

**THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2004**

Mayor Calderone led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone answered the Roll Call.

Mayor Calderone stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss new business which is the possibility of reorganizing Village departments.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:
POSSIBILITY OF REORGANIZING
VILLAGE DEPARTMENTS**

Commissioner Gillian motioned and Commissioner Hosty seconded to move into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and to set a price for the sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

**MOTION TO MOVE INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Steinbach stated that she had discussion on the motion and stated, " On the advice of the Attorney General's Office and elected Cook County officials, I would like to read into the record that I believe that the integrity of the Open Meetings Act has been violated by Mayor Calderone, Commissioners Gillian and Hosty, with Village Administrator O'Shea present. The Mayor has called today a special meeting in order to discuss action to be taken by this Council in response to the alarming financial state of our Village. In order to solve this crisis, the Council must take unpopular, but necessary actions that include severe line item budget cuts and layoffs which will impact the delivery of services to Forest Park residents. At 9:30AM yesterday, a Village resident observed these named officials meeting at Al's Grill in Oak Park. This is clearly during Village Hall business hours. Considering that the above named officials are largely responsible for the present dismal state of our Village's finances, it's reasonable to believe they were meeting to discuss Village matters on today's agenda. Several hours after being notified of my reported allegation of a violation of the Open Meetings Act, Mayor Calderone stated that the meeting was held to discuss an upcoming charitable fundraiser. I suppose that one might be so naïve as to believe that no Village business was discussed, but we have been misled by this group before. In fact, Commissioner Gillian has

**STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER
STEINBACH**

said to me and I quote, 'I've lied to you before, but I'm not lying to you now.' At a minimum, such a meeting shows extremely poor judgment on behalf of these named officials. It is exceptionally arrogant of them to allow Forest Park's highest paid staff person to spend work hours on personal business when we are considering layoffs of Village workers. The residents of Forest Park and our Village employees deserve far better conduct from this Council."

Mayor Calderone questioned how the above statement was thought to be discussion on the motion. Commissioner Steinbach stated that the Council is going into executive session to talk about things she believes have already been discussed. Commissioner Hosty stated that Commissioner Steinbach accused the group of wrongdoing without any proof. Commissioner Steinbach denied the allegation. Mayor Calderone stated that indeed, Commissioner Steinbach made a false accusation and should be censured. Mayor Calderone added that somebody called all these people here to accuse certain Council members without proof and it is disrespectful.

Commissioner Doolin stated that these are serious allegations and asked if a meeting took place. Mayor Calderone agreed that a meeting took place. Commissioner Doolin stated that since a meeting did take place, but there is no resolution as to what was talked about, he would normally make a motion to postpone this meeting until the nature of yesterday's meeting can be investigated. Commissioner Doolin continued by saying that it is his understanding that the Council doesn't have the luxury of postponing this meeting, because of the pressing nature of the topics to be discussed. Commissioner Gillian stated that he was sure that the Attorney General's Office didn't advise Commissioner Steinbach to make an attack on this administration and that her comments should have been limited to questioning whether a public meeting had occurred.

Mayor Calderone stated that a gathering is not a violation of the Open Meeting's Act unless the officials are speaking about Village business and added that today grandstanding is taking place. Mayor Calderone stated that it is not illegal for officials to speak about other things and added that the people who met at yesterday's meeting didn't talk about public business.

ROLL CALL TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 12:10PM

Commissioner Hosty motioned and Commissioner Gillian seconded to end executive session and move into open session.

**CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION
AT 4:55PM**

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Steinbach motioned and Commissioner Hosty seconded to reconvene open session.

**RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION
AT 5:00PM**

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolin motioned and Commissioner Hosty seconded to adopt the Resolution Establishing the Number of Firefighters which Comprise the Fire Department of the Village of Forest Park. Mr. Durkin read the Resolution into the record which directs that the number of firefighters in the Fire Department shall be 17.

**R-9-04
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE
NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS WHICH
COMPRISE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
OF THE VILLAGE OF FOREST
PARK**

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Doolin motioned and Commissioner Steinbach seconded to authorize the administrator to implement the reductions in force as discussed in executive session.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE VILLAGE
ADMINISTRATOR TO IMPLEMENT
THE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE AS
DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin, Steinbach and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Hosty motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Doolin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Calderone adjourned the meeting at 5:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. White
Village Clerk