



# VILLAGE OF RIVER GROVE, ILLINOIS

2621 Thatcher Avenue, River Grove, Illinois

[www.rivergroveil.gov](http://www.rivergroveil.gov)

## MINUTES

of the Village Board Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees  
held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Publication and Notice.** Notice of tonight's meeting was published in the Tribune Media Group (formerly known as Pioneer Press), Elm Leaves edition, on December 08, 2022, and, notice and the Agenda were posted on the bulletin board of the Village Hall at 2621 Thatcher Avenue, and at the Senior Community Center where the courtroom and board room are housed, at 2601 Thatcher, River Grove, Illinois on September 19, 2023, and posted at the Village website, as well as e-mailed to the Board members and department heads.

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The meeting was called to Order by President Guerin at 6:02 p.m. Guerin led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

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2. **ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE:**

Clerk Manchen was absent; Deputy Clerk Leder took the roll of **board members** as follows:

**Present in Person:** President David B. Guerin and Trustees Lynn M. Bjorvik, Robert C. Thomas, Christopher J. Lilly, and Benjamin E. Ramirez.

**Absent:** Clerk Marjorie A. Manchen and Trustee Lora M. Lantgen.

**Vacancy:** One (1) Trustee position.

A Quorum was declared by Deputy Clerk Leder.

**Dept. Heads / Staff Present in Person:** Village Engineer Mark Lucas; Fire Chief Sean M. Flynn; Police Chief Michael Konwinski; Auxiliary Police Lt Peter Ungaro; Public Works Dir. Brock Leder; and HR/Com. Dir. Shawn Campbell.

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3. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION OR PROCEEDING:** Appointment of Frank J. Obaya to Trustee. President Guerin stated that he has selected Frank Obaya to replace Michele Obaya's vacant trustee position. A **Motion** was then made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Lilly to **approve the appointment of Frank Obaya** to the position of Village Trustee. No questions were posed, and no discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously on a Voice Vote.

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4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President Guerin confirmed that the Board members previously received and reviewed the Minutes listed on tonight's Agenda. A **Motion** was then made by Trustee Thomas, seconded by Trustee Lilly to **approve** the following Minutes and that they be archived accordingly: **Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 07, 2023**. No questions were posed, and no discussion ensued. **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

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5. **CORRESPONDENCE**: None.

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6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**:

- a. **PUBLIC SAFETY**: Trustee Lilly read aloud the “public safety report” dated September 21, 2023, which is copied herein.
  - b. **PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC PROPERTIES**: Trustee Thomas read aloud the report of Public Works Director Brock Leder dated September 21, 2023, which is copied herein.
  - c. **FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**: Trustee Bjorvik read aloud the “Economic & Development Committee Report” dated September 21, 2023 which is copied hereinafter.
  - d. **LICENSE AND ORDINANCE**: Trustee Bjorvik read aloud the “License & Ordinance Committee Report” dated September 21, 2023 which is copied herein.
  - e. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS**: Trustee Ramirez read aloud his “ITC Committee Report” dated September 21, 2023 which is copied hereinafter.
  - f. **YOUTH & RECREATION**: Trustee Lantgen was absent; no report was submitted.
  - g. **CLERK’S REPORT**: Clerk Manchen was absent; no report was submitted.
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7. **UNFINISHED OR OLD BUSINESS**: None.

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8. **RESOLUTIONS**:

a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-40**. President Guerin called Resolution 2023-R-40. Deputy Clerk Leder read aloud the title or description of Resolution 2023-R-40 as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-40**. A Resolution Approving the Professional Services Proposal of DAE Group, Inc. for the Preparation of Architectural and Structural Engineering Drawings for the Construction and Permits Required for the Renovation of the Village Firehouse (\$42,000.00).

- President Guerin asked for a Motion. A **Motion** was made by Trustee Lilly, seconded by Trustee Ramirez to **adopt Resolution 2023-R-40** as presented.
- Guerin summarized this Resolution for all present.
- There were no questions or comments. No further discussion ensued.
- Guerin asked Deputy Clerk Leder to take the Board’s vote; the roll call vote was taken by Leder as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: Trustees Bjorvik, Thomas, Lilly, and Ramirez.**

**Nays: None.**

**Abstentions: None.**

**Absent: Trustee Lantgen.**

**Motion Carried by a count of 4 “aye” votes to 0 “nay,” 0 abstain, and 1 absent.**

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9. **ORDINANCES:**

a. **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20.** President Guerin called Ordinance 2023-20.

Deputy Clerk Leder read aloud the title or description of Ordinance 2023-20 as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20.** An Ordinance Creating A Veterans’ Memorial Commission.

- President Guerin summarized the Ordinance, including the memorial and the commission that will be created. Village Attorney Smith asked that everyone review the Ordinance that he sent.
  - Guerin then stated that this Ordinance is not ready for Board consideration and recommended tabling it until it is ready to be acted upon.
  - Guerin then asked for a Motion. A **Motion** was made by Trustee Lilly, seconded by Trustee Bjorvik to **table Ordinance 2023-20**.
  - There were no questions or comments. No further discussion ensued.
  - **Motion carried** unanimously on a voice vote.
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b. **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21.** President Guerin called Ordinance 2023-21.

Deputy Clerk Leder read aloud the title or description of Ordinance 2023-21 as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21.** An Ordinance Granting a Map Amendment pursuant to the Report and Recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals in Case No. 2023-ZBA-03 [8301 West Grand Avenue Amended to the Government/Education District from the C-1 Mixed-Use Storefront Commercial District (PINs 12-26-410-007-0000, 12-26-410-008-0000 and 12-26-410-034-0000)]

- President Guerin asked for a Motion. A **Motion** was made by Trustee Bjorvik, seconded by Trustee Ramirez to **adopt Ordinance 2023-21** as presented.
- Guerin summarized this Ordinance for all present, and stated that this relates to the re-zoning of the former Ada’s property, for the library board’s intention to expand the space for a new library. Guerin introduced ZBA Chair, Linda Snyder who was present.
- There were no questions or comments. No further discussion ensued.
- Guerin asked Deputy Clerk Leder to take the Board’s vote; the roll call vote was taken by Leder as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Trustees Bjorvik, Thomas, Lilly, and Ramirez.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstentions:** None.

**Absent:** Trustee Lantgen.

**Motion Carried by a count of 4 “aye” votes to 0 “nay,” 0 abstain, and 1 absent.**

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10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**PAYING VILLAGE’S BILLS.** A **Motion** was made by Trustee Bjorvik, seconded by Trustee Lilly, **to authorize payment of all bills** in accordance with the list of warrants, dated **September 21, 2023** when funds are available, and vouchers are properly endorsed. No further discussion ensued. **Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

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11. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** None.

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12. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Resident Dan Altobello asked about reducing Grand Avenue from 2 lanes each direction to 1 lane, and stated that Fullerton has a lot of traffic also. President Guerin stated that IDOT controls Grand Ave and the number of lanes.

There were no other public comments from the audience, and Communications Director Campbell stated that there were no public comments via e-mail or telephone.

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13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

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14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Board, a Motion was made by Trustee Bjorvik, Seconded by Trustee Lilly, to adjourn this meeting at 6:30 p.m. **Motion carried** unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marjorie A. Manchen, JD, MMC  
Village Clerk, Village of River Grove, Illinois



Public Safety Report¶

September 21, 2023¶

¶

On Monday September 18, 2023, the Pre-trial Fairness Act went into effect.° That Act institutes the practice of cite and release (or catch and release) for law enforcement agencies statewide.° That act will also dramatically change the practice of how police officers handle certain calls for service.¶

¶

Sgt. Conway and Officer Bednar have been, and will continue to, conduct school safety meetings with River Grove area schools.° The chief has attended some of these meetings, and he has also met with area school superintendents and Triton College administrators to establish a mutual understanding of how each entity could be helpful to one-another in the event of an emergency.° Discussions with all stakeholders will continue into October.¶

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Our recent police testing efforts yielded 5 eligible candidates who were placed on the final list.° Our investigators will begin to conduct the background investigations as soon as the personnel files are received.° The chief is hopeful that we will get two police academy seats close to the end of the year.¶

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In the month of August, River Grove Police Officers logged in 136 calls for service.¶

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Respectfully submitted,¶

Christopher J. Lilly¶

Public Safety Trustee¶

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Thursday September 21st, 2023

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**From the Desk of Director Brock Leder**

Sewer, Water Main, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks. River Grove has projects under construction all around town. The 2023 Sidewalk liability project starts October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact the Public Works if the sidewalks in front of your home or apartment are lifting or crumbling to be added to next years list. Call 708-452-7055.

The Village of River Grove has increased our contract with Smithereen pest control, from one day a week to four. This is to help fight the rodent problem throughout River Grove. With the increase in service, we will still need the help from our residence. It is illegal to ground feed in the Village. This contributes to the rodent population. Over flowing garbage cans and standing water on lids as well as bird feeders contributes to the problem. If we can eliminate the water and food source, the rodents will move on and find a new home where they can get one.

**Thank You, Brock Leder**



River Grove Public Works New One Ton Snow Fight Truck Has Arrived and just in time!

Economic & Development  
Committee Report  
September 21, 2023

The committee met on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the following topics

**Belmont Thatcher TIF requested improvements**

We are currently working with the management of the Thatcher Woods Shopping Center and evaluating their very detailed wish list of possible improvements to the property that can be covered by the funds generate by the Belmont/Thatcher TIF. Engineer Mark Lucas will reach out to management of the shopping center to get a final estimate of costs for the potential projects.

The committee will work with Attorney Carmen Forte on the preparation of an RDA Agreement once the information is finalized.

**Fire House Renovation**

The committee reviewed the proposal from the DAE group for structural an engineering drawings for the renovation of the Fire House. This proposal is on the agenda this evening for the board's consideration.

Trustee Ramirez submitted a quote for an updated sound system for our board room which also serves as court room. We are waiting for one additional quote before we are ready to make any recommendation.

Public Works Director Brock Leder proposed the purchase of some additional holiday lights and decorations. We have budgeted for these items, so we all look forward to seeing how Director Leder and his crew will decorate the Village this holiday season.

**Development**

We had an inquiry about the zoning for a property in town

**New Business:**

Discussion was had regarding the rehab of the Police Department shower area or the repurposing of that area for other needs. Engineer Mark Lucas mentioned there may be a DCOE grant available to utilize for his project. More information to come.

Discussion was had regarding expanding our contract agreement for additional services with Smithereen for a period of 3 months in order to aggressively address the rodent issues around the community. Based upon the recommendation of Director Leder and since the funds have been budgeted for, the committee has authorized the additional services.

Submitted By:

Lynn Bjorvik  
Chairperson

**License & Ordinance  
Committee Report  
September 21, 2023**

I met with Building Commissioner Fredrickson on September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of making some changes to our rental inspection ordinance. With a significant increase in the number of rental units in our community, we need to continue to make certain we are effectively using our resources to maintain this program, which has helped to keep the properties in our community safe and up to code since 1997. Commissioner Fredrickson has some great recommendations and we plan to have more details in the near future.

We also discussed the potential need for some additional vehicles and technology all of which will be part of the budget planning for 2024.

Submitted by:

Lynn Bjorvik  
Chairperson



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September 21, 2023¶

Village of River Grove ITC Committee Report¶

Prepared by: Ben Ramirez¶

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I have been invited to attend and speak at the Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new early education classrooms and library and the new outdoor learning space at Rhodes School tomorrow afternoon, September 22.¶

We have received a 3rd proposal (from Wesco) for upgrade of the audio system in the board meeting room. Will discuss with Finance to move this forward.¶

Met and spoke with Public Works Director B. Leder and decided on a final size of and discussed sites for the location of the first 4 historical marker signs. Trustees and mayor will be sent draft of images and text to be displayed.¶

Wish to remind all that next month the Village will celebrate the 135th anniversary of incorporation on October 6, 2023.¶

Upcoming events¶

Flannel Fest at River Front Park → → → Sept 30¶

Unwined at River Front Park → → → Oct 1¶

Trunk or Treat → → → → Oct 28 → ¶

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