

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Monthly Meeting Minutes of the
VILLAGE OF HEBRON BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, July 22, 2024

Village President Robert Shelton called the meeting of the Village Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Present: Roll call: Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Stevens (6:12), Knaack, and Mogan answered aye to roll call.

Also Present: Attorney Smoron, Clerk Johnson, Sergeant Biancalana, Janelle Walker (Northwest Herald) and approximately 60 Visitors were in attendance.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of June 24, 2024, of the Village Board Meeting.

Trustee Milarski made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024, Village Board meeting.

Trustee Correll seconded the motion.

Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Stevens, Knaack, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve the June/July 2024 Accounts Payable Balance.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the June/July 2024 accounts payable balance. Trustee Knaack seconded the motion. Trustee Shepard reported that there are outstanding bills from Fred Herrera in the amount of \$4,400.00 patching Prairie Street, IEPA in the amount of \$115,214.34 sewer treatment plant loan, Illinois EPA in the amount of \$7500.00 dues, Morton Salt in the amount of \$7,529.28 salt for streets, Napa Auto Parts in the amount of \$ 1,155.55 water/sewer, squad cars, and Payne & Dolan in the amount of \$3,493.44 cold patch. Total from General fund is \$38,562.94 and Sewer/Water is \$145,711.63, and Grand Total of \$180,274.56. Trustee Shepherd reported that there were no add-ons this month. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Stevens, Knaack, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Presidents Report.

President Shelton reported that the gas leak was from a tanker that had a spillage. It is being worked on and will keep the board and residents informed. The Annual 4th of July Parade took place on Saturday July 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., along with the gathering at the community park afterwards. It was an excellent turnout and well attended and we look forward to next year's event. Jacobson/Woods Street project - HLR is working on documentation needed for IDOT to get project and bidding started for the resurfacing/surfacing of the streets. Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is getting a plan and cost estimate together for us. He has spoken directly with IEPA to let them know we are working with EEI to get a plan in place. The IEPA is quite familiar with EEI and spoke highly and respectfully of EEI. The Source Water Protection Plan is of the same magnitude as the lead service line replacement plan.

Public Comments.

Pat Peterson– Very happy with the Parade and thought it went very well. She is very disappointed in the agenda items on Juanita Gumble and is not in support of her dismissal.

Sandy Drevalas - Would like the village board to start listening to the residents. Very disappointed in the President. Would like residents that speak in the public comments to also be able to get answers or responses.

Joann Lange- Spoke on her disappointment of the President. She stated Juanita Gumble has brought the Police Department up to state standards and asked the board to have the Motion to remove the dismissal of Juanita Gumble from the agenda.

Jim Lange- Surprised and disappoint in the board for allowing the President to go forward with the illegal Motion to remove Juanita Gumble. Recommended that they have their conscience guide them tonight.

Karen Lalor – Spoke on the Street Dance and advised she would forward the appropriate paperwork to the Village. Gave Kudos to Rose for solving her questions on the water billing. Happy to see the support of the Chief of Police.

Lynette Lang – Stated since President Shelton took over as President there has been one disappointment after another. Why is there only one employee left since President Shelton took office? Juanita has not submitted her resignation. Juanita did have her vacation request turned in before her vacation. Urged the Village Board to think long and hard before they vote and listen to the residents of the Village of Hebron and what they want.

Ed Gentry – Moved to Hebron for his wife and is concerned for the Village due to the administration. States Chief Gumble has gone above and beyond for the Village residents and the trust in her leadership. Is concerned as to why the President wants her gone. Chief Gumble is a very valuable asset for the Village of Hebron. Urged the Board to be cautious on how they vote on her dismissal as it will be remembered in April at the polls.

Cindy Gentry – She had high hopes for the Village Board and is very disappointed that they would allow the President to do this. Chief Gumble was handed a police department that was in shambles and has turned it into a department that the Community is proud of and extremely happy with. She brought it up to state standards. She is a huge asset to this community and its safety. She has stayed within the budget and saved this Village money, treats staff with the utmost respect and is always looking out for their safety. She is urging the Board to vote against the motion to dismiss Chief Gumble and will remember this at the polls.

Faith Schoen – Is very concern that the Police Chiefs job is in jeopardy. Does not know the Police Chief personally but has only heard great things about what she has done for this community. Wants to know if there is some other reason the public is unaware of as to why her job is being threatened. Thanked the Police Department for all their hard work in keeping the community safe.

Tiffany Elswick – Superintendent of the School district. She is entering her 8th year in the school district and 4th as Superintendent and under Chief Gumble's leadership she has experienced her 1st solid committed working relationship with the Police department. She is here to express her unequivocal support for Chief Gumble and to command the collaborative efforts between District 19 and the Police Department. The school district has always prioritized the safety and well-being of the students, staff and community. Under Chief Gumble's leadership the Police Department has been a steadfast partner in achieving these goals. The proactive measures and community policing initiatives led by Chief Gumble have significantly contributed to the safe and secure environment of the schools, providing reassurance and security to all. As Superintendent she can attest to the positive impact to Chief Gumble's leadership as well as the presence of Police Officers and at school events and activities. The visible support and presence not only reassure parents and guardians but instills confidants in our students that they are learning in a secure environment. Chief Gumble has been instrumental in implementing safety drills that prepare our students and staff for emergencies. These efforts demonstrate commitment to preparedness and greatly improve our district's overall safety protocols. The only time all of the Police department has shown up for safety training and meetings is under Chief Gumbles leadership. A strong and supportive relationship between the school district and the police department is essential for our community's continued success and safety. They are grateful for Chief Gumbles dedication, professionalism and unwavering support of the schools and they value her role in the community. Look forward to their continued partnership in working together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students and the broader community. Thanked Chief Gumble for her outstanding service and being an integral part of the school community safety and success.

Matthew Donovan – Spoke on how Juanita helped him as a regular officer on the street. Juanita used to bring apples and oranges to his house to feed his family. She also helped on the road to healing and gave him back his faith and trust in people. He is not in support of passing the Motion to let Juanita go. Asked the Trustees to rethink their vote.

Penny Smith – Speaking as a resident of Hebron, feels there should be 2 Public Comments. Thanked Juanita for all she does for the community. If there is not a resignation out there, she feels that the Motion is a moot point.

Ray and Christine Sawvell – New owners of the Dari and it will stay the Dari.

Dawn Higgins – Wants to know how the board can vote on a resignation if there is not a resignation letter? Told a story about how Juanita helped a lady that was 97 years old on her day off when no one else could help her. Juanita also leads by example; she makes her staff follow the same rules as everyone else. Stated that Juanita is the best thing that has happened to Hebron.

Ray Stalker – Asked attorney Smoron if there was a resignation letter? President Shelton said he has a verbal resignation. Attorney Smoron said there will be a discussion and if the board has questions, he will be here. He stated it was his understanding there is no written resignation.

Brian Ahrens – Trustees are here to represent the residents of the Village of Hebron. Believes that the trustees should be voted for or against based on the input of the residents. There should be times that the trustees vote against their own opinion because that is what the majority of the Village wants. Unless they are not properly informed or their request will cause harm to the Village, the votes need to be that of the Village as a whole. The Village should not be a dictatorship of the Village run by President Shelton. He should not be able to bully the ones that don't agree with him and force them to seek other employment because they won't agree with his demands. He plans to terminate the employment of Juanita Gumble who has done great things for the Village of Hebron. She has put in ungodly hours to bring the Police Department up to state standards and back to what it should be, to meet standards that were not being met prior to her position as Chief of Police. He stands behind Chief Gumble.

Steve Morris - Member of the Planning and Zoning Board of the Village of Hebron. Is not happy with the Administration. In support of Chief Gumble and is not in favor of her dismissal and is backing her 100%.

Erin Bryne – In support of Chief Gumble remaining as Chief of Police and is not happy with the Board of Trustees and especially the Village President.

Susan Ritzert – She stated that she was on the Board of Trustees for 22 years and has never seen an employee put on an agenda to embarrass them, it should have been done in private. The residents may not have a vote on this Motion, but they will have a vote on the next election.

John Vole – Told a story about how Juanita helped locate a lost citizen. Not happy with the Village President and the Trustees. Does not agree with the dismissal of Chief Gumble.

Motion to Accept Resignation of Chief Gumble and to Dismiss her, effective immediately, from Office.

Trustee Correll made a Motion to Accept the Resignation of Chief Gumble and to Dismiss her, effective immediately, from Office. Trustee Shepherd seconded the Motion. President Shelton stated that Chief Gumble telephoned him and stated that she was giving her 2 weeks' notice upon her leaving, cutting this short he said OK, and he said she said she would memorialize it as soon as she got to a computer. Of which 9 days later she said no I have not resigned. President Shelton explained that he was bringing it to the board for board acceptance to accept the resignation of Chief Gumble and dismiss her immediately. Trustee Milarski asked why this was not being discussed in a closed session and what would President Shelton like to discuss this should be done in closed session. Trustee Milarski stated there was no resignation in the packet so what is the Board to discuss. Attorney Smoron explained that there was a suggestion that the termination of an appointed officer can be done privately in closed session. Trustee Milarski asked for clarification on the procedure if the Board doesn't accept the resignation. Attorney Smoron explained that the termination of an employee cannot be done in closed session this is a board action. Attorney Smoron also explains that you can go into a closed session to discuss this motion even though it is not on the agenda. Trustee Milarski explained that the Board has not had the opportunity to

discuss the dismissal of Chief Gumble as a Board. She also explains that when she asks about this issue and does not get an answer. Attorney Smoron states that taking action with respect to an appointed officer of the Village cannot be done in secret or quietly in closed session. He also states that if the Board wishes to go into closed executive session at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, they can. However, you cannot go into closed executive session in a Special Board meeting. Trustee Stevens stated that he is having the same issues as Trustee Milarski and there are pieces of this Motion that are missing, and it is not complete. He has spoken to several people in the community, and he just can't figure out what the problem is and why President Shelton wants to dismiss Juanita Gumble. He asked for guidance from Attorney Smoron on what can or cannot be discussed. Attorney Smoron advised that this is the time for discussion. Trustee Mogan stated that he feels Trustee Milarski would like to go into closed session and asked if that was a Motion she would make now. Attorney Smoron advised that she could make that motion. However, she would need a second and if there is no second, the motion would die. Following that there can be further discussion on that motion and then it is put to a vote. He advised Trustee Milarski to articulate the basis to go into closed session. The Board can do that if they wish. Trustee Stevens stated that he was so happy to see the so many residents at this meeting and he feels people need to get involved, people need to be part of their community, and hearing the impassioned speeches giving by so many people tonight makes it very clear that community is standing behind Chief Gumble and he wanted to thank them all for coming. President Shelton wanted to clarify an item to Trustee Milarski the Motion to accept resignation of Chief Gumble and to dismiss her, effective immediately, from office was not two parts it is all one part. He stated that if the Board chooses to accept the resignation she is dismissed immediately, If the Motion does not pass then the Chief stays, she is not dismissed, and he is not dismissing her in any other way. Trustee Milarski's concern is because President Shelton sent out an email with very vague things, for instants, Juanita refuses to oblige to the employee handbook, doesn't explain which part of the employee handbook. Trustee Milarski feels President Shelton did not discuss why he wanted to dismiss Chief Gumble. Trustee Milarski stated her vote is the residents vote, and how can she vote on hearsay. The email was very vague and not enough information on why President Shelton wanted to dismiss Chief Gumble. President Shelton stated he has nothing further to say. Trustee Knaack made a Motion to go into Closed session, to discuss the hiring, firing of employees of the Village of Hebron, and Trustee Milarski seconded the motion. No further discussion. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Stevens, Knaack, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Accept Resignation of Chief Gumble and to Dismiss her, effective immediately, from Office ~continued~.

Trustee Stevens asked if the Board would like to see if Chief Gumble would like to add anything. President Shelton asked Chief Gumble if there is anything she would like to add. Chief Gumble stated she would like to add that she apologized for what she said and being contingent and that the problem had been fixed. No further discussion. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Knaack, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Trustee Milarski, Stevens answered nay. Motion carried

Department Heads Report - None

Motion to Approve the FY25 Budget Amendment.

Trustee Milarski made a motion to Approve the FY25 Budget Amendment and Trustee Correll seconded the motion. President Shelton stated that the contract for Hughes Environmental Consulting, Inc., and the split the Budget item for \$90,000 and split it between Water and Sewer Fund. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve the FY25 Appropriation Ordinance.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to Approve the FY25 Appropriation Ordinance and Trustee Stevens seconded the motion. President Shelton explained that the Appropriation Budget is the same as the working budget, but he increased the amount because we are under Appropriation and it sets up what we are going to appropriate, and almost all the values are at 60% increase to make sure that we do not fall short under any kind of emergencies, and we are operating within our working budget. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve Ordinance Amending section 3-2-7B, Increasing the number of Class A Liquor Licenses issued, of the Hebron Municipal Code by 1 bringing the total from 6 to 7.

Trustee Mogan made a motion to Approve the Ordinance Amending section 3-2-7B, Increasing the number of Class A Liquor Licenses issued, of the Hebron Municipal Code by 1 bringing the total from 6 to 7 and Trustee Stevens seconded. President Shelton explained we currently have 6 Class A and 1 Class B. Debra Mindham has been trying to get her state license and needs to have the Village license to get a State License. Debra Mindham is asking if she could get the Village of Hebron License and as soon as she gets the State License she will pay the \$525.00 Liquor license to the Village of Hebron. Debra Mindham has paid twice and was not able to get her state license due to a technicality. Attorney Smoron suggested the Board give Debra Mindham 60 days to get the State license and at that time pay the Village of Hebron the Fee of \$525.00 for the Village of Hebron license. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve a Park Permit and One Day Liquor License Application for a birthday party at the Hebron Community Park Pavilion on August 17, 2024.

Trustee Stevens made a motion to Approve a Park Permit and One Day Liquor License Application for a birthday party at the Hebron Community Park Pavilion on August 17, 2024, Trustee Correll seconded the motion. Trustee Milarski asked if we have enough Police to staff the birthday party with alcohol. Trustee Mogan stated typically we haven't had police staff at these types of events. No further discussion. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve the use of the Village Hall Parking Lot, Greenspace, Restrooms, and Electric for the Hebron Public Library "Dancing in the Street" celebration on August 10, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Trustee Milarski made a Motion to Approve the use of the Village Hall Parking Lot, Greenspace, Restroom, and Electric for the Hebron Public Library "Dancing in the Street" celebration on August 10, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Trustee Mogan seconded. Trustee Steves stated that last year it was a big success, and a lot of residents asked if the library would bring it back this year. It will be an 80's theme, Harts will be there serving limited alcohol and snacks. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve a donation to the Food Pantry in the amount of \$200.00.

Trustee Shirlee made a motion to approve a donation to the Food Pantry in the amount of \$200.00, and Trustee Stevens. Trustee Shepherd, Correll, Milarski, Knaack, Stevens, and Mogan approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Attorney Report – None

Board Comments – None

Adjournment

After a roll call vote which all approved, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.



Roxanne Johnson
Village Clerk



Robert W. Shelton
Village President

Minutes prepared by: Roxanne Johnson, Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Village Board, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 08/26/2024