

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
September 15, 2020
Village Hall Council Chambers

ZOOM BOARD MEETING - MINUTES

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

The following Elected Officials **Attended Remotely**:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

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

Also present:

Robert Long, Attorney
Greg Jackson, Village Administrator
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Michael Sheedy, IT Director
Joel Brumlik, Police Chief
Justin Stried, Fire Chief

The Invocation was led by Mayor Bruno

ABSENT OFFICIALS WISHING TO ATTEND REMOTELY

All Officials attending remotely

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve the **September 1, 2020 Virtual Regular Board Meeting Minutes** as presented. Mayor Bruno declared the motion carried on the following roll call vote.

Ayes: (5) Hargett, Levin, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (1) Marabella

MAYOR'S REPORT

2020-R-15 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Alissa Payson and Ashley Jensen as Recreation Advisory Board Members

2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to approve **Resolution 2020-R-15** 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)

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Between Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and the Village of Winthrop Harbor

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve the **Intergovernmental Agreement Between Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and the Village of Winthrop Harbor** 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)

Greg told the Board, this is a revenue generating program, at no cost to the Village. SWALCO will take care of all pick-ups. The collection site will be at the Public Works Facility. Discussions regarding the Community Garden have happened with North Point Church. Items grown there would help the food pantry.

- Have received contact from the Lake County Municipal League as well as the Lake County Finance Office, that the U.S. Treasury has changed the terms on C.A.R.E.S. Funding and how it can be used. It's been brought to our attention that we have an opportunity to re-coop some payroll expense for safety. We were capped at an amount because of the formula that Lake County put together. We asked that they suspend the review of our current submission so we aren't locked into that submission. We will be putting together a separate submission to re-coop some of those funds.
- We received the first payment on the LPA Funds. We were under the assumption that we could use that money for roads. We can but it is specifically assigned for the re-construction of roads. We are working with IML to raise the threshold. If you're receiving less than \$250K as part of the LPA Fund, you could use it for any purposes related to roads. If you're receiving more, it had to be for road construction. IML is now working with IDOT to raise that threshold to a million dollars which will allow us to use that money as we see fit.
- Today Greg, Scott Fuller and Pat DiPersio met with Lake County Storm Management to discuss their up-coming watershed projects. A positive, we found an opportunity for us to secure funding for the engineering study required to begin the mitigation process on the flooding on Cavin.
- Financial and HR Transition continues.

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- Labor negotiations began last week. We had a good discussion with the bargaining unit. They understand our fiscal condition and have agreed to delay further negotiations potentially to May which will allow us to sync the contract with our fiscal year. We will continue discussions in January.
- Property assessment continues. Looking at all of the parcels of properties, one thing that stands out is there's a great deal of right-of-ways rather than parcels that are going to be able to be liquidated.
- Had conversation with the Village Attorney about our potential for a Cell Tower and lease advisor's interest in a cell tower potentially at Public Works. We are meeting with these advisor's next week.
- Assessing the fee schedule. It's an ongoing project and would like to present a fee schedule to the Board.
- We need to talk, in the near future, about lead pipe replacement.
- Currently working on several audit items from the Auditor. Will have discussion with the Board about these items. The Auditor should be wrapping up the writing of the audit and sending it to Springfield.
- Has a Land Bank Meeting this week and also a meeting with Total Parking to discuss potentially taking the Metra Station payments. Rather than it being a manual cash box, make it a credit card function through a phone app. We will know more about it after our meeting.

CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

OLD BUSINESS

Culvert Repair Bid Award – Holdridge Avenue Over Dead Dog Creek – TABLED from the last meeting (9/1/20)

A motion to open for discussion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella.

Mayor Bruno said that our engineers, Baxter & Woodman, feel the bid was higher than it should be so we are going to go back out to bid and possibly get it done in the spring.

Administrator Jackson said he, at the direction of the Board from the last meeting, called John Ambrose, the CEO of Baxter & Woodman, and had a discussion about this project. He thought only having 2 bids was unusual. He did comment that due to COVID, companies were increasing their prices. We were both in agreement that a 60% increase was a pretty high price. We were able to get an extension on this project until June 2021 which allows us to complete the 3-month project within the window of the spring. We agreed that re-bidding the project would be the thing to do.

Trustee Marabella said this project has to be done. He understands the money but it has to be done before it's too late. It's a life safety issue. Administrator Jackson said that both parties he

spoke to assured him that, it needs to be repaired, but we aren't in a catastrophic position at this time. Waiting until the spring would be ok.

NEW BUSINESS

301 Runyard Avenue – Fence Code Variance Request

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and Seconded by Trustee Weiss to **DENY** the **301 Runyard Avenue – Fence Code Variance Request** 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)

Accounts Payable Warrant

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2020-9** in the amount of **\$54,857.58**. 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 2020-O-16 An Ordinance Declaring Personal Property Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Disposal Thereof – One (1) Zodiac Inflatable Boat

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Levin and Seconded by Trustee Marabella to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2020-O-16** 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)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None Reported

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Marabella – Public Works Department

- Branch pick-up is starting in October

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- There have been a few bumps in the road due to COVID but we've been keeping up pretty good.
- We've been playing baseball/softball in the Harbor and things are going well. Likes seeing people out and around.
- There have been other issues come up in town but our Fire and Police Departments have been really good taking care of all of this. I'm proud to live in Winthrop Harbor. Everybody in our community has come together and we've done a good job.

Trustee Levin – Fire Department

- We finally got the approval for the burn down of 101 Sheridan Road. The tentative date for the burn down is set for October 10th.

Trustee Weiss – Finance Department

- Read the reports from the Department Heads. They are doing a great job.
- Really impressed by the comments from the community regarding the Police Department and the job the officers are doing.
- The community has pulled together. We care about each other. Very happy that we are getting good reports all the way around.

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- Baseball and softball are coming to an end. The Park has never been busier. It's been great to see.
- The Recreation Board met last night, trying to set up some future events for early to mid- fall. Hopefully we can have a little bit more community togetherness before winter hits and we can't be outside.

Mayor Bruno

- All of the Departments are working hard to get us through this pandemic.
- The Department Head reports are very impressive. Glad this was started. Community Development has done lots of permits. It's incredible. Every Department has been working hard. Thanked the Department Heads for the reports.

ADJOURNMENT

7 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Marabella to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.