

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2020

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Shepherd, Ritzert, Lange, Peterson, Drevalas, and Lillie answered aye to roll call.

Discussion and Vote to Approve minutes of October 26, 2020 Special Village Board Meeting

Trustee Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2020 Special Village Board meeting. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustees Lange, Peterson, Shepherd, Drevalas, and Lillie approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Approve October/November 2020 Accounts Payable

Trustee Shepherd reported that there was \$16,076.32 due in accounts payable for General Fund and \$6,950.06 due in the Water/Sewer Fund accounts payable. The total due for accounts payable was \$23,026.38. Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the October/November accounts payable as presented. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Drevalas, Lange, Ritzert, Lillie, and Peterson approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

President's Report

President Martinez began her report by thanking Courtney Clark for her generous donation of new playground equipment, including installation, for the Hebron Community Park. She then thanked Frank Michalczyk for decorating the Village Hall for the holidays. She reminded everyone that the Christmas tree lighting will be held on Friday, November 27th at 5:00 p.m. at the park. She thanked Tammy Lillie for her time decorating the park and securing donations for those decorations. President Martinez reported that the Annual Christmas Light Contest judging will take place December 17th through the 19th. She also reported that a new local business, Image Garage located at 12307 Route 173, donated tinted windows for one of the Hebron Police Department vehicles. And lastly, she reported that the Village will be sending out a survey to the residents regarding the proposed meat processing facility.

Trustee Ritzert arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment

Toby Behrens, St. Albans Street, President Martinez read his statement in his absence. He stated that he likes to know where his food is coming from and continued to state that the Village of Hebron has generations of farmers still living here. He said that his father worked in the Kenosha Beef packing plant, so he is aware of the issues, but he feels the processing is handled differently these days with rules and guidelines for safe and clean processing centers. He stated that he did not think truck traffic would be an issue as Keystone Manufacturing is there as well

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and has not presented a problem regarding traffic. He closed by stating the Hebron is a proud rural farming community and he asked that this proposal be supported.

Robert Shelton, 10201 Sharon Lane, expressed concern that the meat processing facility was not on the agenda as it was tabled at the last Village meeting until the next Board meeting, which would be this one. He stated that there is a petition circulating in the Village (which he turned in to the Village Clerk) regarding those not in support of approving a meat processing facility due to smell, noise, animals escaping, and the effect it could have on the sewer treatment facility. He would not be opposed to such a facility if it were outside the Village limits.

Heather Friedli, 5345 Lansbury Circle, McHenry, IL, stated she was opposed to the proposed meat processing facility. She read a statement listing the downsides of such a business. She stated that issues and costs are passed on to the Village. She asked the Board to give thoughtful consideration regarding this proposal and to do their research. President Martinez commented that the village is doing their due diligence and have contacted both the IEPA and USDA.

Maggie Posa, 7435 Crest Hill Court, Fox Lake, IL, stated she was a member of Slaughter Free Cities and read a statement regarding what is believed to be the issues surrounding a meat processing facility. These issues included the harsh treatment of the animals, violent crime increase, PTSD, injuries to workers, high rate of COVID transmission as well as other related illnesses. She urged the Village to consider voting against such a proposal.

Deb Mindham, 11614 Prairie Avenue, expressed concern for the homeowners on Church and Mead Streets as well as the potential to reduce their property values. She also asked what ordinance the Village has in place regarding unkempt buildings. President Martinez directed her to contact Dick Ackerman, the Village Building Inspector.

Tom Lalor, 12617 O'Brien Road, stated that his family has been in Hebron since 1897 and he has been a livestock dealer and dairy farmer his entire life. He continued to state that he is familiar with meat processing facilities and there is no smell involved. He said there is a real need for such a facility, and he hopes that the Board approves it.

Stacey Toibin, 820 Concord Lane, mentioned that she is a realtor in McHenry and a member of Slaughter Free Cities. She is opposed to the proposed meat processing facility. She read statements from residents of Marengo that live near a facility like the proposed and sited noise, decreased home values, and water contamination as potential issues. She asked the Board to do the responsible thing and vote against this proposal.

Dawn Higgins, 11808 Maple Avenue, asked if Trustee Peterson was involved in the proposed meat processing facility. Trustee Peterson stated that she was not. She asked what the zoning was of the property and wanted to know where the waste would go. President Martinez

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confirmed that the property in question was zoned industrial and prior to it becoming industrial, there was only one resident in the industrial zoning area. She said that the Village will put the proposal on the Village website for review. She explained the requirements of the IEPA and USDA.

John Curran, Lake in the Hills, mentioned that he was a new resident of McHenry County. He referred to the letter from Toby Behrens and questioned how an animal could be killed humanly. He stated that he was a vegan and it is not that hard not to eat meat.

Ray Stalker, 11828 Prairie Avenue, stated that he was happy that the proposal would be added to the Village website. He added that there are different world views in the room and said the very people that are opposing the meat processing facility most likely support abortion.

Rose Rutherford, 11906 Prairie Avenue, commended those that spoke prior to her regarding the meat processing facility. She expressed concern about the effect on the sewer treatment plant, potential tax discounts given to new businesses and traffic issues. President Martinez stated that there were no tax discounts on the table and that the treatment plant is tested daily with results sent to the IEPA. She stated that there will be approximately 15 animals processed a day at the facility with a maximum of 75 per week. She did not feel there will be a traffic issue and the Village building inspector will make sure that the building is up to code.

There were no additional public comments.

Discussion and Vote to Approve the 2020/2021 Tax Levy

President Martinez explained that based on future growth the tax levy has increased by \$2,200. Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 Tax Levy in the amount of \$202,126.00. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Peterson, Lange, Ritzert, Lillie and Drevalas approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

Discussion and Vote to Approve Restructuring of a 2003 Village Loan for Municipal Expansion

President Martinez explained that the loan originated to purchase real estate which used to exist next to the existing municipal lot at Prairie Avenue and St. Alban. It will be renewed at the same rate of 4.50 per cent and payments will be approximately \$802.94. The Village was hoping to pay off a large sum of this loan this year, however, economics has interfered in the form of a worldwide pandemic. The reason that the Village cannot receive a lower rate for this loan is quite simply that the real estate does not exist as originally loaned upon.

Trustee Peterson asked what the amount of the original loan was. President Martinez stated that it was approximately \$200,000. She stated that the balance is down to approximately \$143,000. She added that when the property was purchased a house existed on it and was then torn down.

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She explained that this explains why the loan was so high. Trustee Ritzert asked if the rate could be lowered and President stated that she did not believe so as the property is not worth the original loan amount because there is no longer a house on it. She stated that Loan #307653-10 must be restructured.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the restructuring of 2003 Village Loan #307653-10. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Peterson, Drevalas, Lange, Ritzert, and Lillie approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

Department Head Reports

Superintendent of Public Works, Dan Nelson, stated that they took down the old playground equipment in the Hebron Community Park to make room for the new equipment to be installed. They have also been continuing to clean up leaves throughout the Village.

Chief Donlea warned residents to continue to be vigilant in locking car doors as car thefts continue to happen recently.

President Martinez reported that the Treasurer was out of the office today and she mentioned that Treasurer Fotland continues waiting for word regarding grants.

Attorney Report

None

Board Comments

President Martinez mentioned that she would like to provide clarification of an issue brought up by Trustee Shepherd at the last Board meeting about the Police Department not seeking Board approval for the sale of a confiscated vehicle. She stated that Chief Donlea was acting under an Illinois Compiled Statute enacted by the Illinois General Assembly regarding distribution of proceeds of seized property. One of the Village officers made a felony drug arrest which allowed for the legal seizure of the perpetrator vehicle. The judge in the case ruled that after a 1-year period of using the vehicle for drug patrol duties, the vehicle would become legal property of the Police Department, thereby allowing them full privilege of sale and subsequent use of funds at the discretion of the agency, for the enforcement of criminal laws. She then thanked the public for attending the Board meetings and added that she appreciates their input. She wished all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Trustee Shepherd stated he would just like to be made aware when things are sold. He feels that there is a lack of communication.

President Martinez stated that beginning in December, Department Heads will send out monthly reports.

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Trustee Lange and Trustee Drevalas also wished all a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. Trustee Lillie commended Courtney Clark for donating \$500 of the total donations of \$700 for lights for the holiday season. She feels a real need this year to be festive considering the difficult year many have been experiencing. Trustee Peterson commended the Police Department for responding quickly to a call regarding a window blown out at a property owned by elderly residents.

President Martinez reported that the Village Board meeting on December 14 will be cancelled and the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to go into Closed Session to Discuss Collective Negotiating matters between the Public Body and its Employees or their Representatives, or Deliberations concerning Salaries and Schedules for one or more Classes of Employees Pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act

At 7:15 p.m. Trustee Peterson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salaries and schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. All were in favor.

By roll call vote, the Board closed executive session at 7:56 p.m. and returned to the Board room.

Trustee Lange made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Motion carried by all voting aye.



Jean Attermeier,
Village Clerk



Kimmy Martinez,
Village President