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**FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WILMETTE
Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
Mallinckrodt Community Center
1041 Ridge Road, Wilmette, Illinois**

Additional Agenda Material (11/13/2017)

1. Resident Communications

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY AND NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE
IN AND/OR ATTEND A VILLAGE OF WILMETTE PUBLIC MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY THE VILLAGE
MANAGER'S OFFICE AT (847) 853-7509 OR TDD (847) 853-7634 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Board Meeting - thank you
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:23:45 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Katie White <ktwinteriors@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2017 9:45 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Board Meeting - thank you

Dear Mr. Bielinski,

As a 25 year resident of Wilmette, I want to thank you for standing up to the head of the Wilmette Justice Team head, Mr. Jeff Axelrod. How refreshing to see someone stand up to what is really an intimidation campaign. Something that is becoming all too common on today's political stage. I am glad to see that our Wilmette president is not willing to stand down in the face of name calling and lies about what our village stands for. I noticed the gentleman has only lived here 1 1/2 years. I keep wondering why he wants to live here, if he thinks it's such a terrible place. I almost wondered if he moved here purposely to try to turn the village upside down to suit his own visions of what he thinks we should all be. It was nice that you apologized, but I truly feel you were justified in challenging him. Thank you very much for being the voice of wisdom with regard to this topic. By the way, their website says that all the villages voted for this proposal, but conveniently leaving out Glenview and Northbrook. So yes, they are not truthful.

Sincerely,
Katie White
1042 Pontiac Rd.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Cook County Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Ordinances
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:31:02 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Bruce Miller <bruceamiller@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Leonard, Stephen M; Plunkett, Senta; Sullivan, Dan
Cc: Braiman, Michael; Bielinski, Bob; Frenzer, Tim; Molloy, Melinda; Braiman, Michael
Subject: Cook County Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave Ordinances

Trustees Sullivan, Leonard and Plunkett,

As a 40-year resident of the Village, I ask that you please do not recommend adoption of Cook County Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Leave ordinances.

My wife and I have greatly enjoyed living in Wilmette and raising two children here. Each child worked several part-time after-school and weekend jobs in the Village while in high school and summers during college. This experience taught them how to function successfully in a business environment, customer service skills, and how to manage their income. Village employers kept in touch with both children while they were away at school, even sending them treats. I am very concerned that similar personal growth opportunities will not be available to residents' children if the Cook County ordinances are adopted.

Additionally, the Village's finances rely on small businesses. Examples are Alchemy Coffee at 4th and Linden, and Dowize in the Village. Wilmette is fortunate to have non-chain businesses like these, which enrich living here. The ordinances will add to the cost of doing business. For these reasons, please avoid the ordinances.

Thank you,
Bruce Miller
1007 Lake Avenue, Wilmette

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From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Grateful
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:03:21 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Jasmine Hauser <jasmine_hauser@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Grateful

Hi Bob,

I left you a voicemail thanking you for the way you conducted this past Tuesday's Village Board meeting that reviewed and voted on whether to adopt the Cook County minimum wage and sick leave mandates. (Even if it meant leaving my brother in law's birthday BBQ! I had intended to be at the Village Board meeting for only half an hour, but ended up staying for 5 hours because I found it that interesting and vital.)

Thank you also for publicly clarifying procedures and issues. I was especially grateful because it revealed how onerous those mandates would be on our small businesses, and how harmful it would be to local residents and families. It was telling to see the number and kinds of questions from Board members and realize how the ordinance is poorly written and confusing.

Now that the Village is, thankfully, opting out, did I understand correctly that a committee will consider the Cook County ordinance once again and that Tuesday's vote to opt-out was merely a "pause"? If so, can Village residents observe and or participate on that committee when it convenes? What issues will the committee address?

Also, how does an everyday Village resident get to be on one of the committees? I would like to participate in this type of civic engagement.

Thanks much.

Jasmine

Jasmine Velasco Hauser
847.942.3441 (cell)

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Letter From Village President Bob
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:27:07 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Jeremy Feinstein <jeremy@jfein.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Re: Letter From Village President Bob

Hi Bob!

My name is Jeremy Feinstein. I've lived at 407 Wilshire Drive West since 1999.

I wanted to address a clause in the recent edition of The Communicator where you address boycotts: can you delineate how boycotts are an attempt to "chill free speech" (page 2)? If anything I've seen boycotts as nothing more than a *display* of free speech and we should be commending residents who engage in such political activity and practice in support of their first amendment rights!

That being said I'm not associated with any boycotts in Wilmette whatsoever and was simply disturbed by the ill-use of rhetoric (can you acknowledge that this really isn't an attempt to squander free speech?). Additionally, I don't even *know* of any boycotts ongoing in Wilmette. This leads me to my second and last question. With a finance, marketing, management, and engineering background, I was wondering if you can explain the difference between consumer responsibility and boycott? To me, buying at local businesses who are mentioned on an honor roll for treating employees with due respect seems to be more about creating a more responsible consumer base. That being said I do not have a business background.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read through and answer my questions. I think it's very honorable you include a president's letter in The Communicator and can only wish that you perhaps find a more regular medium — recently politicians have taken to Twitter; it might suit you (your last tweet was 2013).

Thanks again,

Jeremy Feinstein

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Minimum Wage
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:27:49 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: tom palmer <tomkpalmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:22 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Minimum Wage

Dear Bob,

I appreciate the thorough explanation of your pov as articulated in the Communicator. And I agree that we must balance the pro's and con's (e.g. including the "economic boundary line" point) on both economic and social terms.

I understand you support a higher minimum wage in principle, and do I. And, yes, it would be lovely if the state would take the lead and make a moot point of our local debates. But not all change comes top-down. Sometimes change comes from the bottom-up (e.g. the state will adopt practices that are clearly favored and/or in place among the majority of local communities).

I support a higher minimum wage in America (although it is a tricky thing to do given the variable cost of living around the country), and I am willing to take the near-term risk in Wilmette. Sure, if other local communities have lower wages then our businesses will have a slight disadvantage in labor costs, but I don't see this as a huge "gamble" (borrowing your term). And in fact I see tremendous value in making Wilmette businesses competitively attractive to both customers and potential employees who care about such things.

But not every decision is 100% economic. Raising our local minimum wage - and especially doing so in a way that promotes the point - demonstrates the values of our community. And one cannot put a price on that. For that reason alone, I would prefer to move forward.

We may agree to disagree in good faith and mutual respect, but I would like to close with one very strong objection to your introductory remarks.

In particular, you said that there are "ongoing attempts to chill free speech". Wow. That is a very serious charge against your fellow community members. You make further reference to "civil discourse" and "mutual respect" implicitly charging those folks with a lack of the same.

If people wish to support -- or not -- specific business because those business owners have demonstrated or even suggested that their values and business practices are not aligned with those customers, then as we used to say in business "welcome to Marketing 101".

As far as I know, nobody is running around town shouting curses and threatening to burn buildings or blockade store fronts. If someone wishes to circulate a list of businesses that follow certain business practices (and by omission those who don't) then that is well within *their* free-speech rights, and I see no reason to suggest that such an actions are anything but civil and respectful.

Personally I don't like the idea of a social litmus test based on a single factor such as minimum wage. A business that discriminates against any class of citizens will not have my support no matter how much they their employees and no matter what good they may do in other ways. And perhaps there is an idea for you here -- rather the pushing back against whatever group raises your hackles then engage them in a discussion of a broader social contract for Wilmette businesses that would do good while avoiding individual "hot potato" subjects.

It is beneath your position as Board President to accuse fellow residents of violating one of our country's most cherished constitutional principles on such a relatively small matter and without due cause. In the future, you would do better to remain positive, emphasize our shared interests, and focus the discussion on the issues as you tried to do with the majority of your article.

Bob, please free to reach out to me if you would like to chat. I want to be respectful of your time and do not expect a reply. You have a busy life and any volunteer earns my thanks and appreciation! That said, I do want to let you know that I would be happy to talk or share a cup of coffee to clarify, debate, brainstorm, etc.

Best wishes,
Tom Palmer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Outburst and Inaccurate Statements by President Bielinski during last village board meeting
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:22:01 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Bielinski, Bob
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 8:35 PM
To: Marty Schwartz
Subject: Re: Outburst and Inaccurate Statements by President Bielinski during last village board meeting

Dear Marty,

Thank you for reaching out to me to express your concern.

You're right, at the last Village Board meeting, I lost my cool. I'm disappointed with myself.

I apologized immediately afterwards in the meeting, and I've also reached out to Mr. Axelrod to apologize to him directly for interrupting him and being combative.

While Mr. Axelrod's comments upset me, I should have waited for him to finish before calmly responding with my point of view. If you're interested, my thoughts on the minimum wage debate are more fully articulated in my letter in the last issue of The Communicator.

I've been a member of the Village Board for over six years, and almost without exception, I have conducted myself in a calm and professional manner. Unfortunately, for several minutes during Tuesday's meeting, I did not live up to that standard.

Best regards,

Bob

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Marty Schwartz <craftman1@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 11:46 AM

To: Bielinski, Bob

Cc: Bielinski, Bob; Dodd, Kathy; Kurzman, Joel; Leonard, Stephen M; Plunkett, Senta; Sullivan, Dan; Wolf, Julie

Subject: Outburst and Inaccurate Statements by President Bielinski during last village board meeting

An open letter to our village trustees.

First I would like to thank our village board for their public service to our community.

My e mail today concerns last weeks meeting where one our concerned community members came before the board to speak on behalf of an issue that they, and others, feel passionate about.

That being the minimum wage proposal that the village opted out of.

I will mention now that I would have liked to see the village opt in.

I also wish to state that I have encouraged my fellow community members to shop Wilmette. I make decisions to spend my \$\$ in our community. I do not, nor those neighbors that I am aware of, boycott any of our businesses, based on how they saw this issue.

This gentleman that spoke before the board, a Wilmette resident, with support from many, many other Wilmette residents, made a statement to the board. Regardless as to how you feel, the conduct by President Bielinski was inappropriate. He came across as a bully. Also, I believe he used his position to state his personal beliefs and commented with inaccurate statements.

I expect that Mr Bielinski, and the rest of the board review the meeting. I am sure that all are embarrassed by this outburst.

A formal apology is certainly in order.

By the way, I voted for Mr Bilienski and hope he acknowledges this mistake and does better in the future.

Marty Schwartz
251 Locust
Wilmette
craftman1@aol.com

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: THANK YOU
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:28:47 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Ron Brzezinski <ronbrz@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 6:52 AM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: THANK YOU

Mr. Bob Bielinski
Village President
Wilmette, Illinois
bielinskib@wilmette.com

Dear Mr. Bielinski

Thank you for your timely message in The Communicator (October 2017) calling attention to the childish behavior of those who are trying to silence free speech and punish people who they do not agree with. We are very saddened (and concerned) to see some of the destructive tactics, occurring in our country and reported with more regularity on the evening news, creeping into our village.

My wife and I moved to Wilmette in 1967 to raise our three children in a wholesome environment. Wilmette is a unique community and has always supported openness in addressing social and political issues. Unfortunately people resorting to harming those who have differing views seldom listen to their well-intended neighbors trying to reason with them. Please continue your public messages regarding these shameful acts. Hopefully Wilmette will not be an embarrassing topic on the six o'clock news.

Thank you again for you brave and well needed comments.

Ron Brzezinski
1817 Walnut Avenue

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Thank You
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:27:29 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: lawler801@aol.com <lawler801@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:39 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Thank You

President Bielinski:

I wanted to write and thank you for your very comprehensive and detailed President's Letter in the October edition of The Communicator. It was extremely well written and informative and explained in detail the correct information surrounding Cook County's ordinances and Wilmette's decision to 'opt out' of Cook County's attempt to establish minimum wage and sick leave laws.

It truly bothers me that there is so much misinformation and mischaracterization of the facts in our community by individuals who disagree with the Board's decision. At best, I believe their attempts are improper and hurtful to many people and businesses in our Village; at worst, these attempts border on fraud by the way these individuals continue to manipulate the facts and either distort, or withhold the facts. In fact, I see a couple of these lawn signs in my neighborhood and often question whether these neighbors truly understand the facts or are just 'going along' because they've been asked to by one of the detractors. In any event, I applaud your letter.

And, know that many in my immediate neighborhood, as well as many close friends throughout our community, feel the same way. So, perhaps my short note is my way of saying thanks for all you do and to 'keep the faith' and remain steadfast not only on these particular ordinances, but many other issues facing our community. While unfortunate, and sad, it seems to me that many individuals in our community, in this time of protest and resistance, feel hell bent on distorting facts for their own personal gain. It's shameful.

It goes without saying that my wife and I wholeheartedly support the position of our Village Board on these ordinances and support Wilmette's decision to opt out of these attempts at overreach by Cook County officials. Thank you again for all your hard work on behalf of our wonderful Village of Wilmette. Your hard work is truly appreciated. As my Dad would often say to me....."hang in there, brighter days are ahead!"

Regards,

Kevin Lawler
530 8th Street
Wilmette, IL 60091

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: The Communicator
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:27:57 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: Tom Grossman <t.grossman@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:54 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob; Dodd, Kathy; Kurzman, Joel; Leonard, Stephen M; Plunkett, Senta; Sullivan, Dan; Wolf, Julie
Subject: The Communicator

Dear Village Board,

During the forty-four years that my family has lived in Wilmette I've assumed that *The Communicator* (and anything else sent by the Village to each residence in the community) was an objective source of information.

No more and no less.

I didn't expect to read the 'President's Letter' in the most recent *Communicator* and find a personal interpretation of the activities and motives of some citizens involved in an ongoing village-wide controversial issue.

The Communicator isn't meant to be like the letters-to-the-editor sections of local newspapers, is it? I hope not – especially since only one person has access to such a public forum.

There needs to be clarification regarding interpreting, critiquing and politicizing in what should be an objective, transparent informational organ.

Are there established principles of objectivity when communicating controversial issues to all Wilmette citizens? If there aren't any does the Board believe that there should be?

I am asking the Board to clarify this for me so that I know what to expect and respect when I read communications from the Village.

Thanking you for your consideration of this matter and awaiting your response, I am

Virginia Grossman
2621 Greenleaf
Wilmette
847-251-2561
t.grossman@comcast.net

From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fw: Your excellent letter
Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017 4:28:24 PM

Bob Bielinski
President, Village of Wilmette
bielinskib@wilmette.com

From: geopaterson@gmail.com <geopaterson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 11:27 PM
To: Bielinski, Bob
Subject: Your excellent letter

Dear President Bielinsky,

I want to say thanks for your excellent letter in the Communicator, which did much to clarify the issues surrounding the minimum wage dispute. As it concerned the business of government, it was an entirely appropriate and helpful use of your space in the Communicator. Those who say otherwise strike me as deeply confused. You have nothing to apologize for, and you have my thanks for addressing these issues clearly and responsibly.

Sincerely,
George Paterson

Sent from my iPad

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From: [Bielinski, Bob](#)
To: [Frenzer, Tim](#); [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Fwd: Let's not use Wilmette Village Resources to monitor minimum wage
Date: Sunday, November 12, 2017 8:31:17 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sylvie Légère <sylvielegere@gmail.com>
Date: November 12, 2017 at 6:12:27 AM CST
To: bielinskib@wilmette.com, doddk@wilmette.com, kurzmanj@wilmette.com,
leonards@wilmette.com, plunketts@wilmette.com, sullivand@wilmette.com,
wolfj@wilmette.com
Subject: Let's not use Wilmette Village Resources to monitor minimum wage

Dear Village Board Members,

I am writing to give you my support from opting out of Cook County minimum wage ordinance. Please don't let yourself be bullied by social justice warriors who are not creating jobs in our community.

This is not the age of slavery. People can choose to not work in Wilmette if they find the wage inadequate. People can negotiate for salaries.

Let's keep jobs at minimum wage open for our teens so they can work in Wilmette. It should be easy for businesses to hire and fire people -- small businesses should not be burden with red tape to be able to hire a teenager that they will have to invest to train. Jobs in minimum wage are not jobs with living wage, they are a step on the ladder to learn the value of work -- to learn to show up, to learn the pride that comes from a job well done and to be paid for it, a minimum wage job proves that you can be trustworthy of a job and then hired to the next one that pays more.

This Wilmette Justice Team is not a legal entity, it is just an exercise in bullying and dividing a community. Ask them questions:

- How many people do you hire?
- Have you ever hired teenagers with no previous experience?
- In Wilmette what are the 3 jobs paid at minimum wage?
- How much do you think that it will cost our Village to monitor minimum wage?

Just say: People are not forced to work here. People are empowered to not work in Wilmette if they can't find jobs that pay at the level that they feel is adequate. Businesses will adjust their salary accordingly to meet what it takes to find workers. Without worker businesses can't function.

Thank you so much for your service to our community.

Sylvie Legere.