

**LEAGUE of WOMEN
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**River Forest Village Board of Trustees
April 27, 2009**

Kathy Balk, Observer

Attending: President Frank Paris; Trustees O'Brien, Dillon, Conti, and Hoke; Village Administrator Gutierrez; Village Attorney Malina; Village Clerk Adduci

Also in attendance: Finance Director Soriano; Director of Public Works Kramer; representatives from the police and fire departments; public and press

Absent: Trustees Nummer and Dudek

The meeting began at 7:40 p.m. Village resident, Rex Burdett, posed many questions to the Board about the proposed 2009-10 Budget. Village Administrator Gutierrez and Finance Director Soriano took the better part of an hour attempting to answer all questions. Trustee Hoke made a point of order, claiming that copies of the budget should have been given to the Board members at least 10 days in advance of the public hearing. Both Attorney Malina and Village Administrator Gutierrez disagreed with Trustee Hoke, stating that the tentative Budget was made available in a timely manner. Residents can request a copy of the Budget at Village Hall.

Police Chief Limon honored Michael Swierczynski with the 2008 Officer of the Year Award. Officer Swierczynski has received this honor twice in his 4-1/2 years on the job.

Several residents presented testimony to the Board regarding the need for 4-way stop signs at three intersections in River Forest: Division/Park; Division/Monroe; and Greenfield/Ashland. The intersection by Willard School, Greenfield and Ashland, was described as an "accident waiting to happen," with one resident recalling several "near misses" involving young children trying to cross this particular intersection. A 4-way stop at Division and Monroe would facilitate Roosevelt students coming to school from the north part of town. The request for the stop signs at Division and Park would accommodate emergency vehicles that generally use Park Ave. Incoming Village Trustee and Traffic and Safety Commission member, Mike Gibbs, also reported that adding the stop signs at Greenfield and Ashland is a "no-brainer." The Board passed the proposal for 4-way stops at all three locations, with Trustee O'Brien being the lone "no" vote. Trustee O'Brien claimed more study of traffic patterns is needed. The village staff is to monitor the traffic at the Division intersections to decide if the stop signs are justified.

The Board approved a 2009-10 Budget, but this Budget needed several funding ordinances to be approved to have a balanced budget. The Board lacked the 4 votes necessary to pass the ordinance, which would increase the service fees for collecting garbage and refuse. According to

Trustee Hoke, this fee increase is essentially a non- deductible tax hike. He cast a no vote, which, with Trustees Nummer and Dudek absent, left President Paris casting the deciding vote. After President Paris cast his “no” vote, both Clerk Adduci and Trustee O’Brien asked the President to reconsider his vote to avoid a hole in the budget of approximately \$350,000. The problem of balancing the budget will have to be dealt with by the incoming Board, which will be seated May 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

(online minutes: www.river_forest.us/government/agendas_minutes.php)