

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, April 7, 2022, at the Jerome Civic Center, 2901 Leonard Street, Jerome, Illinois via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Lopez, followed by Roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following were present:

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

Also Present:

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: President Lopez asked whether the Board had reviewed the March 17, 2022, Minutes and if they found need for any changes, corrections, or amendments. President Lopez asked the March 17, 2022, minutes would stand approved as presented.

Motion to approve the March 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented by:
Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Smith
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE,
MOTION PASSES.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS: President Lopez asked whether the board had reviewed Warrant List 22-23 dated April 7, 2022, totaling \$46,554.47. Treasurer Roth added that of this amount \$26,811.73 will be paid from the General Revenue Fund, \$15,214.63 will be paid from the Water Fund, \$4,473.38 will be paid from the 1% Fund and \$54.73 will be paid from Motor Fuel.

President Lopez asked for a motion to approve Warrant List 22-23 as presented.
Motion to Approve the Bills to be Paid as presented by Trustee Smith and
2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.
Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;
MOTION PASSES.

TREASURER REPORTS: Treasurer Roth presented to the Board of Trustees the Financial Status as of March 17, 2022, via email : Revenues: *We have received no revenue for April as of yet.* Funds: *Currently there is approximately \$865,802.57 in the Illinois Funds GRF account and \$118,082.22 in the MFT funds. There is approximately \$20,707.01 in the INB GRF account and \$152,843.95 in the INB Water account. The other bank account balances are as follows: Law Enforcement - DUI – \$265.00; Law Enforcement – Vehicle - \$692.43; 1% NHR - \$465,823.15; Road & Bridge - \$18,991.94; and Police Equipment Fund - \$2,893.88, Cannabis Fund - \$3,562.23, MFT-Rebuild Illinois fund – \$90,947.45, and the American Rescue Plan Fund \$108,168.43. The follow up Budget meetings went well. I will be sending out the updated Budget Worksheets and a list of projects that I think we should use for the first installment of the ARPA funds.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

President Lopez opened the Visitors Acknowledgement portion of the meeting at 6:40 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 had received four emails.

On April 6, 2022 at 9:11 am Terry Baker wrote: *Why in the world is the brank up always scheduled so early, to me it makes much better sense to have it scheduled after memorial day weekend. this would give everyone time to get out there when not still cold and less likely to be so rainy !! I put everyone on the board on this email so maybe the message could be debated, and to think everyone for all you do. Best Regards, Terry Baker*

On April 6, 2022 at 9:40 am, Trustee Raftis replied to Terry Baker with the following email: *Terry, There will be multiple limb pickups this year. The **tentative** plan is one for the spring, one for the summer, and one for the fall. We've had plenty of late winter storm events to necessitate a spring limb pickup. We discussed the pickup schedule 2 meetings ago, I believe, and will continue to discuss limb pickup and similar programs in the coming budget meetings. I encourage everyone to attend the budget meetings so that as many residents as possible are a part of discussions. If you have any further questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your concerns,*

On April 6, 2022 at 12:38 pm, Linda Castleman wrote: *I just wanted to send this to Board as a comment for their April 7 meeting. I live in a he 1800 block of West Iles and am one of the many people who live on Iles Ave who are experiencing life threatening fast traffic on Iles. I have been past twice by speeding cars on Iles. This is NOT OK and needs to be taken care of. Someone is going to be Seriously injured or worse. Residents are begging for traffic enforcement on Iles Ave. Thank you*

On April 6, 2022 at 2:16 pm, Jonathan O'Daniel wrote: *I have a few items of concern. 1. It is time for the emergency declarations ext. to end or rather at minimum open the meetings to the public. The residents of Jerome seem to have a lot to say, and a voiced opinion is stronger than a read email. 2. Iles has become extremely dangerous, on a daily basis cars blow through stop signs at speeds well over 40 mph. Cars who are obeying the speed limit are being passed at high rates of speed. Immediate action needs to be taken. Speed bumps or hump, increased police presence, speed cameras, 3. The condition of our roads has become the running joke of the town. The condition of Iles is something we should be*

embarrassed by. The patch jobs that the Village attempts lasts only a few weeks & at times makes the ride rougher than before. 4. Much of the village recently gained access to At&t Fiber, this is a great opportunity to keep Comcast/Xfinity honest in their pricing. Let's invite the new guy to the area I3 Fiber to our village, i have heard many great things about pricing and top notch customer support. Thank you.
Jonathan P. O'Daniel

This portion of the meeting closed at 6:45 pm.

REPORTS:

President Lopez wanted to comment on the emails received by the Clerk. President Lopez stated that the first meeting in May the Board will go back to meeting in person with masks required and social distancing. In regards to Iles Ave, President Lopez expressed that the Village is doing the best we can with the roads, Iles is over 30 years old and the Village has applied for a 3.5 million dollar grant to modernize Iles Ave and the Village is awaiting word on if the Village will receive it. The Village was blessed through funding through DCEO with roughly \$500-600,000 grant, \$500,000 grant through the Capital Bill. Treasurer Roth and Trustee Raftis has done a great job with filling out the paperwork and helping obtain these grants. Currently the Village is moving forward doing survey work on Iles so that when funding arrives, the Village will be ready to proceed in repairing this road. President Lopez also stated that the Village has hired two full time police officers and one part time police officers. The Village has a working police department.

Trustee Leigh Irons wanted to thank the residents that sent in emails regarding Iles. Trustee Leigh Irons stated that Chief Forsythe and herself has met to discuss the issues within the Village and he will be addressing them. Trustee Leigh Irons wants to remind residents that if there are any issues please contact her directly or the Police Department. Trustee Leigh Irons addressed the board and informed them that Jerry Buck has declined the job full time with the Police Department. Alison will take her power test on the 12th of April and her class starts May 1 and Cody will begin the part time academy the beginning of August 2022.

Trustee Raftis wanted to thank the residents that sent in their concerns, he urged residents to come to the meetings on zoom and be part of the conversations. Iles Ave is a top priority and unfortunately we are dealing with a 40% increase in prices across the board. Trustee Raftis stated we have 1 million coming but we are hoping for the 3.5 million grant to repair Iles. There are several other projects that include other streets on resurfacing for about \$250,000. Trustee Raftis wants to remind residents that nothing happens overnight, the Village is doing the best with the money we have available.

Trustee Smith stated she has been receiving fire pit applications and is working through them. Trustee Smith has received a lot of complaints lately regarding barking dogs. The ordinance states that from 10 pm to 7 am dogs can not be out on their own. Under the ordinance if a dog barks for a total of 15 minutes, they are in violation. Trustee Smith wants to remind residents of the ordinance, especially those that may leave their dog outside all day while at work. Trustee Smith has identified several dead trees in the right of way and overhanging branches blocking intersections. Trustee Smith with be obtaining bids to take the trees down and Public Works will work to remove the overhanging branches. President Lopez asked Trustee Smith and Attorney Brokaw to find or create a template to all trash haulers that the Village ordinance states they do no operate before 7 am in the Village. President Lopez states the letter needs to go to all waste haulers as he has been hearing waste haulers as early as 6:45 am.

Trustee DeHart stated she has been working on the budget meetings with Treasurer Roth and Dave. Trustee DeHart is accepting volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt. Trustee DeHart has emailed the board with some rule and fee changes that will be proposed for the leasing of the Civic Center. Trustee DeHart has reached out to a resident on the Village garage sales to find a date others was anticipating having a garage sale, she is awaiting word back. Trustee DeHart wanted to remind residents that hold garage sales that the village DOES NOT pick any items up from the curb after the sale. Do not place anything on the curb. Trustee DeHart stated the TMobile grant has been submitted for the Village in hopes to receive \$50,000 grant for upgrading the facilities and boost community spirit. Trustee DeHart stated it could take up to 60 days before the Village will hear if we have been granted the funding. President Lopez asked Attorney Brokaw to review the package that was sent in for the grant, President Lopez would like to post it on the website. Trustee DeHart will send it into the Attorney and he will get back to President Lopez.

Trustee Lael stated he attended a meeting with Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with the Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force on March 24, 2022. A resolution for approval is on tonight's agenda. The Village has been apart of this since 2008, they have gotten tougher and are having six meetings this year with mandatory at least 4. Trustee Lael stated there are a lot of work materials that need completed but in the event of a disaster belonging to this task force will allow the Village to receive funds from FEMA.

Trustee Ralph Irons stated that the new E-pay has been downloaded and that Diane, himself, and Treasurer Roth will be attending training for it on Wednesday of next week and then it will be ready to roll out to the residents.

Treasurer Roth added that he anticipates April 18th E-pay will be live. Treasurer Roth stated he is finalizing the article for the bulletin and the letter that will go out to each resident this weekend and will have drafts on Monday. Treasurer Roth reported that the budget meetings this past Sunday were productive and a final draft will be out next week and is creating a list of needs that could be funded with ARPA money.

Village Clerk Cave had nothing to report.

Attorney Brokaw had nothing to report.

President Lopez stated the bulletin should be out by the end of April and that the postcards went out last week for the Easter Egg Hunt and the limb pickup. President Lopez stated he will be picking up some donations of candy tonight and will drop it off. President Lopez asked Attorney Brokaw to speak and work with Trustee Lael on the zoning issues with the Covid testing site. President Lopez will reach out to Niemann Foods to see what is going on inside of the building as there seems to be some activity inside.

OLD BUSINESS DISCUSSION: Trustee DeHart asked to table the Leasing of the Jerome Civic Center until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION: President Lopez asked Trustee Lael to present for discussion and approval Resolution 11-22 An Agreement with Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard mitigation Planning Task Force.

Motion to approve Resolution 11-22 An Agreement with Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard mitigation Planning Task Force by Trustee Lael and 2nd by Trustee Leigh Irons.

Upon roll call vote, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked to table the discussion of the sewer rate increase until the next meeting.

President Lopez presented for discussion and approval of the Proclamation Declaring and Continuing State of Local Disaster.

Motion to approve Proclamation Declaring and Continuing State of Local Disaster by Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Smith.

Upon roll call, 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); Trustee DeHart seconded the motion.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:26 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

President Lopez asked Trustee Leigh Irons to present for discussion and approval the hiring of Mark Puckett as a Full-time Police Officer.

Motion to approve hiring Mark Puckett as a Full time Police Officer at \$23.50 per hour by Trustee Leigh Irons and 2nd by Trustee Smith.

Upon roll call, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

President Lopez asked Trustee DeHart to present for discussion and approval Purchasing Paint and Supplies to Paint the Civic Center. Trustee DeHart stated that Dave pointed out the walls in the main room are hard to clean, some old tape has been painted on, and just looks horrible. Trustee DeHart would like it approved now so that Dave can work it in when there are rainy days or any days that Dave may be out. Treasurer Roth stated that property has the funds this year to do this.

Motion to approve the purchase of paint and supplies to paint the Civic Center not to exceed \$500.00 by Trustee DeHart and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.

Upon roll call, all voted AYE;

MOTION PASSES.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, President Lopez asked for a motion to close the meeting at 8:24 pm. Motion was made by Trustee Raftis and 2nd by Trustee Ralph Irons.

PREPARED BY: Lisa Cave, Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 21, 2022

Village Clerk

Date