

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
MARCH 28, 2022

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

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Shepherd, Mogan, Drevalas, Stevens, and Lange answered aye to roll call. Trustee Peterson was absent.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of February 28, 2022, Village Board Meeting

Trustee Mogan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022, Village Board meeting. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Trustee Lange expressed that he had concerns and asked if there was a line item for the K-9, per a question asked of Penny Smith at an earlier meeting, and President Shelton stated that there was a line item for the K-9 program. Trustee Lange stated that Karen Lalor also asked, at a previous meeting, if the \$100,000 cut from the police budget was cut or moved to another department. President Shelton stated that it has been removed from the police budget and it may be added to the public works department earmarked for street repairs. Trustee Lange also asked where the money that came in from business registrations was deposited. President Shelton stated that it was deposited into the general fund to offset administration costs. Trustee Lange and Drevalas voted not to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Stevens and Trustee Shepherd voted to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Mogan abstained. President Shelton voted to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022. Trustee Peterson was absent. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve the February/March 2022 Accounts Payable

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the February/March 2022 accounts payable as presented with no add-ons. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd reported that there was \$29,970.18 due in accounts payable for General Fund and \$18,261.93 due in the Water/Sewer Fund accounts payable. The total due for accounts payable was \$48,232.11. The police department required vehicle maintenance on the police vehicles and a pump replacement upgrade was installed in the water and sewer department contributing to higher-than-normal totals for the month. Trustee Shepherd, Drevalas, Stevens, Mogan, and Lange approved the motion by answering aye. Trustee Peterson was absent. Motion carried by all.

President's Report

President Shelton reported that a new business, Sister's Donuts, opened last Friday and he welcomed them to the community. He stated that the Village welcome sign on the west side of town will be moved by April 15 to a space on the south side of Route 173 near the curve by Price Road.

President Shelton stated that he was aware that several members of the police department and several members of the community are here tonight out of concern for the police department's budget. His comments are as follows:

“Let me make two things very clear to everyone here:

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First, this is not "defunding the police." The Village of Hebron will maintain a healthy budget for the purpose of providing necessary police services to our residents. I think I also speak on behalf of the entire Board when I say that our police officers are appreciated and recognized as part of our ongoing Village service to the community.

Second, the taxpayers of this community deserve value for how their tax dollars are spent. That is what this Board is responsible for ensuring. Five years ago (end of April, 2017), the Village of Hebron's police department total expenses was \$131,793.40. In April 2019, it went to \$331,247.49. The next year it went to \$404,949.39. At the end of the completed fiscal year 2020, the police department total expenses to the Village's taxpayers was \$507,337.04. As of May 2021 through today, the total expenses are \$532,809.01 and that is still with time left for this year. There has been no statistically significant change or increase in crime, violent crime, or number of police contacts over this period of time. On average, our police have some point of contact with the public once every 4 hours. That's traffic stops, that's 911 calls, and that's reports made to the police. This has not changed, yet what has changed is that the prior administration decided to create a sergeant and lieutenant position and beef up a police department serving 1200 residents. There is not one comparable community to our Village of 1200 that has four layers of police management. The prior decision was also to increase full time and part time police staffing and to pay everybody significantly higher wage increases than the cost-of-living index would suggest is reasonable.

My final point to you is this: there are several ways the Village can operate its police department, without compromising public safety and without overspending in what has been a financial runaway train in recent years. That is all we are trying to do in reducing the department's budget by approximately 20%. The opposition is simply the police officers who, by the requirements of the collective bargaining agreement they wanted, are impacted first. Please do not give credence to the hyperbole, there will still be a police department, there has not been nor is there any reason to think there will be some increase in violent crime. They are just trying to play on our fears. Again, this is a very simple economic reality. Let's focus on reining in unnecessary expenditures so that we can all enjoy lower tax rates. We can do this sensibly without compromising public safety. Thank you."

Resident Kimmy Martinez asked for a report of crime statistics in the Village.

Public Comments

Karen Lalor, 12718 O'Brien, asked the Village Board to respond to the school districts concerns regarding lower police presence in the Village. President Shelton stated he would contact the school. She thanked Jean Attermeier, the Village Clerk, for her help with the Hebron Cemetery. And lastly, she thanked all the residents for attending this meeting.

Kimmy Martinez, 9619 Main Street – Complete comments attached to these minutes as requested by resident.

Chris Robert, Village of Hebron Police Officer, said he has been a police officer since 2010 as well as a fireman. He said he loves the Village and its people. He stated that he initially thought

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President Shelton would be good for the Village but has changed his mind. He said that President Shelton does not pay a water bill or taxes to the Village. He said that the President needs to keep public safety to the forefront. He added that FOP negotiations have failed because the President will not discuss the budget. He feels that there are members on the Village Board that are not acting in the best interest of the Village.

Brian Aherns, 12110 Price Road, questioned whether the police department cuts were discussed by anyone other than the Board members. He feels that the community should have a say in such a decision. He asked how the public can be notified of what is being proposed prior to it being on the Village Board meeting agendas. He also asked if the Village uses the County because of police staffing cuts, will this leave the Village open to litigation.

Joann Lange, 10309 Sharon Lane, referred to an article in the Woodstock Independent on March 8, 2022, regarding license plate readers that are being used to combat a trend of out-of-town criminals. She stated that there is a higher-than-normal crime rate and the thought that crime is reduced is wrong. She feels that sending officers out alone is dangerous. She also mentioned that residents can check out DVD's the Hebron Library.

Alex Gohmann, Village of Hebron Lieutenant, read a list of Village of Hebron police call increases and are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>
2016	800
2017	1200
2018	2400
2019	3972
2020	4689
2021	2800

John Santoro, 1028 Kennedy Court, asked if the Village could supply a "Redbox" at the Dollar General in town. He would like to see the Village Board investigate this possibility. President Shelton said they would.

Waymon Vela, 11025 Woodland Lane, stated that he just moved into the Village and likes living here. He added that he feels that the police department is a very big asset to the Village. If the police staffing goes down, he thinks that the criminals will know and target Hebron. He feels that this cut in the police department will bring his home value down and feels that the department should be fully funded. He is willing to pay higher taxes for this service.

Sherry Ditzler, 11803 Maple Avenue, moved into the Village in January of 2022. She would like to know that there are always police officers on duty. She moved here from the Village of Fox River Grove where car theft and home invasions were increasing there. She said she called the Hebron Police non-emergency number recently regarding a dog left out in the cold and said there was a quick response as the officer new exactly who the dog belonged to. She would like the department to stay as is to assure quick response times.

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Angeline Fust, 17914 Hebron Road, stated she is a member the local fire department. She said that the Hebron Police Department is their backup as they clear the scene prior to them doing their job. She felt that this will be an issue if left for McHenry County Sheriff's Department for coverage as the response times could be 45 minutes or more. She added that without the local police assistance, it will leave the fire department in jeopardy.

Walter Eichman, 10210 Sharon Lane, stated he was the oldest resident in the Village and he agrees with Officer Robert. He mentioned a \$1.5 billion State of Illinois surplus that the Village should investigate applying for a portion of. He does not want the Village Board to shortchange the Village Police Department.

TJ DeMars, Employee of Rex Towing, stated that they receive quite a few calls from the Village of Hebron for tows of stopped vehicles. He added that he does not think the Village should let any of the officers go.

Motion to Approve 2022 Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management Program

Trustee Mogan made a motion to approve the 2022 Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management Program. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. President Shelton reported that the contract amount has remained the same for the past two years. He added that there are a total of 8 treatments over 11.2 miles of Village roads. Trustee Mogan, Drevalas, Lange, Stevens, and Shepherd approved the motion by answering aye. Trustee Peterson was absent. Motion carried.

Trustee Drevalas stated she would like to report for Trustee Peterson in her absence. President Shelton stated that this should be reported in Board Comments. She disagreed and continued to report that there will be a Referendum Workshop to be held at the high school on April 12, 2022.

Department Head Reports

Superintendent Nelson reported in March his department worked on vehicle maintenance including washing and detailing as well as putting new tires on a squad car and fixing a fender. They also did road maintenance including cold patching, sign repair and tree/branch removal along Hebron Road. In addition, they worked on shop maintenance, brush pick-up, snow plowed and salted roads, and fixed a water leak on Bigelow. Trustee Lange asked if anyone was working on a grass mowing proposal for 2022. Clerk Attermeier said that the bid proposal information was already on the website and proposals are due on April 11, 2022.

Frank Michalczyk's report given by President Shelton – He changed out water meters and installed a new Lion Heart surge protector at the main lift station as well as completing his daily routine duties.

Chief Donlea reported that there were 98 total calls this month with 34 of them traffic stops and 64 calls for service.

There were no other reports.

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Attorney Report

Trustee Mogan asked if the Board was to approve the minutes for accuracy. Attorney Smoron stated that the minutes are a record of what happened at the meeting.

Board Comments

Trustee Mogan wished everyone a blessed Easter.

Trustee Drevalas commented that she felt that the Village will be losing revenue due to the cuts in the police department. She added that she has asked for the placement of the “public comments” to be placed on this agenda and she was told that it would not be on the agenda. She stated that she feels that the Village Board needs to meet on April 11 to discuss the FY 2022-2023 budget.

Resident Kimmy Martinez asked the Village attorney if the Trustees can request items to be placed on the agenda. Attorney Smoron stated that it was a gray area and to air toward practicality. Trustee Drevalas stated she wants the public comments moved and she wants it placed on the next agenda for approval. She thanked the public for attending the meeting and asked them for new ideas.

Trustee Stevens thanked Joann Lange for mentioning that the library has DVD’s and he thanked the public for their attendance at the meeting. He added that he respects the Village of Hebron Police Department and he feels they are nothing but fantastic.

Trustee Lange explained that the notices that residents received on their doors were from the Hebron-Alden-Greenwood Fire Department. He stated that they, as well as the School Board, are deeply concerned about the cuts to the Village Police Department. Trustee Lange expressed concern for what these cuts will do to home values and attracting new business. He added that drug and human trafficking runs from Rockford to Waukegan and it runs right through the Village of Hebron. He also is concerned about trucks running through town damaging the infrastructure. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Attorney Smoron stated that, if needed, a special meeting could be called with 48-hour notice and it should be confined to only issues on the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the request for a second meeting in April to discuss the budget.

President Shelton reported that the Village Board meeting on April 11 is canceled, and the next Village Board meeting will be on Monday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m.

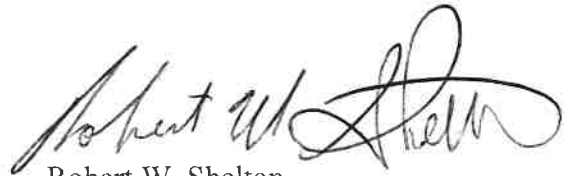
Adjournment

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Lange, Mogan, Drevalas, Stevens, approved the motion by answering aye. Trustee Peterson was absent. Motion carried by all.

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Jean Attermeier,
Village Clerk



Robert W. Shelton
Village President

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM KIMMY MARTINEZ - MARCH 28, 2022 AT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

I'd like to begin by stating that we have a dedicated group of Police Officers here who love this town and its residents. President Shelton, your supporters and the Trustees who wish to defund the police are out of line. In fact, those who complain and support this nonsense in online forums, are mostly non-residents, who admit to having run-ins with law enforcement. Interesting, don't you think? Really, think about that for a moment. You are not a responsible President, in fact, you are fiscally irresponsible. To put the safety of our village residents at risk so you can have another parade or throw another festival is ill-advised. If you do not learn to understand budgets, you will create a bigger mess and bankrupt this village. When I took office in 2017, we didn't have a budget. I spent hours going over everything with our then Treasurer and we created a fiscally responsible and balanced budget which started us towards a full-time police department of which the residents had asked for. They were tired of not having a full-time police force and the wait times associated with calls for county coverage. I hope you realize we lose revenue from drug enforcement, DUIs, speeding violations, tows and a bevy of other illegal activity when local officers are not present. In case you haven't heard, defunding the police has gone by the wayside. People have come to their senses, but not in your case. Here's an interesting tidbit - in an article in the Northwest Herald by Samuel Lounsberry from May 25, 2021, Trustee Mogan, who worked decades in law enforcement, claimed to NOT be on board with returning Hebron's Police Department to a part-time agency. He then voted to defund our department and go back to a part-time agency - shame on you, Trustee Mogan - and to think, you were hand-picked by this President. Neither of you have the village's best interest in mind. As for the trustees who blindly follow, be aware, elections come up sooner than you think. The people will not recklessly follow the hate and lies as they did before. Our Police Department needs to be fully funded and full-time.

Let's move onto the budget, President Shelton. Holding two meetings in April in regard to the 2022-2023 fiscal budget is, quite frankly, fiscally irresponsible. Why waste money that way, President Shelton? The first meeting in regard to the new budget should have been held in advance, this way the Trustees would have ample opportunity to review as such. Then, all their questions could be answered and final approval given appropriate time. Trustees should NOT have to meet with you personally to view the budget. I have never heard of a Village President holding a budget hostage, which is what you are doing. Give the Trustees the budget to look at! This whole process should have begun in October as I advised last year when we spoke after a meeting, trying to help you succeed - oh wait - you do not take advice from women, so you did what you wanted and here we are.

Just so you are aware, President Shelton, Trustees also have the right to put items on the agenda. You do not have the right to deny them that! They represent us citizens. Attorney Smoron, should explain this to you.

By the way, President Shelton, stifling public comment is not a way to empower yourself. One of your Trustees and his spouse bullied a forum moderator so much that they have gone to approved comments only. Ignoring and erasing public opinion does not un-tell the truth.

Finally, it is of growing opinion and I wholeheartedly agree, that it is past time to have this President recalled and hold a special election; it's something all Hebron Village Residents need to seriously consider.