

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF FOREST PARK, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
HELD ON MONDAY EVENING DECEMBER 18, 2006**

Mayor Calderone led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty, seconded by Commissioner Gillian that the minutes from the Regular Council meeting on November 27, 2006 and the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on December 4, 2006 be approved without reading, as everyone has received copies thereof, and found same to be correct.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Gaetano DiBenedetto and Mr. Robert Marani of La Piazza requested permission to allow valet parking at La Piazza Restaurant on Wednesday through Saturday evenings. Commissioner Hosty requested that the number of parking spaces dedicated to the valet operation be specified. Commissioner Steinbach suggested that the valet off-loading be done in the alley adjacent to the restaurant to avoid traffic issues and not allow double parking of vehicles in the street. Commissioner Hosty suggested a combination by using the alley for off-loading and a designated parking space for pick-up. Commissioner Doolin stated that the Council may be creating a traffic hazard and noted that the valet parking at Francesca's has up to four cars waiting to be parked and suggested that the Village come up with standards for valet parking operations that can be enforced. Commissioner Gillian stated that he likes the idea of using both the alley and a designated number of on-street parking spaces, however suggested that La Piazza is very busy at Holiday time and it would penalize them to make them wait. Mayor Calderone suggested that the Village Council approve the request effective immediately and allow staff feedback and recommendation with regard to traffic, parking spaces, staging area. It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Hosty to accept the request from La Piazza to allow valet parking subject to staff review and recommendation effective immediately.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO ALLOW VALET
PARKING FOR PENDING STAFF
RECOMMENDATION FOR LA PIAZZA:
APPROVED**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The Finance Department and the Department of Health and Safety submitted their November reports.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Gillian that the Resolution providing for the payment of bills be adopted. The Commissioner of Accounts and Finance has reviewed the bills as applicable to each department and found the aggregate amounts to be correct and recommends payment when funds are available. The bills totaled \$1,023,727.93.

**R-60-06
RESOLUTION FOR THE
APPROVAL OF BILLS IN
THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,023,727.93
APPROVED**

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty
and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: Commissioners Doolin and Steinbach

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Hosty to authorize the Village Administrator to negotiate for the acquisition of certain real property located on North Circle Avenue west of the Green Line CTA Station and at 1000 Beloit, in Forest Park, Cook County, Illinois. Commissioner Doolin asked whether it would be possible to divide the motion by property. Village Attorney, Michael Durkin, advised that if Commissioner Gillian withdraws his motion, then the two properties could be addressed separately.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR
ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTY AT CIRCLE &
HARLEM AND 1000
BELOIT:
WITHDRAWN**

Commissioner Gillian stated that he would like to withdraw the above motion.

It was moved by Commissioner Doolin to divide the motion regarding the acquisition of 1000 Beloit and the Circle and Harlem property. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

**MOTION TO DIVIDE
PROPERTIES IN THE
ABOVE MOTION:
FAILED**

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR
ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTY AT CIRCLE
AND HARLEM:
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Hosty to authorize the Village Administrator to negotiate for the acquisition of certain real property located on North Circle Avenue west of the Green Line CTA Station in Forest Park, Cook County, Illinois. Commissioner Steinbach asked whether this is a buildable lot, noted that the lot is pie-shaped and questioned whether the Village would be able to create 64 legal spaces according to the code. In addition, Commissioner Steinbach asked whether an appraisal has been completed. Mayor Calderone stated that an appraisal has been completed. Commissioner Steinbach asked what the cost would be to acquire, demo, and build the parking spaces and how many parking spaces would be possible. Mayor Calderone stated that the cost can't be known until it is negotiated. Commissioner Steinbach reiterated that we have an appraisal, and asked why we don't need an ordinance. Mayor Calderone explained that an ordinance is not necessary to negotiate the acquisition of a property when eminent domain is not intended to be used. Once there is a negotiated agreement, an ordinance will be brought before the Village Council for action. Mayor Calderone further stated that the issue being voted on tonight is whether it is the will of the council for the Village Administrator to begin negotiating for the purchase of the property. Mayor Calderone continued that the owner of the property wants to develop his property across the street and use the subject property to meet his parking requirement across the street. The question is whether the Village Council is willing to give up the potential for continued commuter parking. If so, the developer could use this property to meet his development's parking requirements. Commissioner Steinbach asked what the cost will be. Mayor Calderone stated that the cost will not be known tonight. Commissioner Gillian stated that is important to realize that the council is asked only to authorize the Village Administrator to move in that direction. The final price is not known and the issue will come back before the Village Council once the information is gathered. Commissioner Gillian expressed his opinion that there is no harm in moving forward, collecting the information and negotiating a deal. Mayor Calderone stated that if the Village Council gives authority to start negotiating a price and we came to an agreement, it will come back to the Village Council to grant authority to purchase the property.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty, Doolin
and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: Commissioner Steinbach

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR
ACQUISITION OF
PROPERTY AT 1000
BELOIT:
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Hosty to authorize the Village Administrator to negotiate for the acquisition of certain real property located at 1000 Beloit, Forest Park, Cook County, Illinois. Commissioner Doolin asked whether the intended use for this property is a Police Sub-Station as outlined in the memo. Mayor Calderone stated that he envisions several goals; 1. to eliminate a blighted property that has been in poor condition for at least 10 years; 2. to take a proactive stance by purchasing the property and make a serious statement by redeveloping the property; 3. a Police Sub-Station that is not typically manned 8 hours per day, but used periodically by officers for writing reports and for in-field work, showing a police presence in this area of town. The building could be used beyond that for a possible Community Resource Center with integration with the Fire Department, Clerk's Office, and other departments. Commissioner Doolin stated that unlike the green line property, this property is for sale and no property can transfer without a Village inspection. The code could be enforced at that time. Commissioner Doolin further stated that he did not think the purchase of this property was justified to eliminate the blight and create a sub-station. He further stated that in his opinion it would take serious funding to create the sub station and did not feel that was justified for the type of crime in this neighborhood and the staffing required. Commissioner Doolin continued to state that the maximum cost would be \$375,000 because the property is currently on the market for \$375,000 and asked whether the property has been inspected inside by the building department. Mayor Calderone stated that the property has not been inspected inside yet because they are looking for direction from the Village Council as to whether they are interested in pursuing the property. Mayor Calderone further stated that the property currently has a legal non-conforming use with 5 units. The property would be required to come up to code, however the non-conforming use would be allowed to continue should the property be sold to another private party. Mayor Calderone stated that he brought the idea before the staff and suggested that the property may not be fixed up for up to a year, however it is on the open market right now. The south side of Forest Park could benefit from the Village purchasing this property. Mayor Calderone suggested that the Village purchase the property. Commissioner Doolin stated that he is concerned with the crime associated with this property, and the Village's commitment to address crime south of the Expressway. Enforcement would require manpower. Commissioner Doolin also expressed his concern that the Village is investing in a property with no plan and suggested it would make more sense to spend \$475,000 hiring more patrol officers than acquiring this property. Commissioner Doolin then suggested that we knock down the building to create more parking since that is another issue. Commissioner Doolin then questioned

what kind of resource would a 600 or 700 square foot space be. Finally, he stated that he is not ready to commit to spending \$300,000 to \$700,000. Commissioner Gillian stated that this would be authorization to begin negotiating an agreement. The Police concept is still evolving. He further stated that he has no doubt that having police officers use that facility on a haphazard basis for reports is a crime deterrent. When school starts and lets out, the police presence will keep the neighborhood quieter. The businesses in the community love it when a police officer happens to walk into their establishment. That deters crime. Developing this property into a Police Sub-station would potentially mitigate some crime and disorderliness, and is not a veiled attempt at curbing crime. Opportunities are available for a Resource Center such as blood pressure readings by the Fire Department from time to time. Commissioner Gillian stated that the reality is that this property has been in tough shape for a long time. The Village tried to force the owners to clean it up to no avail. This is an opportunity to create something good and Commissioner Gillian expressed that he is in favor of it. Commissioner Steinbach stated that it is a wonderful idea to put a Community Resource Center there but it reminds her of the property at 400 Beloit that the Village bought but did not do anything with because they did not have the money or the property at Randolph and Circle. The proposed property is in deplorable condition and must be brought up to code. Commissioner Steinbach asked what the cost, timetable and proposed funding would be. She further expressed her opinion that buying the property just to have is not a prudent way to go. Commissioner Doolin stated that the mall offered free space to the police department 4 or 5 years ago and the Village passed. Mayor Calderone stated that he was not aware of that. Commissioner Doolin stated that squad cars are the equivalent of a sub-station and that the officers can do their reports in the squad car. If the officers are inside writing reports, then they cannot be patrolling the streets. Commissioner Doolin suggested talking to the Forest Park Mall or the Park District to obtain free space for a police sub-station. Commissioner Doolin stated that there is no solid justification and stated that we could use the funds to purchase parcels to solve actual rather than perceived problems.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty
and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: Commissioners Doolin and Steinbach

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

**TRIAD APPRECIATION
AWARDS PRESENTED TO
MS. HOPE SIMON AND MR.
ISAAC BEAL**

Police Chief Jim Ryan introduced Mr. Kevin Kelly of the Cook County Sheriff's office who presented TRIAD awards to Senior Citizen Volunteers Hope Simon and Isaac Beal in appreciation of their commitment to the Neighborhood Watch program in Forest Park. Chief Ryan stated that these people are seniors who really impact the community through the Neighborhood Watch program. They go to the problem areas, really care, and watch over the community. In addition, Chief Ryan recognized Sergeant Steve Zanoni for his efforts in coordinating the Neighborhood Watch program. Chief Ryan thanked Ms. Hope Simon and Mr. Isaac Beal for their help and volunteerism with the Police Department. Mayor Calderone stated that the Neighborhood Watch group is a dedicated group that donates a lot of volunteer time and suggested that the group may be able to use the 1000 Beloit property for meetings or staff the sub-station with volunteer man-hours. Mayor Calderone expressed gratitude to Ms. Simon and Mr. Beal and stated that they truly do make a difference.

It was moved by Commissioner Steinbach and seconded by Commissioner Hosty to approve the low bid of CDC Enterprises for the SCADA System Improvements, pursuant to Section 1-8A-5 of the Code of the Village of Forest Park, and to waive any irregularities contained in the low bid by CDC Enterprises, and to award the contract for the SCADA System Improvements to CDC Enterprises in an amount not to exceed \$98,690.00.

**APPROVAL AND AWARD
OF SCADA SYSTEM
CONTRACT TO CDC
ENTERPRISES NOT TO
EXCEED \$98,690.00:
APPROVED**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Steinbach to extend contract number V69DP-5767 between the Village of Forest Park and the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide fire protection services et al. to Edward J. Hines Jr. Hospital, on the same terms and conditions as set forth in said contract, for a one month period, to expire on January 21, 2007 and for successive thirty (30) day periods thereafter, until notice of termination is provided by either the Village or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**MOTION TO EXTEND FIRE
PROTECTION AGREEMENT
WITH DEPT. OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS:
APPROVED**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Gillian to direct the Village Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to select a candidate from the current eligibility list for the position of sergeant. Commissioner Doolin asked whether the Village is required to follow the ordinance as to the number of officers. Village Attorney Durkin stated that the ordinance can be periodically amended if it is not correct, however this is not a violation. Commissioner Doolin stated that the number of Lieutenants should be 3 and we have 4 and the number of Sergeants is 7 and we have seven. Mayor Calderone stated that we are down one sergeant. Mr. Durkin stated that a sergeant has applied for a disability pension and the vacancy will exist upon granting. The sergeant is not going to return to duty. Commissioner Doolin asked whether the sergeant could withdraw the application at any time. Mr. Durkin stated that is correct and if that occurs and the sergeant comes back to work, than the Chief of Police would either furlough the sergeant being promoted to fill the vacancy or we would have an extra sergeant. Commissioner Doolin stated that the memo refers to an alleged injury and asked whether the sergeant has an injury or not. Mayor Calderone stated that is not the issue before the Village Council at this time. The issue is whether to direct the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to appoint a sergeant. Commissioner Doolin stated that he is not clear why this action is being voted on when it is not final and asked why they would create a promotion that may not be necessary. Mayor Calderone stated that even if the sergeant withdrew the pension application, this person will no longer work here because they have reached maximum medical improvement and have exhausted PEDA benefits. Commissioner Doolin asked who verified the MMI status. Village Clerk Moritz stated that we have received notice of MMI status from both the Village doctor (Dr. Rinella) and the work comp carrier's doctor. Commissioner Doolin asked what the gray area is with regard to this person's disability. Mr. Durkin stated that MMI is the doctor's opinion that the individual will not get better. Withdrawal of the pension application would be a voluntary action on the sergeant's part and we do not anticipate that the sergeant will withdraw the application. The doctors indicated that the sergeant will not function as a police officer, however because this person is under age 50, they must undergo a medical examination annually to prove that they are still disabled. Commissioner Doolin asked for a time frame for the pension board's decision. Mr. Durkin stated that the application is pending the Pension Board's required 3 doctor's examinations. This can take several months and depending on what the doctors say, the pension can go back to the date of application. Commissioner Doolin stated that the Ordinance authorizes 3 lieutenants and 7 sergeants and asked why

**MOTION TO DIRECT
BOARD OF FIRE AND
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
TO SELECT A CANDIDATE
FOR THE POSITION OF
SERGEANT:
APPROVED**

we wouldn't revert one lieutenant back to sergeant. Mayor Calderone responded that we are not taking action on the lieutenant's position at this time; however that is a valid point. Mayor Calderone continued that maybe the Village Council should adjust the ordinance to reflect the correct number of lieutenants in the future. Commissioner Doolin expressed his opinion that the police department is top heavy with 4 lieutenants, 7 sergeants, a deputy chief and a chief for a 38 man department and requested that the department be restructured to the current ordinance. Mayor Calderone stated that the department has been short two sergeants for about 15 months and the Village is paying the price in overtime. Commissioner Steinbach asked whether the sergeant is still an employee. Mr. Durkin stated that yes she is, but is not able to work as a police sergeant. The only way to terminate her would be to bring charges for the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to terminate her. Mayor Calderone stated that as of January 1, 2007 this sergeant is a non-paid employee. Commissioner Steinbach asked why the effective date requested is January 8, 2007. Chief Ryan stated that January 8 coincides with the two officers who are scheduled to begin the police academy and that the sergeant is typically sworn in at the Village Council Meeting, which is on January 8. Commissioner Steinbach suggested that the Village get the ordinance in line for the January 8, 2007 Council Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Steinbach to direct the Village Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to appoint one (1) candidate from its current Police Officer Eligibility List, such employment to be effective January 8, 2007, to fill a vacancy.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Gillian that the Resolution authorizing the waiver of the hiring freeze for IMRF employees regarding the hiring of a dispatcher be adopted. Mayor Calderone stated that, as promised, the Village Council is being asked to waive

**MOTION TO DIRECT
BOARD OF FIRE AND
POLICE COMMISSIONERS
TO APPOINT ONE POLICE
OFFICER:
APPROVED**

**R-61-06
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING WAIVER OF
HIRING FREEZE RE:
HIRING OF A DISPATCHER:**

the IMRF hiring freeze prior to hiring a new employee. Commissioner Steinbach stated that it is interesting that a transfer is not subject to the hiring freeze and further stated that she did not think that the transfer was in the spirit or intent of the ordinance passed previously. Commissioner Steinbach further stated that the Village Council should have been consulted when filling the police parking records clerk position because it is possible that we may not have needed to fill that position. Mayor Calderone stated that the Village did seek a legal opinion that the ordinance did not contemplate Village Council approval for transfers. He further stated that the spirit of the hiring freeze was to take a close look at replacement of any employee taking advantage of the Early Retirement Incentive through IMRF, but that was not what the ordinance said. The goal was to eliminate or reduce wages for retiring positions because the Early Retirement Incentive costs the Village money. The person who was replaced as parking clerk did not take early retirement. Commissioner Steinbach stated that naturally we need to replace our dispatchers for public safety, however perhaps we did not need to fill the parking clerk position. Commissioner Doolin stated his opinion that there was no justification in allowing the transfer and that the Village Council should be given a chance to see what positions are necessary before they are filled. Mayor Calderone reiterated that the hiring freeze was instituted in connection with the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive so that retiring positions would not automatically be filled without analyzing the needs of each department looking to replace retirees. Commissioner Doolin stated that he voted no to the hiring freeze and that stated that all positions should be analyzed and be voted on by the Village Council. Mayor Calderone stated that Commissioner Doolin's statement sounds good, however that is not the case and the hiring of a dispatcher is the issue before the Village Council at this time. Village Attorney Durkin stated that the dispatcher position was not created by an early retirement, however the Village needs to waive the hiring freeze because you are adding a new body to the work force. The vacancy created by a lateral transfer does not add a new body to the work force and would be allowed without Village Council Action. The lateral transfer did not add burden to the Village's obligations to IMRF. Mr. Durkin further stated that the Council could vote no and ask the Chief to move the records clerk back to the dispatcher position.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Gillian, Hosty
and Mayor Calderone

NAYS: Commissioners Doolin and Steinbach

ABSENT: None

The motion carried.

APPROVED

**R-62-06
RESOLUTION APPROVING
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
AGREEMENT WITH
AFSCME LOCAL 3026:
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Steinbach and seconded by Commissioner Hosty that the resolution approving a collective bargaining agreement between the Village of Forest Park and the AFSCME Local 3026 be adopted.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION AUTHORIZING
PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH
CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE
ENGINEERING, LTD RE:
LATHROP AVENUE
SURFACING PROJECT:
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Doolin to authorize and approve execution of that certain Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation, between Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. as Consultant (Engineer) and the Village of Forest Park, regarding the Lathrop Avenue Surfacing Project, as described in said Agreement, and hereby authorize and direct the Mayor and Village Clerk to execute and attest, respectively, said Agreement. Commissioner Steinbach asked why Forest Park is now the lead agency. Village Administrator Sturino stated that River Forest would have used a different engineering firm and we are more comfortable with CBBEL and River Forest has no objection to that.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION AUTHORIZING
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT WITH RIVER
FOREST AND THE STATE
OF ILLINOIS FOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO
LATHROP AVENUE:
APPROVED**

It was moved by Commissioner Hosty and seconded by Commissioner Doolin to authorize and approve the execution of that certain Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Forest Park, the Village of River Forest and the State of Illinois for the improvements to Lathrop Avenue from Madison Street to Lake Street, and hereby authorize and direct the Mayor and Village Clerk to execute and attest, respectively, said Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Steinbach asked why Design Engineering is not included in the costs that River Forest agreed to reimburse Forest Park. Mr. Sturino stated that is a scrivener's error and River Forest is responsible for design and construction engineering. Commissioner Steinbach stated that the agreement could be void if FHWA does not approve. Mr. Sturino stated that is boilerplate language and the project is funded. Commissioner Steinbach expressed her concern that the Village of Forest Park could be responsible for \$345,000 and asked for reassurance that construction would not start

until we are sure that we have the funding. Mr. Durkin stated that this is boilerplate language to be sure that all parties agree to the work before approval.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Gillian and seconded by Commissioner Doolin that the proclamation designating December, 2006 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month be adopted.

**PROCLAMATION
DESIGNATING DECEMBER,
2006 AS NATIONAL DRUNK
AND DRUGGED DRIVING
PREVENTION MONTH:
APPROVED**

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Michael J. Sturino stated that a deadline has been imposed regarding a Public Smoking Ban by Cook County. At least one public hearing will be held by the Village before March. Village Staff will assemble data and background information and hear from Residents and Business owners to be presented to the Village Council.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Calderone declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Moritz
Village Clerk