

VILLAGE OF DOLTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:41 p.m.

The following trustees were present: Deborah Denton, Tiffany Henyard, Jason House, Duane Muhammad, Robert E. Pierson, Jr., and Valeria Stubbs.

Also present: Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan, Village Attorney John Murphey and Village Engineer Ron Smith.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER Prayer was led by Trustee Henyard.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

A. Approval of the Minutes

Village Clerk Mary Kay Duggan asked for a motion to approve the following minutes, individually or together:

November 6, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
November 15, 2017 Special Board Meeting
November 20, 2017 Regular Board Meeting
November 30, 2017 Special Board Meeting
December 4, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES above.

Motion by Trustee Denton. Second by Trustee Pierson.

There being no objection upon Trustee Muhammad's observation, the amount of the sale of the Dorchester was corrected from \$2,600.00 to \$2,600,000.00.

Motion by Trustee House. Second by Trustee Pierson.

ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 15, 20, 30, 2017;
AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2017 AS CORRECTED:

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

B. Communications – None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Village Engineer Ron Smith announced that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will be coming conducting its inspection of the village's complete water system within the next 30 days. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) also requires an annual water rates and usage report which is due January 8th.

PACE will begin installation this spring of a new bus shelter on the southwest corner of Sibley Blvd. and Chicago Rd. It is still in negotiation with the owner of the former CVS property to install a shelter on the property at the northeast corner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Services – Trustee Muhammad

Trustee Muhammad introduced Mr. Muhammad of New Republic Financial Services to be located at 15008 Woodlawn Ave. Mr. Muhammad announced that New Republic was hiring. For further information, residents may call 773-273-8955.

In response to Mayor Rogers' question, Mr. Muhammad said that he is in the process of leasing the property and then will apply for a business license from the village.

Planning – Trustee Henyard

Trustee Henyard announced that there are food baskets remaining from Thornton Township's holiday giveaway. Residents may call Trustee Henyard at 708-297-6859.

Housing Director Denise Fields reports that the housing department processed 462 transactions for December, 2017, with total revenue of \$45,971.25

Trustee Henyard further announced that she is hiring at her new *Good Burger* locations at South Suburban College and Prairie State College.

Departmental Operations – Trustee Stubbs

Trustee Muhammad announced the payment center report: \$545,706.43 water and \$113,678.30 other for a total of \$659,584.73. Bills outstanding for more than 180 days = \$1,649,037.99.

Public Works: No report. Residents are asked to report water main breaks to public works at 708-201-3280.

Police and Fire – Trustee Pierson

Chief Robert M. Collins, Jr. reports that the Dolton Police Department responded to 2,000 calls for service in December, 2017.

Chief Brandon Dyer reports that the Dolton Fire Department has responded to 4,489 incidents and calls for service through December, 2017.

Finance – Trustee Muhammad

Finance Director Yvonne Redmond reports that the FY2017 is complete and that the village has received its second unqualified opinion.

Special Events – Trustee Henyard

Trustee Stubbs announced that the trustees are sponsoring a free breakfast for residents in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, at the Dorchester on January 15th from 9-12. RSVP 708-888-0344.

CORPORATE BILLS

MOTION TO APPROVE CORPORATE PAYMENTS in the amount of 600,631.95, Gross Payroll in the amount of \$328,970.42; Melanie Fitness Center Payments in the amount of \$11,296.63, Gross Payroll in the amount of \$2,560.88; for Total Corporate Payments of \$943,459.88.

Motion by Trustee Muhammad. Second by Trustee Pierson.

Trustees Henyard and House asked that payment of \$30,000 to Grasso Bass PC be removed from the warrant list. Mayor Rogers said that when Attorney Anthony Bass presented his plan to rehabilitate and sell homes in the village, he said that there would be no charge to the village for the acquisition of the properties. Instead, the village has been billed \$5,000 per house. At Mayor Rogers' request, the media director played the relevant segment from the village board meeting. Trustee Stubbs said that the segment was from Mr. Bass' presentation on behalf of BP Capital, not the "Invest in Dolton" program.

Mayor Rogers read his written veto message to the board of trustees dated January 2, 2018:

"I hereby veto Ordinance No. 17-048, "An Ordinance Establishing 'Invest in Dolton . . .'"

In my view, this Ordinance will result in huge expenditures for costs and legal fees with no return on this investment to the citizens of Dolton.

I respectfully request that the Village Board uphold my veto."

Mayor Rogers said that in addition to the village being billed, residents were promised they could obtain the homes for \$5,000, but it was later presented that residents were required to qualify for \$40,000 in financing. He added that once the village takes title to these homes, it is responsible and liable for the properties.

Trustee Stubbs said that \$2,500 of the \$5,000 billed is for filing fees. She added that residents had the opportunity to learn about the program at the community meeting held at New Zion Church.

In response to Mayor Rogers' question, the village attorney responded that filing fees are not anywhere near \$2,500, and suggested that in 2018 the village will see more of the private market coming in.

Village Attorney Murphey reminded the board that because it approved this ordinance at a special meeting four days before the next regular board meeting, the first opportunity by state law was to veto the ordinance at the following regular board meeting this evening. The board would be putting itself at risk to approve the expenditure without a valid ordinance.

Trustee Henyard stated for the record that the trustees control the purse. She said she was told that the village does not have the funds to pay this bill. She does not understand why this was included in the warrant list. She added that "we can't even pay our water bills and other bills that don't get included in this list. So therefore I will say no to paying the \$30,000.00."

MOTION TO AMEND TO REMOVE PAYMENT OF \$30,000 to GRASSO BASS P.C.

Motion by Trustee House. Second by Trustee Henyard. There being no further discussion:

ROLL CALL

AYES: 3 Denton, Henyard, House,
NAYS: 3 Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

There being a tie vote: Mayor Rogers voted AYE. Motion passed.

MOTION TO APPROVE CORPORATE BILLS AS AMENDED.

Motion by Trustee Muhammad. Second by Trustee Stubbs.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status of Ordinance No. 17-048 "Invest in Dolton..."
Addressed under Corporate Bills above.
- B. Hiring of Police Officers (4)

MOTION TO HIRE TWO (2) FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICERS.

Motion by Trustees Pierson. Second by Trustee Stubbs. Discussion followed.

Trustee Henyard said that for the record this is a prime example of why she objected to paying \$30,000 for houses when the board cannot afford to hire the four police officers requested.

Mayor Rogers noted that at one time the police department had 66 police officers. Chief Collins confirmed that the department currently has 41 officers. Mayor Rogers said that whatever money the village has should be used to hire first responders.

Trustee Pierson said that housing is a big issue just like crime is a big issue. Investors who are buying the properties put in renters and forget about the upkeep of the property. The "Invest in Dolton" program is designed for homeowners, who set down roots.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

A. Purchase of Police Vehicles (2)

Trustee Pierson suggested referring this item to committee. Mayor Rogers said that the village has recently received \$25,000 in payout for the K-9 unit vehicle and an additional \$8-9,000 for another vehicle. Both vehicles were "totaled." Chief Collins added that there was no fault by the officers driving. Mayor Rogers suggested the purchase of one vehicle with upgrades for K-9 purposes.

MOTION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) K-9 POLICE VEHICLE.

Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee House.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

B. Hiring of Fire Inspector

Trustee Pierson said that the village needs an inspector at annual business renewal. Mayor Rogers recommended inspections on a calendar basis and staggered throughout the year. Trustee Pierson said that if the inspections were staggered he would support the hire. In response to Trustee Henyard's question, Chief Dyer responded that currently needed inspections are performed when there is minimum staffing; if not, they are paid at overtime.

MOTION TO APPROVE HIRING OF PART-TIME FIRE INSPECTOR AT \$50/HOUR.

Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

C. Purchase of Vehicle for Fire Chief

MOTION TO TABLE.

Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

D. Status of Hiring Water Meter Readers

Mayor Rogers reported that there is one part-time reader in training. In response to Trustee Muhammad's question, Mayor Rogers said that he did not recall discussion on part-time readers using their own vehicles.

E. Status of Hiring Village Administrator

In response to Trustee Muhammad's question, Mayor Rogers said that former administrator Urban was paid \$100,000 per year while the average salary for qualified administrators is \$125,000 per year. He has received applications at the \$100,000 maximum salary posted by the village but has not seen a candidate he would appoint.

F. Legislative Counsel

Trustee Pierson asked that this item be referred to the meeting of the Committee of the Whole on January 16. There was no objection.

G. Status of Club One

In response to Trustee Muhammad's question re the status of the continued liquor commission hearing, Mayor Rogers responded that the business remains closed. Village Attorney Murphey said that the building owner is actively seeking to sell.

Trustee Muhammad read and submitted his statement for the record, which is attached and made part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Extension of Homewood Disposal Contact

The village attorney advised that this is very early to renew their contract especially when it ends in midyear of 2019. A vendor contract is usually negotiated mid-year prior to expiration.

MOTION TO EXTEND CONTACT WITH HOMEWOOD DISPOSAL.

Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

The village attorney asked for how many years, and at what rate and interest.

MOTION TO TABLE.

Motion by Trustee Henyard. Second by Trustee House.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 3 Denton, Henyard, House

NAYS: 3 Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

There being a tie vote: Mayor Rogers voted AYE. Motion passed.

B. Trustee Access to the Village Hall

MOTION TO ALLOW TRUSTEES 24 HOURS ACCESS TO THE VILLAGE HALL.

Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

Trustees Pierson and Stubbs spoke of the importance of trustees having a place to meet with constituents and being able to retrieve their mail. Mayor Rogers contrasted the former village hall facilities with offices secured in contrast to the open concept on the first floor of the new village hall. Trustee Stubbs said that is unfortunate that trustees do not have keys but employees do.

Trustee Muhammad pointed out as recent example the email he received from the village clerk re special meetings called by the trustees that no one may be available after 5 p.m. to close the meeting. The village clerk responded that she had advised Trustee Muhammad to make arrangements for closing after hours, and that Ms. Johnson at her request stayed and closed.

Attorney Murphey added that evening meetings may be accommodated. There is a difference between accommodations and 24-hour access.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0
Motion passed.

C. Addition of Melanie Fitness Center to Human Services Committee

Trustee Muhammad explained that the board of trustees had not assigned oversight to a board committee, and recommended oversight to the Human Services Committee. Mayor Rogers objected to assignment of Melanie in light of previous allegations under Trustee Muhammad's watch. Trustee Muhammad responded with allegations against Mayor Roger re Club One. There was discussion deferring this matter to a committee headed by newly elected trustees.

MOTION TO ADD MELANIE FITNESS CENTER TO HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

Motion by Trustee Stubbs. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 3 Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs
NAYS: 3 Denton, Henyard, House
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0
Motion failed.

D. Status of Village Phone Service

Trustee Muhammad said that he had requested this item be placed on the agenda to remind trustees to respond to IT proposal.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Rogers reported that there was a shooting and robbery at the gas station at 142nd and Langley. The 19-year old SSC student and son of the owner, who was filling in for his father, was killed. Mayor Rogers has extended his condolences to the family. There is currently a \$12,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of his killer. Mayor Rogers reminded residents that if they see something, say something. He is considering proposing an ordinance requiring all business to have surveillance cameras and maintain records. Chief Collins added that the family may increase the reward to \$20,000.

Mayor Rogers announced a \$25,000 RainReady grant to resident Kevin Griffin for flooding mitigation. Chief of Staff Elizabeth Scott confirmed that 14 RainReady grants, in conjunction with Neighborhood Housing Services, have been awarded to Dolton residents. This is the most number of grants awarded for any suburb.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Mrs. Crayton, resident, asked about the status of the sale of the Dorchester, who has access to the village hall, and the fence constructed at the water recycling business on Greenwood Rd.

Georgia Williams, resident, directed her comments to Trustee Muhammad, asking why residents would support his taking over the Melanie Fitness Center when he had betrayed the members before. She said she likes Trustee Henyard's suggestion to bring in the new trustees for Melanie oversight.

Resident questioned the recent increase in residential water bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, SALE OF THE MELANIE FITNESS CENTER, DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR WATER.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

The board of trustees entered into Executive Session at 9:23 p.m. and returned at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, on a motion by Trustee House, second by Trustee Henyard, to adjourn the Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mayor Rogers asked for a roll call to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6 Denton, Henyard, House, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs

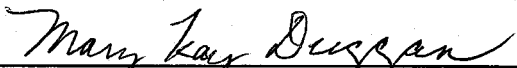
NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

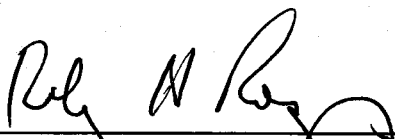
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 5th day of March, 2018.



RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor