

**LEAGUE of WOMEN
VOTERS™ OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST**



**River Forest Village Board of Trustees
August 10, 2009**

Kathy Balk, Observer

Attending: President Rigas, Trustees Dudek, Winikates, Adduci, Conti, Gibbs, Hoke; Village Administrator Gutierrez, Village Attorney Malina, Finance Director Soriano (sitting for the Clerk)

Also Attending: Director of Public Works Kramer, representatives of police and fire departments, Police Chief Limon, Fire Chief Eggert, public and press

Absent: Village Clerk Steinke

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m., many of the people in attendance were there to learn about the recommendations of the Task Force of Flooding and Sewers. Johann Buis, a resident of River Forest and serving on the task force, addressed the Board and strongly encouraged them to keep the Flood and Sewer Task Force as a permanent committee. He pointed out how much still needs to be accomplished and reminded President Rigas of a private conversation the two of them had regarding the recent flood disaster and the importance of addressing the needs of the residents affected by the flood. The Board approved \$24,953 to have the firm, Fluidclarity of Oak Park, study the Lake St. sewer system. Some residents expressed frustration at this, citing that this study would prolong any action being taken, and that the village had already had eleven months to address this problem. Trustee Dudek empathized with the residents, also conceding that progress will be slow, explaining that when working with government entities things generally move slowly.

The Board discussed and voted on various improvements and renovations for the Village Hall. These improvements will be paid for with the TIF (tax increment financing funds). A representative from FGM Architects presented a list of possible improvements, most of which were voted down by the Board. The Board did vote to repair the existing roof rather than replace it, and voted to renovate the Village Hall Community Room, which is used for training purposes and for village board meetings. Trustee Hoke stated, "I don't see how this helps economic development," and he suggested the possibility of the Village looking into a "splash pad" or even a community pool, as River Forest has neither of these to offer to residents or people looking to move into the community.

The discussion of whether there was any conflict of interest on the part of Trustee Adduci in the matter of the village's possible dealing with Redspeed was answered by Village Attorney Malina. Trustee Adduci's husband is a contracted lobbyist for Redspeed, the company that the village considered hiring to install red-light cameras at several intersections. But, Attorney Malina stated that legally there was no conflict of interest, and Trustee Adduci did not need to recuse herself from these proceedings. However, to avoid even the appearance of a conflict, Trustee Adduci sent a letter to

President Rigas explaining that she would be out of the country for the meeting involving Redspeed, and would recuse herself from any action on the Redspeed contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m. to executive session.

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