

Regular Board Meeting of Trustees  
Monday, March 5, 2018  
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Riley H. Rogers called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order in the New Village Hall at 6:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/  
PRAYER Prayer was led by Elder Edward Crayton.

ROLL CALL 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, Village Engineer Ron Smith and department heads.

A quorum was present.

VILLAGE CLERK REPORT

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Village Clerk requested a motion to approve the following board meeting minutes:

February 7, 2018 Special Board Meeting  
January 16, 2018 Committee of the Whole  
January 2, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Trustee Denton. Second by Trustee Stubbs. There being no discussion:

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

The Village Clerk requested a motion to approve the following board meeting minutes:

October 19, 2017 Special Board Meeting  
October 2, 2017, Regular Board Meeting  
September 18, 2017 Regular Board Meeting  
September 5, 2017 Regular Board Meeting  
August 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting  
August 3, 2017 Special Board Meeting

MOTION by Trustee Denton. Second by Trustee Stubbs. There being no discussion:

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

B. COMMUNICATIONS None.

## ENGINEER'S REPORT

Village Engineer Ron Smith reported on the status of the county's 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the availability of a pavement management grant by the Comprehensive Regional Planning Agency for Metropolitan Chicago (CMAP). Mr. Smith applied for this grant on behalf of the village.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Human Services – Trustee Muhammad

Payment Center Manager Barbara Batton reports that total collections in February for water were \$499,780.59, \$311,855.38 for other collections, for a total of \$811,635.97.

Trustee Muhammad also announced that residents can call in their meter reading.

### Planning – Trustee Henyard

Housing Director Denise Fields reports that the housing department processed 357 transactions in February for total revenue of \$68,450.00.

### Departmental Operations – Trustee Stubbs

Public Works Supt. Matt Stacey reports that Public Works completed 88 projects in February including checking and repairing 37 street lights and repairing 5 water main breaks.

Supt. Matt Stacey reminds residents to put their garbage out the night before pick-up day, along with any other debris.

Residents who see any water coming up from the ground are asked to call Public Works at 708-201-3280 Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or after hours at 708-201-3242.

### Police and Fire – Trustee Pierson

The fire department reports that it has responded to 808 total incidents, including 544 emergency medical services, in January and February.

The police department reports it responded to 1,921 service calls in February.

### Finance – Trustee Muhammad

Finance Manager Yvonne Redmond reports that to date the village has received only 25% of what it expects to receive from first installment property tax bills.

### Special Events – Trustee Henyard

None.

CORPORATE BILLS

MOTION TO APPROVE corporate payments in the amount of \$597,899.82, Gross Payroll in the amount of \$337,517.14; Melanie Fitness Center payments in the amount of \$7,539.52, and Gross Payroll in the amount of \$2,547.19, for total corporate payments of \$945,503.67;

excluding the following payments:

Rosenthal, Murphey & Coblentz (village attorney)	\$6,974.73
Odelson & Sterk (administrative hearing officer)	\$3,718.75
Law Offices of Dennis G. Gianopolus (village prosecutor)	\$4,656.25

Motion by Trustee Muhammad. Second by Trustee Stubbs. Discussion followed:

Trustee Muhammad said that payments to Village Attorney Murphey continue to be under review because of the alleged conflict of interest previously discussed, and the offices of the village hearing officer and prosecutor need also to be reviewed for possible conflicts.

Village Attorney Murphey noted that the police officer alleging conflict of interest against him has been sued five times for police misconduct.

Mayor Rogers reminded the board that Odelson & Sterk had already sent a letter warning that refusing to pay the village attorney will result in a lawsuit. Trustee Muhammad responded that Odelson & Sterk had a conflict of interest. Trustee Muhammad read aloud a recent Daily Southtown article on a court finding of conflict by the village attorney.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 4 Trustees Denton, Muhammad, Pierson, and Stubbs

NAYS: 2 Trustees Henyard, House

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

OLD  
BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 17-048, "Invest in Dolton..."

MOTION TO OVERRIDE MAYORAL VETO OF ORDINANCE NO. 17-048 "Invest in Dolton" and AUTHORIZE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF \$30,000 to GRASSO BASS, LLC.

Motion by Trustee Stubbs. Second by Trustee Muhammad.

MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE.

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 2 Trustees Henyard, House  
NAYS: 4 Trustees Denton, Muhammad, Pierson, and Stubbs  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0  
Motion failed.

Mayor Rogers noted that there are currently 400 vacant homes in Dolton. This program requires the village to pay \$5,000 per house in attorney's fees and costs.

Trustee Stubbs said that putting foreclosed homes on the tax rolls is a positive for Dolton. She objected to the "distorted" video presentation at the last meeting. She added that program costs will be recouped by permit fees, water bills, and no future maintenance costs to the village.

Mayor Rogers asked again how the village profits. In response, Trustee Stubbs said that the mayor has six houses with delinquent taxes.

Mayor Rogers again challenged the payment of \$5,000 in filing costs per property to Grasso Bass.

Trustees Stubbs and Muhammad called the question.

Trustee Henyard stated that she supported "Invest in Dolton" from the beginning because she wanted to give houses back to the residents. Going forward there were some things that needed to be tweaked. She is against payment of the \$30,000 before being further reviewed by her committee.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 4 Trustees Denton, Muhammad, Pierson, Stubbs  
NAYS: 2 Trustees Henyard, House  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0  
Motion passed.

*Mayor Rogers submitted his written vetoes of Items B-E:*

- B. Mayoral Veto  
Ordinance No. 18-001  
Registration of Defaulted Mortgage and Vacant Property

"I hereby veto ordinance No. 18-001.

This Ordinance will not be in the best interest of the Village and will result in unnecessary expense to the taxpayers.

I respectfully request that the Board uphold my veto at the next regular meeting."

- C. Mayoral Veto  
Approval of Agreement Between the Village of Dolton and Property Registration Champions, LLC.

"I hereby veto the action taken by the Board of Trustees authorizing an agreement with Property Registration Champions, LLC.

This is the same agreement rejected by the Board several months ago. This agreement will result in unnecessary expenditures with no benefit to the taxpayers. Given the Village's current financial challenges, the Village cannot afford such an expenditure at this time.

I respectfully request that the Board uphold my veto at the next regular meeting."

D. Mayoral Veto  
Hire of Legislative Counsel

"I hereby veto the action of the Village Board which authorized the hiring of legislative counsel. Given the Village's current financial challenges, the Village cannot afford such an unnecessary expenditure at this time.

I respectfully request that the Board uphold my veto at the next regular meeting."

E. Mayoral Veto  
Resolution No. 18 R-002  
Directing an Investigation and Freeze of the Village Attorney's Fees

"I hereby veto the action taken of the Village Board directing an investigation and freezing payments to the Village Attorney.

The Board is well aware that it has no legal right or authority to refuse to pay the Village Attorney for services provided. I would fully expect and support the attorney filing suit against the trustees to recover his fees. The taxpayers should not have to pay the price for such wasteful expenditures of public money.

I respectfully request that the Board uphold my veto at the next regular meeting."

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 18 R-001  
IDOT Approval of Release of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Funds

MOTION TO APPROVE No.18 R-001.

Motion by Trustee Muhammad. Second by Trustee Pierson. There being no discussion:

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

B. Resolution No. 18 R-003  
Regarding Use of the Village Media Resources and Media Center

Trustee House said that he supports a policy on what elected officials may or may not place on village media.

Trustee Denton read aloud the proposed ordinance.

Trustee Stubbs said that past board meetings were edited and added that trustees have sponsored events that were not shown. Mayor Rogers observed that Trustee Stubbs had asked that the mayor be edited out of the trustees' winter wonderland event, and that editing of board meetings was done when Trustee Muhammad was media director.

Trustee Pierson said that the trustees want access.

Trustee Muhammad said the ordinance is to take politics out of village media.

Mayor Rogers said that the media center is run by the mayor's office.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Muhammad, Pierson, and Stubbs

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 1 Trustee House

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

- C. Ordinance No. 18-002  
Amending Section 1-8-1 of the Dolton Village Code with Respect to the Hiring and Termination of Employees

Trustee Muhammad read aloud the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Rogers noted that the board of trustees had already taken away the mayor's power to hire and fire. The only two employees he recalls hiring without board approval were two requested by Trustee Stubbs.

Trustee Stubbs said the mayor was lying.

Trustee House said he did not want to be involved in the business of hiring and firing

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5 Trustees Denton, Henyard, Muhammad, Pierson, and Stubbs

NAYS: 1

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

- D. Approval of Engagement Letter w/ Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, auditor

MOTION TO APPROVE ENGAGEMENT LETTER.

Motion by Trustee Muhammad. Second by Trustee Pierson. There being no discussion:

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion passed.

CITIZENS  
ADDRESS

Pat Byrd, resident, asked to see Ordinance No. 17-048, and asked Trustee Denton why she voted against sending it to committee. (Trustee Denton responded that the board had been through this before). Resident asked what happened to the village newspaper.

Sandra Wells, resident, said that she was disappointed the board of trustees called a special meeting at 4 p.m. on a Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. She thanked Trustee Henyard for her motion to send Ordinance No. 17-048 to committee for further discussion. She noted that the board has approved several different vacant housing programs. It needs to have a comprehensive strategic plan.

Stephanie Fletcher, resident, said that there need to be debates before the next election. She pointed to the youth center and the circumstances surrounding the departure of the former village administrator as examples where the trustees have not been forthcoming.

Dan Lee, resident, announced that Home Depot was having a hiring event on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The National Urban League is also sponsoring a workshop on how to apply for state jobs. He described this evening's meeting as a "debacle." He said that there needs to be more information conveyed to the public.

Georgia Williams, resident, asked about lighting at the Dolton Public Library. (Mayor Rogers noted that the library is a separate entity from the village.) Resident asked when was the next trustee election, and said that the board should leave its personal bickering "behind the wall."

Pat Byrd, resident, commented on Ordinance No 18-002 re hiring and firing, saying that as an employee, she does not believe the board of trustees will be fair.

A.J. Burse, resident, announced that the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus sponsors \$1,000 scholarships to college sophomores. He asked about the status of any unpaid bills, and any plan for economic development. He added that because of negative publicity and high property taxes no one wants to come to Dolton. He also asked for a list of responsibilities of the mayor's chief of staff.

Adonnis Shaw, resident, said that this board is out of control and that is not the role of the legislature to act as the executive. He noted that the mayor was re-elected and said that the board needs to reach out to the mayor.

Demetrious Walker, Fathers and Blessings, objected to the board's termination of FAB's lawn cutting services. He said that there was no mention at the time of FAB's positive contributions to the village, and that no trustee came to talk to FAB before taking action.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, Mayor Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN. Motion by Trustee Pierson. Second by Trustee House.

ROLL CALL

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


NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

  
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MARY KAY DUGGAN, Village Clerk

APPROVED by the Board of Trustees this 4th day of June, 2018.

  
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RILEY H. ROGERS, Mayor