

VILLAGE OF HEBRON  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 28, 2020

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 November 23, 2020 Village Board Meeting**

Trustee Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 Village Board meeting. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustees Lange, Peterson, Shepherd, Ritzert, Drevalas, and Lillie approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve minutes of November 27, 2020 Special Village Board Meeting**

Trustee Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2020 Special Village Board meeting. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. Trustees Lange, Drevalas, Peterson, Shepherd, Ritzert, and Lillie approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve November/December 2020 Accounts Payable**

Trustee Shepherd reported that there was \$19,566.21 due in accounts payable for General Fund and \$7,827.20 due in the Water/Sewer Fund accounts payable. The total due for accounts payable was \$27,383.41. Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the November/December accounts payable as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Peterson, Drevalas, Lange, Ritzert, and Lillie approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**President's Report**

President Martinez began her report by thanking residents and businesses for participating in the 2020 Christmas Light Contest. She mentioned that she thought that there was more participation this year and the town was beautifully decorated for the holiday season.

She stated that at the last Village Board meeting Trustee Ritzert asked why the rate on our unsecured loan could not be renewed any lower than the previous rate of 4.5 percent. She explained to her that it was an unsecured loan, and the bank was not willing to budge on the percentage rate. After some thought, she decided to try to negotiate a reduction in this rate with the bank. She announced that she was able to get the rate lowered from 4.5 percent to 3.75 percent bringing the payment down to \$779.89 from the original \$813.39. This is a savings of \$33.50 per month or \$402 per year, plus an additional amount of interest saved.

As a reminder, she stated that the annual Snowman Building Contest will begin whenever the snow flies and will run through March 31. She explained that details will follow in the upcoming newsletter.

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**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Announce Christmas Light Contest Winners – Residential and Commercial**

President Martinez announced the winners of the Businesses as follows:

- Third Place – The Dari
- Second Place – Stateline Insurance
- First Place – Crandall’s Restaurant

President Martinez announced the winners of the residential contest as follows:

- Third Place – The Rogelio Ruiz family of 9704 Illinois Street and the Michael Natschke family of 9708 Illinois Street. There were two winners as there was a tie for third place.
- Second Place – The Gary Norton family of 9710 Woods Lane and the Adam Mass family of 9706 Illinois Street. There were two winners as there was a tie for second place.
- First Place – The Michael Olhava family of 11803 Maple Avenue

She thanked all who participated in the contest and congratulated the winners.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve Village Board Meeting Schedule 2021**

President Martinez asked for questions regarding the 2021 meeting schedule presented. There were no questions or concerns.

Trustee Ritzert made a motion to approve the Village Board meeting schedule for 2021. Trustee Lillie seconded the motion. Trustee Ritzert, Lillie, Shepherd, Peterson, Drevalas, and Lange approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve a 5 percent Decrease in Resident Water/Sewer Rates**

President Martinez stated this Board would be the first to have an opportunity to give the residents of Hebron some relief regarding their water/sewer bills. She added that, after studying the numbers and paying close attention to the Village loan responsibilities, maintenance schedules and savings plans, Treasurer Fotland, Superintendent Nelson and herself concluded that the Village could offer a 5 percent decrease in the water/sewer rates for the residents. President Martinez explained that since the inception of the IEPA loan in 2007, the Village has been bound to a steady increase of water rates as mandated by the IEPA. She added that these mandates ended in January 2020.

President Martinez stated that the Village has seen more residential growth and new business in the last three and a half years than in the past thirteen years combined. The decrease that is being proposed will be monitored and reviewed every October/November. The Village we make sure that the loan obligation can be met, the maintenance schedules are kept, and the rainy-day

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savings still implemented. Trustee Lange stated that it appears straight forward, and he is in favor of the decrease. Some discussion ensued over the method of calculating the billing.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve a 5 percent decrease in resident water/sewer rates. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Lange, Ritzert, Lillie, Peterson, and Drevalas approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve the 2021 Annual Siren Maintenance Contract with Fulton Siren Services**

President Martinez stated that the annual siren maintenance rate for Fulton Siren Service for 2021 is \$1,044.81 which is a difference of \$40.48 over the 2020 rate. In comparison, American Signal Corporation quoted a rate of \$1,222.43 (17% more than Fulton) and Illinois Alarm no longer services the Village siren models. She is recommending the Board approve the 2021 annual siren contract with Fulton Siren Services.

Several residents commented that they are not hearing the sirens going off on the second Tuesday of the month. President Martinez said that she would relay this to Chief Donlea. Trustee Peterson asked Superintendent Nelson if his department has had any issues with this company and he said that they have not. He continued stating that the company has let his department change the batteries which in turn saves the Village money.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the annual siren maintenance contract with Fulton Siren Services. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Trustee Peterson, Ritzert, Shepherd, Lange, Lillie, and Drevalas approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve Employee Wage Increases**

Trustee Peterson asked if employee wage increases were ok to discuss in open session. Attorney Smoron stated that general policies can be discussed. President Martinez stated that every year, 5 percent is built into the budget for employee wage increases. Discussion ensued regarding giving raises during a pandemic. Trustee Lange voiced that often the Village positions are a steppingstone to higher paid positions elsewhere. He feels that the Village should keep the employees happy so that they continue to stay with the Village. Trustee Peterson asked if the employees understand that insurance is also a benefit. President Martinez believes that they do.

Trustee Peterson motioned to move into closed session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss compensation of one or more specific employees of the Village. Trustee Shepherd seconded the motion. Trustees Peterson, Shepherd, Ritzert, Lillie, and Drevalas approved the motion to move into closed session. Trustee Lange was not in favor. Motion carried.

At 7:30 p.m., by roll call vote, it was approved to adjourn closed session.

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At 7:30 p.m. Trustee Drevalas made a motion to reconvene the open session. Trustee Shepherd seconded the motion. All were in favor by roll call vote.

**Department Head Reports**

Superintendent of Public Works, Dan Nelson, stated that the trucks are ready for snow arrival. He added that they salted last night.

There were no other department head reports.

**Attorney Report**

Trustee Shepherd asked for an update of the litigation with J&L. Attorney Smoron stated that J&L are awaiting the decision for the Appellate Court in the coming weeks.

**Board Comments**

President Martinez wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Trustee Shepherd stated he would like the Board members to review all budget lines closely. Trustee Lillie asked about the house across from the park that is boarded up. President Martinez stated that the property was in foreclosure which she said can take up to two years to be resolved. Brief discussion regarding grants ensued.

President Martinez reported that the Village Board meeting on January 11 will be cancelled and the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried by all voting aye.



Jean Attermeier,  
Village Clerk



Kimmy Martinez,  
Village President