

Village of Winthrop Harbor  
President and Board of Trustees Meeting  
**September 3, 2019**  
Village Hall Council Chambers

---

## MINUTES

---

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 PM

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alanna Whitmore

Also present:

Robert Long, Attorney  
Greg Jackson, Village Administrator  
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk  
Pat DiPersio, Community Development Director  
Scott Fuller, Recreation Director  
Joel Brumlik, Police Chief

The Invocation was led by Pastor Tim Bycroft from North Point Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **August 13, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Marabella, McCarthy, Levin, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve the **August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Marabella, McCarthy, Levin, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**

Passed: (0)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

## **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- We are working on a tree ordinance after a discussion with residents and their concerns about the number of trees being removed
- The Mayor, Attorney Long and Greg are meeting with SWALCO and Advanced Disposal about discussions on the landfill expansion
- We will be starting a new credit card acceptance program that will allow us to take credit card payments at the Recreation Department
- Consolidation of copier lease contracts to one vendor and one contract, reducing our costs
- Working on an IT Consortium with other local governments for managed IT services, with the intention of reducing costs
- Alarm monitoring & maintenance consolidation with the intent of maintaining and improving existing equipment capacity with FSS Technologies and Mundelein, with significant savings
- Doing a financial analysis, it was discovered that there was a disparity between cost of services rendered and revenues with regard to the Winthrop Harbor Fire District. We will be re-negotiating the contract and the terms of that contract to increase revenues
- We are completing a Community Attitude and Interest Survey for Parks and Recreation. We are going to send that out to the community to get their input on what they want in regards to the parks

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor said before we go to Mayor's Report, he would like to say something – there's been things on Facebook and Television regarding a property in town. We, as a Village Board, try to get our residents to follow the proper codes. On August 21, 2019, we sent a code violation form out. This violation form has six (6) violations on it. He then read the last violation that read *former* 911 Memorial. We did not think the memorial was still there because it was not visible due to it being covered in weeds. Village Administrator, Greg Jackson, told the Board there were pictures in their packets of the property in question, prior to the violations being sent to the residents at 628 College Avenue. Mr. Jackson had multiple conversations with the media and members of the 911 Fund, wanting to us to explain our position as related to the 911 Memorial. Nowhere has it been said that we wanted to get rid of a 911 Memorial. The compliance with the obsolete signage is what seems to resonate with those on social media. This is only one code violation and it is a Sign Code violation. The letter sent to the property owner, was designed as a tool to promote dialog vs penalty. Greg could not find the memorial, that is why the signage was deemed obsolete. The memorial was surrounded and covered with weeds. No one wants to see the memorial removed. Mr. Jackson welcomes the opportunity to work with Mr. Wood and his family to bring the violations into compliance.

Trustee Hargett – after seeing things online, he tried reaching out to find out what was going on. Trustee Hargett drove past the property and saw that the memorial was overgrown and thought that the 911 memorial had been moved. Government lingo with words like “obsolete”,

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/19

particularly regarding a 911 memorial, or signage for a 911 Memorial, can immediately stir a reaction. Trustee Hargett said he doesn't want to know about violations. The elected body should not be involved in the day to day operations. He doesn't want Pat or any of the staff to wonder if they have to check with him before they write the violations. Sending a letter is a formal way to start a conversation. It's not about fees or fines, it's about working towards compliance.

Trustee Marabella gave a little history on this property. He did not see this on Facebook. We put people in place to take care of things like this. He thinks we have a rationality here, and we are going to do the right thing as a Board. Nobody in their right mind would not want to have a 911 Memorial. He got a phone call, he addressed it, and thinks we are moving in the right direction. As a community we can get through this. Both sides can be right.

Trustee Weiss said, when you get a letter like this, the process should be to talk to the proper authority that sent the letter first without going to social media. This is hurting the community. We never received communication back until now, except on social media.

Trustee Whitmore said she spent her Labor Day weekend fielding harassment emails, texts, phone calls and messages. The Board had nothing to do with the Wood Property violation letter. She is not going to take the heat over something she had no notification of. The word "obsolete" should probably never have been in this letter. Each of the people involved are professional communicators. Why would you choose the word "obsolete"? She was told that the Ordinance wording is in place and if the Board would like to change the language in the code they could, but the staff doesn't have that authority. Trustee Whitmore said, although ordinance violations don't come through the Board, maybe some should.

Trustee McCarthy asked how you would explain why some property violations come before the Board and others do not? He's upset as well but he's not embarrassed by our Village Officials doing their jobs.

Village Administrator, Greg Jackson, said there were 5 other ordinance violations. We did not go there for a 911 Memorial. We looked at the property based on fencing, rubbish and weed violations.

Trustee Weiss said, we wouldn't be here tonight if the owners had contacted Pat DiPersio or Mr. Jackson.

**RESOLUTION 2019-R-18 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Georgeann Groff as Chairperson – Recreation Advisory Board**

**3** - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to approve **Resolution 2019-R-18** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-R-19 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Nicole Moore as a Committee Member – Recreation Advisory Board**

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve **Resolution 2019-R-19** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-R-20 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Julie Kelly as a Committee Member – Recreation Advisory Board**

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2019-R-20** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-R-21 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Margo Nelson – Planning and Zoning Board Member**

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Resolution 2019-R-21** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-O-17 An Ordinance Amending Sections C7 and E10 of the Wage Policy Ordinance**

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and Seconded by Trustee Whitmore to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2019-O-17** and approve as submitted. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**Request Approval to Enter into a Contract with FSS Technologies for Both the Connection of Three (3) Winthrop Harbor Village Fire Alarm Panels to the Mundelein Dispatch Center and a Maintenance and Service Agreement for all Three (3) Panels/Locations**

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve **the Request to Enter into a Contract with FSS Technologies for Both the Connection of Three (3) Winthrop Harbor Village Fire Alarm Panels to the Mundelein Dispatch Center and a Maintenance and Service Agreement for all Three (3) Panels/Locations** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

None Reported

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Accounts Payable Warrant**

9 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2019-8** in the amount of **\$109,888.25**. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-R-22 A Resolution for Approval of Vehicle Lease for Three (3) Vehicles, Approved in FY 19/20 Budget with Tax Exempt Leasing**

10 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Resolution 2019-R-22** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**Renewal of Annual Contract with Winthrop Harbor Lions Club**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/19

**11** - A motion was made by Trustee Whitmore and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve the **Renewal of the Annual Contract with Winthrop Harbor Lions Club** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**A Request to Add a New Fitness Class for Youth, Ages 4-12**

**12** - A motion was made by Trustee Whitmore and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve the **Request to Add a New Fitness Class for Youth, Ages 4-12** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**  
**Absent: (0)**  
**Passed: (0)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Rich Coombe -2120 11<sup>th</sup> St. – The Memorial is very special to me. I would like to see it, with your permission, moved out to 38 Acres, with the rest of the Veteran Memorial.

Jillian Hinton – 2505 9<sup>th</sup> Street – Is am a Gold Star Wife (surviving family members of the fallen). Social Media is a way the public stays informed. Ms. Hinton said she called the news not the home owners. She asked the Board if the violations were taken care of and the property was kept up to code, would the Memorial Stay? She was told by the Board “yes”. She visits the Memorial so that makes it not obsolete.

Leigh Gardella-Wood – 628 College – Owner of the school, church and parsonage house. She gives 110% to this Village. A knock on the door would have been great. The wording on the violation letter was horrible. The obsolete signage must be removed. Signage, not weeds, not grass in front of it, must be removed, referring to the Spring Bluff School and 911 Memorial signs. She’s upset that she called the Village Trustees and they knew nothing about it, except for Trustee Hargett, who wanted to meet next week.

Marty Butler – 2808 13<sup>th</sup> Street – She addressed 2 items from the minutes of August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The first is, Mr. Jackson’s Village Administrator’s Report that said he had met with the officials of Buffalo Grove, relative to drawing an analysis on wage and compensation. Why would you draw analysis data from Buffalo Grove, which has no correlation with this Village? Mr. Jackson told her he pulled his data from a variety of Villages. He wouldn’t necessarily to use that data, but may use it as a high-end benchmark. We also use it for job descriptions. When we do comparisons, we’re going to do comparisons of private sector market place. What an employee makes in total compensation, including insurance, pension, etc. We need to aggregate a bunch of data from various sources. Buffalo Grove is not the only one. The second issue is, there was an Eagle Scout Candidate that approached the Board to get an authorization for his service project. An Eagle Scout is not an Eagle Scout until he has performed an Eagle Scout Project, has

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/19

undergone a board of review and has taken an Eagle Charge and then is awarded the Eagle rank. At that point he can be called an Eagle Scout. Prior to that he is an Eagle Scout Candidate or a Life Scout.

Frances – 745 Geddes – Thanked Trustee Marabella for his honesty and clearing the air on a few things and Trustee Whitmore also. Social media is how the people in this town communicate with each other. To Mr. Jackson, instead of sending letters, you should ask what you can do to help. The 911 Memorial means a lot to a lot of people. If I have to go over and keep that trimmed up, that's my neighbor so I'm going to help them.

Shawna Holland – not a current resident – the letter said that all obsolete signage must be removed. It says nothing about weeds, garbage or any of the other things mentioned. She asked how many other citations were written that day? Mr. Jackson said he didn't write any citations. He was out looking at a variety of things. Ms. Holland said she saw many violations as she drove through the Village. If this is not harassment, why was there only one letter sent out that day?

Mr. Strathman - 1700 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – My daughter, Kasha, was the Girl Scout that created the 911 Memorial. He's never seen anyone by that 911 Memorial. We took care of it for years. Any member of the community that is involved in the community, knew about it. If you didn't, maybe you should get involved. Don't demean that location. It's a peaceful location.

Julie Gonka – Beach Park – from an outsider's perspective, I understand that there are Ordinances and you have to handle those all equal and fairly. If the letter had gone out and not said 911 Memorial, we would not be here tonight. What we all expected here tonight is for the Village to admit that they handled it wrong, they made a mistake. The other violations are between the home owner and the Village but the 911 Memorial really bothered her.

Dick Barr – not a Village resident – we were concerned and we also posted on social media. There was a lot of knee jerk reactions from the public. I'm sure the Board had no knowledge of this letter going out. I'm sure staff has a set of procedures that they follow. That's what it sounds like happened. You should all be proud, as Board members, to be willing to accept the blame and make some changes. You should be proud of the community who gets together on a week night to come out and show support for a fellow neighbor. Communities are working on a softer approach and creating partnerships. People want to know they are safe and that the things that they hold pure are protected. Please work on the letters and the wording.

Daane Hoffman – 42797 Berrong – Mr. Jackson, you did what you thought was right. You shouldn't fall on your sword alone. Thank you. I think we can all agree the wrong thing was said, the wrong approach was taken. This is a special circumstance. This is a large property. These are good people that do a lot. This is a huge setback for this community. I would like to see this resolved with the Woods. They did reach out to the Trustees, who didn't know anything about it. The Trustees should have been informed. In the future, this should be a learning lesson.

Katie Franklin – 1503 9<sup>th</sup> Street – wanted to know about the updated financial records and if the meetings were being recorded, where they can be found. She was told the meetings are on YouTube and we are updating the Financial Records now.

Paul Baumunk – Village of Lindenhurst- Served as Mayor for 12 years. He understands what everyone is going through. He has sat here all night and doesn't know what you (Ms. Wood) want. The Board wants to maintain the beauty of the Village. I recommend you appoint

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/19

someone to mediate between the resident and the Village. There’s no losers if you do it right. If you do it wrong, everybody loses.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Marabella – Public Works Department

- Thanked everyone for coming
- Fall baseball is starting, please drive careful
- Pavement projects have wrapped up. They’re still doing some extra patching.

Trustee Weiss – Finance Department

- Thanked everyone
- He does look at Facebook but he wants to make sure that everything is true and proper.
- We didn’t write the code. The word obsolete...it’s a horrible word and maybe we can do something fix it at one of the next meetings.

Trustee Hargett – Community Development

- Thank everyone for coming out. Whether we agree on things or not, everyone is going to leave here feeling like we learned a little bit.
- We got a notice from our IT Director that they set up a You Tube channel for the recordings of the meetings, going back to the beginning of this fiscal year. There will be a link on the Village Home Page
- There is a kiosk in the hallway if you want to sign up for notices on the Northern Lake Shore Trail until the 5<sup>th</sup>. You can also visit [connectthenorthernlakeshore.com](http://connectthenorthernlakeshore.com)

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- Thank you to everybody for your comments
- Mr. & Mrs. Butler, a while back we discussed putting parts of the Packets, that were not confidential, online with the Agenda. Our minutes are not verbatim. We can’t get everything that everybody says. If there are elements of the packets that can be put online, we should discuss putting it online so people have the information. That’s one more element of transparency

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- Thank you everybody for coming out today.
- Friday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> is Teen Night for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> is Gym Night for K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> is Touch a Truck Event. Everyone from Flight for Life, to bouncy houses, to ice cream trucks are coming.

Mayor Bruno

- Thanked everyone for coming out and everyone had good points. We will work through this. I want to get this resolved as much as all of you do.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**13** - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Levin to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm on the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore**  
**Nays: (0)**



Regular Board Meeting Minutes 09/03/19

**Absent: (0)**

**Passed: (0)**

**APPROVED:**

---

**DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

---

**JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK**

**Note: This is not a verbatim record.**