

**SATURDAY RULES MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF PARK FOREST COOK AND WILL COUNTIES ILLINOIS  
March 7, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt; Trustees Tiffani Graham, Maya Hardy, Glenna Hennessy, Candyce Herron, Theresa Settles, Joseph Woods

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Village Manager Thomas Mick, Director of Finance Mark Pries

Mayor Vanderbilt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called. Mayor Vanderbilt provided the Board with Commission updates (Police/Fire & Senior). Village Manager Thomas Mick reminded the board about the upcoming workshop with strategic planning. He also discussed events scheduled to take place during the upcoming board meeting. The board then opened the floor to the public for questions and comments.

A resident presented her concern with property taxes to the Board. Homes are no longer affordable due to taxes; currently unable to sell her home as a result. She asked that the Board look into ways to put a freeze on property tax increases. Mayor Vanderbilt stated that the Board passed 2 ordinances that will bring revenue in to hopefully offset some taxes. The Board is also aggressively looking for businesses to bring in to offset property taxes.

Recently retired Park Forest Fire Chief Bruce Ziegler came to support the sprinkler system ordinance and asked that the Board maintain it.

A resident asked the Board if anything was being done as it relates to coyotes in the area. There have been coyote sightings throughout Park Forest as well as she hears howling in the forest behind her home. Mayor Vanderbilt urged that if someone comes into contact with a coyote that they should not run but back away slowly and maintain eye contact. Mick noted that last year there was a page in the Discover magazine that provided residents with information on how to handle coyotes; can possibly re-run that page to help continue to get the information out.

The Board was asked if Park Forest plans to take any steps as it relates to the Coronavirus. Mick asked that the public continue to follow the orders of the CDC. Director of Finance Mark Pries suggested linking the CDC information to the Village website.

Mick addressed the rumor that Village Staff said no to Village Hall being an early voting polling location. The information circulating is not true. The decision was made by the Clerk's Office. Trustee Graham reached out to the Clerk's Office and learned that there has been a large turnover in staff. Those who were organizing early voting back in October are no longer there.

Trustee Woods asked that the Village release a brief explanation about early voting and that the Board expects that the Village will be a voting site in November.

Trustee Hardy & Village Manager Mick left at 11:06 am

A resident informed the Board that free tax preparation for seniors is no longer offered in Park Forest at the Rich Township Senior Center.

After all comments and questions were taken from the public by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanna Eaton