

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF MATTESON PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE MATTESON VILLAGE HALL
4900 VILLAGE COMMONS
ON THIS 5th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2006

President Stricker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Clerk Grisco called the roll and the following Trustees answered present:

ROLL CALL

- Emmanuel Imoukhuede
- Allan Johnson
- Carol Marshall
- Nathaniel Motton, Jr.

Trustees Ashmore and Sawyer were absent.

Also present were: Joseph Perozzi, Village Attorney; Lafayette Linear, Village Administrator; Gregory Meyers, Budget Officer; Norm Burnson, Acting Police Chief; Robert Crouch, Director of Human Resources; Greg Bates, Director of Recreation & Programs; Jan Dinnocenzo, Recording Secretary; and the media.

President Stricker read a Proclamation proclaiming September, 2006 as National Save A Life Month.

PRESENTATION

- a) Proclamation – Save-A-Life-Month

Acting Police Chief Burnson introduced Rasheem Beck. Clerk Grisco swore in Rasheem Beck as Police Officer for the Village of Matteson. The President and Board of Trustees congratulated Mr. Beck on his new appointment.

SWEARING IN

- a) Police Officer Rasheem Beck

President Stricker submitted the names of Ann C. Williams and Darrell W. Hill for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE OFFICIALS

- a) Recommendation – Parks & Recreation Commission Appointments

Trustee Marshall moved that the Board approve the appointments as recommended. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

- AYES: (4) Imoukhuede, Johnson, Marshall, and Motton
- NAYS: (0)
- ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (2) Ashmore and Sawyer

Mr. Ricky Marks, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, noted that Mr. Gary Randall recently resigned from the Commission and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Board members extended their condolences to the family of the young man who was recently killed by a hit and run driver on Vollmer Road. Board members also acknowledged the retirement of Officer Allen Romano and thanked him for his 26 years of dedicated service.

Trustee Johnson reported that the regular Plan Commission meeting scheduled for September 7 was cancelled due to lack of agenda; however, there may be a need to hold a special meeting on September 14. He encouraged interested individuals to watch the Village's cable channel and web site for further details.

Trustee Marshall acknowledged and commended the Public Works staff on the excellent job they did in handling the flooding caused by the large amount of rainfall. She also reminded everyone that school has started and urged everyone to use extra caution while driving through school zones.

Trustee Imoukhuede stated that the new Colin Powell Middle School opened and requested that arrangements be made to allow the Village Board to tour the new facility.

President Stricker read a letter received from Mr. Bud Bergren, President & CEO of Bon Ton Stores, Inc. in which he advised of the company's commitment to the Village of Matteson and stated that while they are closing their Carson Pirie Scott store on State Street in Chicago, this action will not have any effect on the Lincoln Mall store. President Stricker suggested that if residents wanted to write a note of thanks and drop it off at the Village Hall, staff would see that they are forwarded to the CEO.

President Stricker addressed the audience and stated that it was his understanding that the majority of those present were concerned with their property tax bills. He referred to a copy of his property tax bill wherein it listed the various agencies being funded by property taxes. He noted that the majority of the taxes are allocated to the various school districts. President Stricker encouraged residents with concerns to contact the Rich Township Assessors Office for assistance on how to file a tax appeal.

Trustee Motton noted that he is also a Board member of School District 159 and stated that the only way to fund education in the State of Illinois is

b) Trustee Committee
Reports

**OPPORTUNITY FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT**

through property taxes. He stated that even though approximately 70% of property taxes are being appropriated to the various school districts, it still is not a sufficient amount to maintain the desired level of services. Trustee Motton noted that property values are directly related to the quality of the schools and urged anyone with questions to attend District 159 School Board meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Colin Powell Middle School.

Village Administrator Lafayette Linear reminded the residents that property taxes are assessed by the Cook County Assessors Office. It is their responsibility to evaluate and assess taxes on property.

Trustee Imoukhuede encouraged residents with concerns to utilize the Rich Township Assessor's Office for assistance in filing an appeal with Cook County.

Mr. Tracey Skinner, 6301 Cornfield Road, stated the following are the main issues that residents in his subdivision have with their property taxes:

- disparity in taxes/lack of uniformity
- education system is rated below average
- taxes misrepresented by builder – builder estimated at 2% of home value and in reality it is 5%

Mr. Skinner stated that the residents are asking the elected officials of the Village to get involved in this matter.

Trustee Marshall reiterated the need for the residents to present their concerns to the Cook County Tax Assessor's Office for resolution.

Board members took exception to the statement that the schools were failing. Trustee Motton urged those residents who are truly concerned about education to run for School Board office.

Board members directed the Village Administrator to look into the matter and prepare a letter to the Cook County Assessor's Office and the Cook County Board of Appeals in order to call their attention to the residents' issues and concerns. Trustee Marshall stated that the Housing and Human Relations Commission will be advised of the matter regarding the lack of accuracy of the "good faith estimates" supplied by the builder.

Budget Officer Greg Meyers stated that it may be beneficial for residents to file their appeal as a group/block.

Mr. Ernest Crosby, 802 Tall Grass Trail, stated it was important to use the language "lack of uniformity" and "over valuation" in the letters to the County addressing the issues as they relate to Gleneagle Trail, Ridgeland

Manor and Newbury Estates.

Mr. Steve Lindsey, 913 Eagle Point Drive, stated his high property tax bill has created a hardship on his family.

Ms. Alesia Hawkins, 1003 Berry Path Trail, stated that several years ago the Village of Dolton had the same issue and took action on behalf of Dolton residents with successful results. The Board requested that the Village Administrator contact the Village of Dolton for more details.

Ms. Rochelle Hambrick, 6308 Pond View Drive, petitioned the Board for help in resolving the high property tax issue.

Ms. Candice Harvey, 1008 Berry Path Trail, stated she received her tax bill just a few days before the due date and felt that she should have been given more notice.

Ms. Hawkins questioned if the Village had some sort of plan in place to accommodate its new growth. It was noted that the Village does have a plan that addresses such issues.

President Stricker presented the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Motton moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Seconded by Trustee Marshall.

AYES: (4) Imoukhuede, Johnson, Marshall and Motton
NAYS: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Ashmore and Sawyer

A. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*

1. Regular Meeting of August 21, 2006

B. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*

1. Salary, Overtime and Accounts Payable

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board of Trustees pass a variance to Section 159.05(A) (76) to allow a 768 square foot detached accessory structure at 4230 West 207th Street, and direct the Village Attorney to prepare an Ordinance. – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*
2. The Board of Trustees adopt the amended Overtime Policy to

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- 1 Regular Meeting of August 21, 2006

B. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Salary, Overtime and Accounts Payable

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of an oversized detached garage variance request for Mr. Roscoe Bunn of 4230 West 207th Street
2. Consideration to Amend Overtime Policy
3. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the

reflect the changes as presented. – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*

3. The Board of Trustees pass an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale by Public Auction of Personal Property owned by the Village of Matteson. – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*
4. The Board of Trustees pass an Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Various Computer Equipment Owned by the Village. – *Approved by Omnibus Vote*

Sale by Public Auction of Personal Property owned by the Village of Matteson

4. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the Disposal of Various Computer Equipment Owned by the Village

9. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA - None

10. ACTIVE AGENDA

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of a reclassification of 4340 West 211th Street (former Builder's Square) from C-4, Highway Commercial, to MSD, Mixed-Use zoning district, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Marshall.

Trustee Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees direct the Village Attorney to prepare an ordinance authorizing the classification of 11.0 acres of incorporated land located at 4340 West 211th Street (former Builder's Square) from C-4, Highway Commercial, to MSD, Mixed-Use zoning district, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Marshall.

AYES: (4) Imoukhuede, Johnson, Marshall and Motton
NAYS: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Ashmore and Sawyer

Mr. Tim Fears, Vice President and General Counsel for Thompson Thrift Management, gave a brief overview of the proposed development, which consists of an L.A. Fitness Center and an enclosed self-storage facility.

B. OTHER BUSINESS – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

In response to comments made earlier in the meeting, Trustee Motton stated that the children in the Matteson School Districts receive an excellent education. He emphasized the need for parents to participate and assist in their children's education.

Trustee Marshall noted that the STAR reporter was absent from that portion of the meeting that dealt with the revitalizing of the old Builders Square building and asked that the reporter speak with the developers for more information in order to put together a story for publication.

Trustee Imoukhuede stated he was very disturbed at the negative comments made regarding Matteson schools and praised the school districts for the

excellent job they are doing.

President Stricker stated that he takes pride in the quality of education in Matteson and emphasized the need for parental support and encouragement. Administrator Linear and Clerk Grisco concurred.

Deputy Police Chief Burnson acknowledged the retirement of Officer Allen Romano and thanked him for his many years of dedicated service to the Department. He also noted that the Police Department is investigating a hit and run accident that occurred on Saturday, September 2, at approximately 3:00/3:30 a.m. wherein a 25 year old Matteson resident was struck and killed while riding his bike along Vollmer Road near Red Barn. He requested that anyone who may have any information relating to this incident, please contact the Police Department at 503-3130.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Marshall moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

AYES: (4) Imoukhuede, Johnson, Marshall and Motton
NAYS: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Ashmore and Sawyer

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Grisco, Village Clerk