

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the  
Village of Jerome Board

**CALL TO ORDER:** The President and the Board of Trustees held the regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Lopez, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** The following were present:

Kathy DeHart, Trustee of Public Property & Co Trustee Public Health  
Leigh Irons, Trustee of Public Safety  
Ralph Irons, Trustee of Water Department  
Dale Lael, Trustee of Building & Zoning  
Phil Raftis, Trustee of Public Works  
Christina Smith, Co-Trustee of Public Health

Also Present:

Lisa Cave, Village Clerk  
Jason Brokaw, Attorney, Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.,  
Steve Roth, Village Treasurer

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** President Lopez asked for a moment of silence on the passing of Joan Olinger. She was very active in Jerome, serving as Village Clerk in 1997 for a time and most recently on the liquor commission and a volunteer. Elesia Wilson who was 13 years old, her aunt and uncle live in Jerome, passed away unexpectedly in the hospital this morning. The Village Board held a moment of silence in honor of Joan and Elesia.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the September 16, 2021 Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez stated the September 16, 2021 minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee DeHart  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE; except Trustee Lael voted present

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the July 1, 2021 Executive Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez stated the July 1, 2021 executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the July 1, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by:  
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Smith  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the August 5, 2021 Executive Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez stated the August 5, 2021 executive minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the August 5, 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes as presented by: Trustee Leigh Irons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Smith  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

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**APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS:** President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 22-11 dated October 7, 2021 totaling \$26,439.75. Treasurer Roth added that of this amount \$9,928.15 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$552.28 will be paid from the 1% Fund, \$15,838.02 will be paid from the Water Fund and \$121.27 will be paid from Motor Fuel.

President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 22-11 as presented. Motion to Approve the Bills to be Paid as amended by Trustee Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee DeHart.  
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;  
**MOTION PASSES.**

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**TREASURER REPORTS:** Treasurer Roth presented to the Board of Trustees the Financial Status as of September 2, 2021, via email. *Revenues: We have received some of the revenue for October for the Sales, 1%, Personal Property Replacement and MFT funds. The good news is that we continue to exceed expectations in each of these funds for the year so far, which is great news. I will have a full report once all the revenue is received for October. Process: Checks for the warrants for the last Board meeting were mailed out right after the meeting and we met payroll for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Checks will be mailed out following this meeting. Funds: Currently there is approximately \$626,195.93 in the Illinois Funds GRF account and \$90,233.26 in the MFT funds. There is approximately \$42,573.22 in the INB GRF account and \$235,090.15 in the INB Water account. The other bank account balances are as follows: Law Enforcement - DUI – \$295.00; Law Enforcement – Vehicle - \$722.43; 1% NHR - \$358,370.06; Road & Bridge - \$18,518.28; and Police Equipment Fund - \$2,039.83, Cannabis Fund - \$2,410.08, and for the MFT-Rebuild Illinois fund – \$72,757.96.* Robin Malloy is on the zoom call from Pehlman & Dold, P.C. regarding the FY 2021 Audit. President Lopez thanked the firm for the partnership in working with the Village of Jerome.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:41 pm.

He noted that during the time when remote meetings are being held public comments must be submitted in writing to the Clerk by email or by placing them in the deposit slot outside the office front door by 6:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Clerk Cave stated she no comments that have been received.

This portion of the meeting closed at 6:41 pm.

## **REPORTS:**

Trustee Smith had nothing to report.

Trustee Raftis stated Dave has reached out to the company doing the fiberoptics work on Welch as they have left the area undesirable. Dave has also emailed Vic out of Jacksonville regarding the work on Alberta Lane, it appears the work has not corrected the issues. Public Works is still working on ditch cleaning throughout the Village, and they have amble black dirt if anyone needs it or know someone that could use it. Orange dump truck will be needing brakes, the white van still needs the water pump replaced. Dave is still working with CMS to obtain a salt contractor for this year.

Trustee DeHart reported that Dave has replaced the batteries in the smoke detectors, exit signs and had to order some emergency flood lights for the police department. Dave is reaching out to the roofers for the library garage roof to see how far out they are and when they can do the work. The electrical is complete in the civic center and Trustee DeHart is still shopping for a new stove with a warranty and guarantee. The Eagle Scout candidate is ready, and he will be inventorying the books in the library and will have a few other scouts with him in completing the task. Trustee DeHart stated she is following up on a complaint on a tree service Wright Tree that did some work in the easement from CWLP and had some words with a resident. Trustee Raftis and Trustee Lael expressed concerns on why the Village is interceding in the complaint when the Village had not contracted the work. Trustee DeHart stated she has done this before for residents and wants to see it through. Trustee DeHart also stated she is following up with fire pit inspections and grass complaints. The Village Park has had some vandalism and 2 playground equipment is on order and a metal bench was destroyed. The Park will be closed until the parts are installed, possibly 6 weeks until the equipment is delivered and installed.

Trustee Lael stated the Barn restaurant has been sold to new owners, no details so far. Trustee Lael stated he has had a lot of fence applications.

Trustee Leigh Irons had nothing to report.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated Diane, Steve and himself had met on a zoom call with automatic bill pay. This will be added for the next agenda. Trustee Ralph Iron has also met with Dave regarding the IEPA changes to the water operator duties.

Village Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

President Lopez wanted to remind everyone that bulletin will be going out soon, possible postcard being sent out for the limb pickup, Halloween, and the Flu Clinic. Mr. Sullivan called last Thursday regarding the Barn. President Lopez would like to discuss at the next meeting on reducing the liquor license renewal license fees. President Lopez would like to meet with Attorney Brokaw and Trustee Lael and Niemann Foods on what they are intending to do with the property. The property is deteriorating, and the weeds have gotten out of control. President Lopez is needing volunteers for Halloween to pass out candy and will be accepting donations that are from the actual stores that are wrapped. Chief Forsyth is doing a great job being an interim chief, he has been meeting with the Chief of Police in Rochester for some additional training on paperwork and Chief Wiese from Southern View has also offered to help train on anything he will need. President Lopez would like to set up a Halloween Event on October 30, 2021 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Lopez presented Ordinance 22-04 Allowing Food Trucks in the Village of Jerome. President Lopez would like to remove this item from Old Business as no business has reached back to him regarding the ordinance at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION:** President Lopez would like to set up a Halloween Event on October 30, 2021 from 4 pm to 7 pm outside the Village Hall with some bales of hay and some tables passing out candy to the trick or treaters.

Motion to approve a Halloween Event on October 30, 2021 from 4 pm to 7 pm outside the Village Hall by Trustee Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Ralph Irons.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

The Methodist Church has informed us that they are sponsoring a Trunk or Treat on October 31, 2021 from 4 pm to 7 pm. This will be good for the kids in the Village having two separate events on two different days.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of Ordinance No. 22-08 Amending Section 300.7-13 Changing the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Village. President Lopez asked for pros and cons. Hearing None.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 22-08 Amending Section 300.7-13 Changing the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Village by Trustee Lael and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Leigh Irons.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked Trustee DeHart to present the discussion and approval of Emergency Sanitization of the Village Hall and Civic Center. Trustee DeHart stated that she received a bid of \$1,346.38 to sanitize the hall and civic center. Trustee DeHart oversaw the sanitization, and it was done quickly and very professional.

Motion to approve the Emergency Sanitization of the Village Hall and Civic Center in the amount of \$1,346.38 by Trustee DeHart and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Smith.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

President Lopez asked Trustee Raftis to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> party Large Item pickup. Trustee Raftis stated he has been in contact with Habitat of Sangamon County and Village residents are able to contact Habitat to arrange a pickup from a resident. They would need to pay at the time of pickup, \$20 for a mattress, \$15 for a large item. The City of Springfield offers a program with Habitat that will allow them to pick up 6 large items per residence and it will then be charged to the residents on their water bills. We could implement this program and charge it to the water bills. Trustee Lael stated he would rather the residents pay Habitat directly and not have the Village involved. There are many homes that do not receive Jerome water. If this program is implemented it could cost residents roughly \$40 a year, which is \$3.33 per month for example. We would need to budget at the beginning of the year and then charge the residents on their water bills to be reimbursed back to the Village. Trustee DeHart stated that there could be a lot of residents that do not utilize the program. Trustee DeHart likes the idea that residents contact Habitat themselves instead of the Village. Trustee Raftis does not want the Public Works Dept

to be stuck picking up Large Item Pickups. President Lopez asked the board to think about that and see the different options. Possibly a survey on the website to see how the residents feel about it.

President Lopez asked Trustee Raftis to present discussion and approval of additional Limb Pickup for 2021. Trustee Raftis stated this pickup would not be for the residents that have large piles of limbs out in front of their home, we will not reward that behavior. Those residents have received the letters they need to remove them. Trustee Raftis stated he would strictly enforce the limb piles 4ft x 6ft x 8 ft and not to put out until the weekend before pickup. Trustee Raftis will impose fines for oversized piles and late piles. Dave will construct a frame out of pvc to illustrate the size of the pile that the Village will pick up.

Motion to approve an Additional Limb Pickup for 2021 in the month of October or November depending on staffing by Trustee Raftis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Ralph Irons.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons to go into Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee or legal counsel of the public body (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1)); minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act for purposes of approval by the Body (5ILCS 120/2(c)(21); meetings between internal or external auditors and Governmental Audit Committees, Finance Committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29)) Trustee Ralph Irons seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:51 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 pm.

President Lopez asked for discussion and approval of the Annual Audit for FY 2021.

Motion to approve the Annual Audit for FY 2021 from Pehlman & Dold, P.C. by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Lael.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

**MOTION PASSES.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Raftis.

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Cave, Clerk

**DATE APPROVED:** October 21, 2021

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Village Clerk

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Date