

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK
HELD ON October 8, 2024, 8:00 P.M.

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Shawn Staples, Police Chief; Mr. Ed Stewart, Director Recreational Services; Mr. Michael Cramer, Director Public Works; Mr. Travis Bandstra, Director Community Development; Mr. Tim Lapp, Village Attorney; Mr. John Hilsen, Village Engineer; Ms. Pat Mahon, Deputy Village Administrator; Mr. J Wynsma, Village Administrator; Mr. Dillion Herman, Village Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Brian Kolosh, Fire Chief; Ms. Julia Huisman, Public Relations and Marketing Manager; Mr. Will Neibert, Assistant to Village Administrator

President De Graff called the meeting to order, and Clerk Penman called the roll.

Present: Trustees Larry De Young, Vickie Perkins, Cindy Nysten and John Russell

Absent with Notice: Trustees Andrew Johnson and Prince Reed

Evangelist Betty Wilson from Breaking Bread Fellowship opened our meeting with a prayer. President De Graff thanked Evangelist Wilson.

Minutes

Trustee Nysten moved that the reading of the **Minutes of the August 19 and September 10, 2024**, meetings be dispensed with, copies thereof having been distributed to each trustee, and the **Minutes** as presented be approved. Trustee Perkins seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Nysten, Perkins, De Young and Russell

Nays: None

Motion carried, approved and so ordered by President Don A. De Graff

Resident Comments

A resident expressed concerns with the increase in the South Holland property tax bills and asked where this Board stood on the matter. President De Graff shared that this has been an ongoing issue. We have had a number of meetings with the Assessor's office and the Board of Review's office. We will continue to have meetings and conversations with our state legislators. Senator Napoleon Harris and several other legislators are potentially proposing some legislation that will hopefully provide some remedial action, which will allow the State to carry out their constitutional requirement of prioritizing and paying the primary portion of public-school funding. We would endorse and support that. Right now, the State pays a very low percentage. We are also in a number of discussions regarding the way that our property taxes are equated. We think that the way Cook County Property Taxes are currently evaluated is antiquated. We are at the mercy of what the State of Illinois must do in reference to changing the education funding formula. We are in the process of working with them to try to make that happen, as well as eliminating the over reliance on property taxes for funding public education. The resident asked whether the Village could open businesses to generate funds to aid South Holland residents in paying property taxes. President De Graff explained that we are not chartered to be a for-profit business. We are chartered to be a municipality. There are different ways a municipality, local government, state or federal government and even county government can potentially contribute to the reduction of taxes. We have looked at that in the past and will be happy to continue looking at those ways. The bottom line of what we provide, as a municipality is public safety, public works and infrastructure. There is a lot of product that comes out of what we get, which is roughly 18% of your tax bill and we believe we have been good stewards of those funds. A for-profit business might be difficult for us to do. That is not our primary function. Our attorney can speak to the legality of that, but it is not what we are chartered to do as a municipality. This is not just a South Holland problem and the only way this is going to get remedied is through the General Assembly. In response to the resident regarding the South Holland annual budget, President De Graff shared that the annual budget was about \$65,000,000.

A resident asked whether the Village is talking with businesses to get a replacement for Walt's. President De Graff shared that we had conversations with Walt's long before they decided to close, and we are having conversations with potential suitors. With it being a major corner in the Village we are very interested and concerned with the replacement. We believe there is an opportunity for continued success. The resident asked whether residents had the option to express what businesses they would like to see, as they did in the past. President De Graff said yes and encouraged her to share her thoughts with Travis Bandstra or Jarell Blakey.

A resident expressed an ongoing concern with girls from Thornwood H.S. coming into Thornwood Estates doing the school day. He is concerned that they are smoking dope in Thorndale Park. President De Graff shared that we have met with the school leadership about his concerns and will continue to do so. He also shared that the students are free to move around. We need to be clear on what we can and cannot do, therefore Chief Staples will meet with him after this meeting to discuss what can be done regarding illegal activities.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Hilsen had no report this evening.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Lapp presented a **Consent Agenda** containing seven items:

- a. Resolution Authorizing ComEd Green Region Grant for a Stream Bank Naturalization Project
- b. Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 1490-1500 East 162nd Street
- c. Resolution Authorizing Phase II of Water Meter Replacement Agreement with Core & Main LP
- d. Ordinance 2024-39: Regulating Public Camping within Corporate Boundaries
- e. Ordinance 2024-44: Amending Chapter 10, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic"
- f. Intergovernmental Agreement between E-Com and Individual Members for Motorola Radios Purchase
- g. Class 8 Support Resolution – 16545 State St – State Street Repair

President De Graff asked the Trustees if there were any items, they wish to have removed from the Consent Agenda, if not, is there a motion to approve. Trustee Russell moved to approve the **Consent Agenda** as presented. Trustee Nylen seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Russell, Nylen, De Young and Perkins

Nays: None

Motion carried, approved and so ordered by President Don A. De Graff

Community Development

Trustee DeYoung shared that we had 190 building permits last month, with a total valuation of \$3,347,000. Among the permits issued, one was to Joe Blandford for a \$265,000 new building on Rte.6. Most of the permits were for roofing and solar projects.

Parks and Recreation

Trustee Perkins shared that our **7th annual Breast Cancer Walk and Drive** will take place on Saturday October 12th at Veterans Park beginning at 9am. Join us for our annual walk and driving caravan to recognize our breast cancer survivors! There will be raffles and awards given for the best decorated vehicles.

Join us for our annual **Harvest Fest** which will take place at the Community Center on Thursday October 24th at 6pm for children 3 to 12 years of age. The evening will feature a costume judging contest, arts and crafts, pumpkin decorating, games and candy bags. Pre-registration is required as spaces are limited. The Harvest Fest is for South Holland residents only.

Community Life

Trustee Nylen shared that the **South Holland Master Chorale** is kicking off its 2024-25 season this Sunday, October 13 with a concert at Christ Our Savior Parish at 4pm. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. All concert attendees are invited to a reception following the concert, where refreshments will be served.

The South Holland Master Chorale and the Grande Prairie Choral Arts singers unite in celebration of **World Singing Day 2024**. Each year on the 3rd Saturday in October, people all over the world gather in groups of all sizes within their communities to sing and celebrate our common humanity. On World Sing Day, the South Holland Master Chorale and the Grande Prairie Singers unite for a sing-along with conductor, author, composer and song-leader Nick Page. People of all ages, backgrounds, and singing abilities can join in the fun on World Singing Day. The South Holland Master Chorale is inviting everyone to join them on World Sing Day, Saturday, October 19, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Calvary United Protestant Church, 425 N. Orchard Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466.

Trustee Nylen also shared a letter of thanks from the South Holland Master Chorale, expressing their appreciation for their partnership with the Village of South Holland. The letter stated that our financial support makes it possible for their organization to exist and to help make the community a better place to live by allowing them to produce quality live performances.

President DeGraff shared that more information would be coming at a later date regarding an invitation to the Master Chorale to perform at Carnegie Hall. We are very proud of our Master Chorale.

Finance

Trustee Russell moved for **Approval of payments of vouchers as listed on Registers Nos. 180, 181, 182 and 183 for a total of \$4,289,742.92** covering day-to-day operations, vendor payments and payroll. Trustee De Young seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Ayes: Trustees Russell, De Young, Perkins and Nylen

Nays: None

Motion carried, approved and so ordered by President Don A. De Graff

Public Safety

In Trustee Johnson's absence, Trustee Nylen shared that the Police Department is pleased to announce that Christmas Bingo is around the corner. This will be our 4th annual Christmas Bingo event. The event will

be held on Friday, December 13th from 11am – 2 pm at the Community Center. Registrants must be South Holland residents 55 years and older. Once the registration link is launched, you will be able to register through EventBrite. We invite our senior citizen residents to come out and join us for games, food, fun and prizes.

Public Works

In Trustee Reed's absence, Trustee Perkins shared that Airy's Construction has begun implementing the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. We have replaced 11 full services, five partial lead service lines, and 22 new Sensus water meters.

In preparation for the winter season, the Public Works Department will wrap up the collection of branches and specials on October 31st. We will also close all public bathrooms at Veterans Memorial Park, Maicach Park, Paarlberg Park, and Gouwen's Park and winterize the facilities. All park lights have been adjusted for daylight savings time.

The Public Works Department is also preparing our vehicles for winter, including the Calcium Chloride Anti-Icing Spray system. This will be our third year utilizing the system to pretreat our critical roads, intersections, and bridges with Calcium Chloride before each storm.

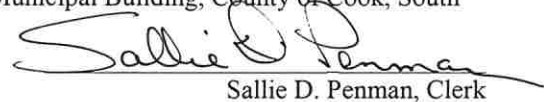
We are pleased to share that a disaster declaration has been made for the severe storms that occurred July 13-16. We encourage all South Holland residents who have been impacted by the storms to file for disaster assistance through FEMA. You can do so online at DisasterAssistance.gov. The deadline to register is November 19.

In the aftermath of hurricane Helene and the impending hurricane Milton, President De Graff asked that we continue to pray for a deceleration of hurricane Milton and for the safety and protection of those in Milton's path. Also, the disaster created by Helene is something we need to be aware of and concern about. There are so many people hurting right now. We are looking to send a team to help with the relief efforts.

There being no additional business to come before the President and Board of Trustees, Trustee Russell moved that this meeting adjourn. Trustee De Young seconded the motion. Ayes all on the roll. Meeting adjourned. Next regular meeting of the President and the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 8:00 PM, in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, County of Cook, South Holland, Illinois.

Approved by:

President


Sallie D. Penman, Clerk