

VILLAGE OF HEBRON  
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2020

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**Discussion and Vote to Approve minutes of December 16, 2019 Village Board Meeting**

Trustee Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2019 Village Board meeting. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Trustees Lange, Ritzert, Peterson, Shepherd, Drevalas, and Wagner approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve January/February 2020 Accounts Payable**

Trustee Shepherd reported that there was \$31,021.73 due in accounts payable for General Fund and \$127,563.73 due in the Water/Sewer Fund accounts payable. The total due for accounts payable was \$158,584.78. Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the January/February accounts payable as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Peterson, Drevalas, Ritzert, Wagner and Lange approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**President's Report**

President Martinez stated that there still seems to be discussion within the community regarding the new contract between the Village and Prairieland Disposal. She wanted the residents to know that the State of Illinois supports the Municipalities right to retain contracts for the good of the community. Contracts such as the these are entered into by all municipalities and rely on complete participation by residents. She added that this contract begins and ends at lower rates than the Village residents were paying to Waste Management. It also offers a tiered pricing policy. The only opt-outs allowed are for the Village businesses who must provide a copy of their contract with other providers to the Village. Trustee Wagner expressed concern over the residents that have not yet received totes from Prairieland. President Martinez asked him to tell them to call the Village Clerk and she will contact Prairieland.

President Martinez also reported that there was an overflow issue with the Village water tower. The cause was an apparent short in the well pump. The Public Works staff switched wells and drained the water tower. This issue did not cause the residents or the Village any additional costs in water. A specialty contractor that the Village has used in the past came out and determined that our pump had gone bad, causing the electrical short. Due to proper planning by our Public Works superintendent as well as in keeping within his departmental budget and cooperation of the Village Board in passing a responsible budget, even with this unexpected loss and cost, the Village is still within budget. She thanked the Public Works staff for their efforts and foresight.

**Public Comment**

There were none.

**Approval of Ordinance rezoning the Watershed Ministries, LLC property at 10315 Route 47 from Industrial District to R-5 Residential District or Denial of Same**

President Martinez asked the Village Board for questions. Trustee Ritzert stated that the property currently has a septic field and she feels that there should be a request for a letter confirming that this field can handle the increased volume and that it is in good working order. As the manager of Watershed Ministries, LLC, Jeff Alheit stated that he had John Rayberg of Rechel Septic Systems, Inc. inspect the septic field and he confirmed that it was working properly. He recommended having it pumped out more frequently.

Trustee Ritzert asked if the long distance from the nearest hydrant would pose an issue. Building Inspector Ackerman confirmed that they would have to use tanker trucks if there was a fire. He added that if any other buildings were constructed on property, they would then have to hook up to the Village sewer system. Mr. Alheit stated that there were only three acres and the topography of the land would make it difficult to build any additional buildings there.

Trustee Peterson stated that if Mr. Alheit could send something in writing to the Building Inspector regarding the status of the current septic field, she would be in favor. Dick Ackerman agreed.

Trustee Wagner made a motion to approve the Ordinance rezoning the Watershed Ministries, LLC property at 10315 Route 47 from Industrial District to R-5 Residential District including the written submission of evidence from a licensed inspector stating that the septic field is in good working order. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion and Vote to Approve Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for the Use of MFT Funds for the Purchase of Salt**

There being no discussion, Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve a resolution for maintenance of streets and highways by the municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for the use of MFT funds for the purchase of salt. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion and vote to Approve Resolution Adopting a Revised Anti-Harassment Policy**

Attorney Smoron stated that sensitivity has increased regarding this issue and this matches what legislation wants. As this resolution largely duplicates the Village employee handbook, Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the resolution to adopt a revised Anti-Harassment Policy. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Trustee Peterson, Ritzert, Wagner, Lange, Shepherd, and Drevalas, approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

**Discussion, Review and Vote to Approve Village Contribution to Employee Health Benefits**

President Martinez stated that all trustees had received a copy of intended resources for the added contribution. She stated that, as a smaller municipality, over the last three years, she has been able to work with the Board and the Village budget to offer livable wages to the Village staff. She added that the Village employees are still the lowest paid municipality staff in McHenry County. The Board, however, has been able to put together a Health Benefits package to make insurance available for full-time staff. To date, the Village only has three employees taking advantage of this benefit, each being insured at the single rate. After discussion with employees, the number one reason for not using the Village health care benefits was cost. She added that the cost goes up substantially for adding family members.

Trustee Shepherd asked how many full-time employees the Village has. President Martinez stated that there were three in Public Works, four in the Police Department and the Treasurer.

Trustee Drevalas stated that she believes that there should be further discussion regarding where additional funds would come from to offset these benefits. She does not feel that video gaming funds are reliable enough. President Martinez replied that the funds would come from video gaming as well as the Police Department. Trustee Ritzert agreed with Trustee Drevalas. Trustees Wagner, Lange, and Peterson agreed that there should be more discussion regarding this issue. Trustee Peterson called for more insurance quotes. President Martinez asked that this be tabled until the next Board meeting and that additional quotes would be supplied.

**Department Head Reports**

President Martinez announced that the Village Treasurer and the Chief of Police are both working to secure grants for the Village.

There were no other comments from the department heads.

**Attorney Report**

None

**Board Comments**

Trustee Shepherd asked when the police department added a fourth full-time employee. President Martinez stated that they were sworn in some time ago. Trustee Shepherd stated that he felt communication was lacking and that the hiring of additional police officers should have been voted on by the Board. President Martinez confirmed that the department did not go over budget in hiring new officers and that the Village Board voted to give department heads the right to make decisions regarding hiring and firing. At this time, discussion ensued regarding part-time and full-time positions and the benefits of each. President Martinez stated that full coverage in the police department could not be accomplished without hiring additional full-time employees. She went on to say that she will have the Chief work on communicating any changes in the police staff to the Village Board.

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Trustee Wagner commended Superintendent Dan Nelson and his staff for the fine job that they have done regarding snow removal this season. Discussion ensued regarding parking regulations during the winter months. Officer Schmoeller stated that there needs to be signs posted in areas with parking restrictions. President Martinez added that they will work on this.

President Martinez announced that the Village Board meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be cancelled and the next meeting will be on Monday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Wagner made a motion move into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation with J&L at 7:59 p.m. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. All were in favor.

By roll call vote, the Board closed executive session at 8:38 p.m. and returned to the Board room.

Trustee Wagner made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Motion carried by all voting aye.



Jean Attermeier,  
Village Clerk



Kimmy Martinez,  
Village President