

Village of Winthrop Harbor
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
November 4, 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 Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss to approve the **October 6, 2020 Virtual Regular Board Meeting Minutes** 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)

MAYOR'S REPORT

ORDINANCE 2020-O-20 An Ordinance Ratifying and Extending Mayoral Declaration of Emergency Relating to Coronavirus

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2 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and Seconded by Trustee Weiss to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2020-O-20** 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)

RESOLUTION 2020-R-17 A Resolution Requesting the Governor's Office and Illinois Department of Public Health to Reevaluate Collection, Analysis and Benchmarks for Regional Data Related to COVID-19 and how That Data is Applied to Decision-Making Associated with Mitigation Mandates.

3 - A motion was made by Trustee Hargett and seconded by Trustee Marabella to approve **Resolution 2020-R-17** 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 2020-R-18 An Appointment Resolution Appointing Greg Jackson as the Authorized Agent for IMRF

4 - A motion was made by Trustee Levin and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve **Resolution 2020-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)

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Transition is still underway. We are still trying to re-organize the finance and HR functions
- Work has begun on the Tax Levy. It has to be done by December.
- A training schedule is being developed. We have state mandated training that we have to complete, in particular, sexual harassment training which will involve every member of our Staff.
- Working with Mike Sheedy about the personal pages for the web-site. Sent communication out to the members of the Board regarding photo opportunities. If you want to use a headshot that you currently have or you would like to have a headshot taken, we can schedule that for next week, Thursday, in council chambers.

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- Budget calendars are just about done. Will be sending out budget documents within the next 2 weeks for fiscal year 21/22.
- Greg, Pat DiPersio and Staff continue to work on fresh economic development initiatives. Had communication with our contact for sustainability at the Illinois Institute Technology, who strongly suggested that we do not shelve the eco campus. She believes that research always happens in the field. She was very positive that this was something that was still viable.
- COVID still is a concern. It's still impacting our House. We are still being cautious.
- Currently working on 3 fraud cases with IDES. IDES has received 3 claims for unemployment for 3 of our employees. We have also reached out to ADP, our payroll company.
- Prepping for the change of personnel, special audit, to begin in 2 weeks.
- The Annual Audit documents have been received. Greg and Mayor met with the Auditor to discuss the management issues and various items that need to be addressed with the audit, positives and negatives. Will distribute to the Board with the financial statements before the next Board Meeting.
- Opportunities we have taken advantage of for additional monies for the community:
 - Received \$3,049.00 – Grant for PPE reimbursement
 - Second half of IPRF Grant for safety equipment for \$30,747.00 over 2 years.
 - Mayor Caucus/Commonwealth Edison matching Grant. That money has been awarded and will be used to purchase additional turnout gear for the Fire Department.
 - The 2 DECO Rebuild Grants – repair on Holdridge will be put out for bid again. Funding awarded: \$100,000.00. DECO Grant for the Public Works Building, visited again today with our Legislator's Office who said the money is still there. We are part of the next phase of distribution for Rebuild Illinois. The Office of State Rep. Mason will be looking into when that money will be distributed.
 - In the course of the last 2 years, worked for a budget appropriation for improvements to North Point Marina. Funding of \$375,000.00 was approved.
 - Rebuild Illinois Grant for road repairs – awarding us \$444,000.00 in road repair funds. We have received \$148,000.00 of that.
 - We have also received \$71,750.00 from IDOT for a Traffic Safety Grant.
 - The DOJ Grant for Police Vests is \$2,000.00 funded and received.
 - The DAS, non-profit Grant for K-9, \$8,900.00 funded and received.

Over the course of 2 years, the Village has received or been awarded, money that goes into our town, including North Point Marina, a total of \$1,654,366.00

- There is a Grant sitting with the Lake County Board for \$1,143,000.00 to off-set expenses associated for public safety in response to COVID. We are probably looking at our max allocation of potentially being awarded, in the next 30-60 days, \$306,114.00.
- Pending a decision on the Heroes Grant
- Working on a Storm Water Mgmt. Grant to help fund an engineering study for the flooding on Cavin.
- Grant Communication and Assistance for the business community. Every time we got information we sent it out to the business community. In total, \$100,824.76, to help the business community. In addition, 2 businesses have

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done business interruption grants associated with this mitigation order by the Governor.

- Julie notices mistakes as it pertains to our billing. As a result, she saves us money but she also turns around and finds problems with our water billing that may end up saving our Village Residents money. Julie does a great job in making sure our residents, in these tough times, know we will work with them.
- Pat DiPersio had someone come in for a permit to do work on the cell tower at the EMA building on 7th Street and came in with a low proposal and Pat challenged him on it. By challenging them he recovered about \$3,000.00.
- Not just Staff, but the Board has been good partners with our business community and our residents in these unprecedented and trying times.

CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE

None Reported

OLD BUSINESS

None Reported

NEW BUSINESS

Accounts Payable Warrant

5 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve **Accounts Payable Warrant W2020-11** in the amount of **\$289,694.73**. 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)

Second Quarter Fiscal Year Treasurer’s Report

6 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Hargett to approve **Second Quarter Fiscal Year Treasurer’s Report** 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 2020-O-21 An Ordinance Amending the Wage Policy Ordinance of the Municipal Code of Winthrop Harbor – Adding Assistant to the Village Administrator

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7 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and Seconded by Trustee Levin to Set Aside the Rules of the President and Board of Trustees and Waive the First and Second Reading of **ORDINANCE 2020-O-21** 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)

ORDINANCE 2020-O-22 An Ordinance Amending the Appropriation Ordinance of Winthrop Harbor

8 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss 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-22** 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)

Approval to Accept a Grant in the Amount of \$3,049.00 for PPE Reimbursement and a Health and Safety Grant in the Amount of \$15,787.00

9 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore approval to **Accept a Grant in the Amount of \$3,049.00 for PPE Reimbursement and a Health and Safety Grant in the Amount of \$15,787.00** 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)

Approval for Appropriation Expenditures for Emergency Water Valve Replacement

10 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee Weiss approval for **Appropriation Expenditures for Emergency Water Valve Replacement** 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)

Discussion – IGA with Benton Township

Trustee Marabella made a motion for discussion of the IGA with Benton Township and Trustee Weiss Seconded.

Benton Township has decided not to renew the IGA with the Village for snow plowing for the winter of 20/21. They have decided to enter into an agreement with Newport Township. The revenue we have received has not been large and with the reduction in staff, this will allow us to focus on our roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None Reported

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Levin– Fire Department

- Keep the Wollert Family in your prayers. Betty, the wife of our former Fire Chief, Neal Wollert, and son, Lieutenant Russ Wollert, passed away over the weekend. Services will be Saturday, at Congdon, from 4-7pm.

Trustee Marabella – Public Works Department

- Halloween went great. The event at the Park was very good. People needed this.
- Public Works has been working hard.

Trustee McCarthy – Police Department

- Thanked Police Department for their Report
- Thanked the Rec. Department, Scott, Trustee Whitmore, Staff and Volunteers for the 2 events, the glow walk and trunk-or-treat. It was great to have events again. Thanks to everyone who put the time and effort into this.
- Thanked all of the Staff for their work and keep staying safe.

Trustee Hargett – Community Development Department

- Halloween definitely was exciting. We had more people than we've ever had. The contactless trick-or-treating was great.
- Kuddos to Trustee Whitmore and the Rec. Board for the glow walk.
- The Referendum that was on the ballot, failed. Thank you to all who voted.
- We've had conversations about how we can better improve our transparency to the public and also ways to engage the public to make sure they know what we are doing and get input. I talked about, at the end of this year, doing a State of the Village or interactive Annual Report to keep the community informed. Please get ideas to myself or Greg.

Trustee Whitmore – Recreation Department

- Thanked everyone who attended the Annual trunk-or-treat and costume contest. There was a huge turnout. Along with, what we hope, is our annual Glow-walk. We had a huge turnout. Thank you Trustee Hargett and Trustee McCarthy for bringing your girls.
- 2019 Little Miss Winthrop Harbor and myself will be holding another coat drive for the Midwest Veterans Closet.

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- Thanked Greg for providing the total amount of Grant money that he worked very hard at securing for the Village. Tax payers really appreciate that hard work finding additional money to offset this year.

Trustee Weiss – Finance Department

- Thanked all of the Department Heads for the hard work they did.
- Proud of the Police Department and the report where 2 Police officers went into a burning stove fire. They got the person out and put out the fire. Seeing our first responders, staff, everybody working hard through COVID, it makes me proud to be a Winthrop Harbor resident. Thank you to all.

Mayor Bruno

- Thanked Trustee Whitmore on the trunk-or-treat.
- Thanked the Police & Fire Departments for their reports.
- Thanked Greg, he does so much as well as Julie and Debbie too.
- Welcomed Pat to be the Assistant to Greg.

ADJOURNMENT

11 - A motion was made by Trustee Marabella and seconded by Trustee McCarthy to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56p.m. on the following roll call vote.

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

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.