community. We are out here in our
32 community so that our residents can bring things to our attention, and then the assumption from
33 that is that we are, as part of this Board, will then take the voices of our Villagers to the attention
34 of our team, whether they be administrative leaders working, or whether they are the Board. The
35 short of it is, that she believes that a process that will help us all is to use our access to reach out
36 to each other and let us have at least the opportunity to engage in the leadership that we are all
37 going to have to be committed to in order to support this, or something like this.

38
39 Trustee Watkins stated absolutely. And she is glad that Trustee Finley said that, and she is glad
40 that she made that comment. Trustee Watkins stated that she totally agrees with that comment.
41 And we all should be working collectively together to ensure that the residents are safe, to ensure
42 whatever our goals are. We are on equal footing. If something comes to you, and you want to do
43 something, or it's important to your constituents, and it's important to my constituents, then you,
44 as an elected official, have the right to do that. Just like I have the right to do what I did today.

45
46 Trustee Finley stated that she will simply concede the point and let us move on.

1 Village President Burke stated let's move on. He just wants to get on the record about the
2 number of carjackings, because it's floating around that it's this huge number. And the number
3 of carjackings that we've had is in line. None is what we should have, but having to say that
4 we've had a ton of these things, we just have got to be careful how we say, and what we talk
5 about from that standpoint.

6
7 Trustee Watkins stated according to the gas station there has been a carjacking every other week
8 for the last six or seven months. She stated so every other week, whether it's two a month or not,
9 that is significant and that needs to be addressed. We can't downplay the numbers.

10
11 Village President Burke stated that he is going by what has been coming from our Police Chief.
12 He said there has been four in the last 12-months. If someone has been getting carjacked at that
13 service station, it has not been reported to our police department, or to our SouthCom so that we
14 have that in there. And a police officer from the Village of Olympia Fields was not dispatched.
15 So, if someone stole his car, he is going to call the police and he is going to get them involved.
16 He also thinks in the case of these cars that were carjacked, how many of them have been
17 recovered, and how many people have been arrested, Chief?

18
19 Chief Morgan stated that with the carjacking's we recovered three of those vehicles. Right now,
20 we have two arrests. Solved two, and have two open. This last one we are still working on right
21 now. We are waiting for DNA.

22
23 Trustee Watkins stated that she also wants to add that the individual that was carjacked at his
24 home was actually with her today. He was very thankful that she was taking a proactive
25 approach to addressing whatever problem. You're making it seem like it's a small problem. But
26 whatever the issue is, you have to be proactive so you can prevent things like this from
27 happening in the future. Her constituent, our neighbor was with her today at the Press
28 Conference.

29
30 Village Clerk Drella Savage stated Mr. President, point of order for the agenda. Thank you.

31
32 Village President Burke stated we will move on. Next on the agenda is a report from Village
33 Administrator Saenz.

34
35 **Report of the Village Administrator:**

36
37 **Administrative Consulting Specialist, LLC – 2021 Contract Renewal – Village**

38 Administrator Saenz stated that the next item we have on the agenda is the Contract Renewal for
39 our grant writer, Administrative Consulting Specialist. We originally entered into an agreement
40 with ACS back in 2017. They were working exclusively with the police department. In 2019 we
41 expanded their contract to include all departments within the Village.

42
43 ACS has been successful in securing numerous grants for us. Most recently, the Powering Safe
44 Communities Grant through Commonwealth Edison that allowed the police department to
45 purchase Speed Limit signs that we can actually move throughout the Village. They are actually
46 mobile. They can be relocated to different areas within the Village. The police department will
47 be working with ACS again this year for that same grant.