

# *Village of Goodfield*

## **BOARD MINUTES**

### **Regular Board Meeting – December 14, 2023**

Village President Jim Edwards called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Roll call showed the following board members present: Terry Nohl, Matt Ginder, Roger Mullins, Hank Melton and Terri Kuebler. Also present: Attorney Mike Gifford, Engineer Duane Yockey, PWA Nohl, Clerk Sheri Martin, Emily Zobrist and 4 visitors.

Absent was Trustee Todd Perry and Treasurer Teresa DeGrave.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**Citizens Request and Input** - None.

#### **Meeting Minutes**

11-16-23 Regular Board Meeting

12-7-23 Combined Finance & Police Committee Meeting

Motion made by Melton, seconded by Ginder to approve both sets of minutes, as amended.

Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Motion was made by Ginder, seconded by Mullins to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended to the warrants dated December 14, 2023. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

#### **Warrants/Accounts Payable**

Motion was made by Nohl, seconded by Mullins to approve the payment of bills as listed on warrants dated:

11-29-23	\$ 18,071.64
12-01-23	\$ 1,717.86
12-13-23	\$ 28,624.05

Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

#### **Transfers**

Motion was made by Mullins, seconded by Ginder to approve the following transfers:

- \$ 10,557.45 from O&M Checking to General Fund Checking
- \$ 65,000.00 from General Fund Money Market to General Fund Checking
- \$ 0.00 from General Fund Money Market to Building Fund Money Market
- \$ 40,000.00 from O&M Checking to O&M Money Market
- \$ 10,000.00 from O&M Checking to Pledged Revenue (Bond Pmt)
- \$ 0.00 from TIF Fund to General Fund Checking
- \$ 0.00 from Bond Repayment Fund to General Fund Checking
- \$ 2,500.00 from O&M Checking to O&M Depreciation
- \$ 2,043.82 from O&M Money Market to General Fund Checking
- \$ 7,300.00 from General Fund Checking to Police Fund
- \$ 5,000.00 from General Fund Checking to Equipment Fund

Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

**Payment of outstanding invoices upon request of Village Engineer**

There were no outstanding invoices.

**PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR/VILLAGE ENGINEER REPORT**

**PWA Nohl** - Grinder pump inspections have been completed. If weather stays moderate we will start on manhole inspections and curb stops water shut offs for each house to make sure we can locate and they work.

Found another section of sanitary sewer that there is not an easement for out at Bridle Ridge. This will be discussed at a committee meeting.

**Engineer**- Hoerr Construction indicated they wanted to do the bore under Martin Road and Deer Lakes Drive to and from Tazwood Industrial Park. They started on Martin Road. Waterman taps done waiting on sewer main taps.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT/DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

Nothing discussed.

**SEWER TREATMENT PLANT/COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Nothing discussed.

**SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM ISSUES**

Nothing discussed.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Gifford talked about discussed annexation of land just north of campground. Attorney Gifford received a proposed plat. This will be put on January Regular Board meeting agenda and discussed then.

Attorney Gifford spoke with Dr. Merheb's attorney. The doctor's assistant is supposed to set up a meeting after the first of the year with Dr. Merheb.

**VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Edwards passed out a resignation letter to the Board. The letter read: After much soul searching and with my deepest regrets, I have decided that my personal health concerns are best served by my resignation as Village Board President effective January 1, 2024. I want to thank the Village Trustees and the Village employees for their encouragement and support you have given me. I especially want to thank Sheri Martin and Mike Gifford for doing a great job of keeping me out of trouble and heading down the right path! While I know there is much more to be done and some hard decisions to be made the Village cannot afford to practice business as usual and I believe we have started on the right path to providing the necessary services to serve the community while closely managing their tax dollars. I wish all of you success in your future endeavors.

Trustee Melton thanked Jim for  
All other trustees and employees agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Ingress/Egress Easement for Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main**

PWA Nohl walked the alternate property with James from Lewis, Yockey & Brown today. There are several issues with the property – multiple land owners to get easements from, there is a considerable grade difference for where the work needs to be done and

the timber area is still through Hoerr property. Josh does not feel like this is a viable option. He will try to get ahold of the railroad.

**Discussion on proposed revisions to Chapter 6, 7, 8, 11 & 12**

PWA Nohl is still looking at and reviewing Chapter 8. We've made some changes but are waiting for Comprehensive Plan to review the whole chapter.

**Comprehensive Plan**

There will be a meeting sometime in January. Waiting to hear from MSA.

**Sewer Treatment Plant response letter to IEPA**

PWA Nohl gave Engineer Yockey information on the amount of sludge removed from lagoon 1 and proposed for lagoon 2. Still haven't heard anything back from IEPA.

**Design of Phase I of Trunk Sewer**

This project is paused and will be taken off the agenda.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Development of a Goodfield Police Dept.**

Bill Lally stated after last discussion he has changes a few figures to give the Village more options. He has redesigned the police budget in case the Village wants to start off with a part time Police Department – 20 hours for a Chief and combined 26 hours for part time officers. There would be no health insurance or IMRF so each officer & chief would have to work less than 1,000 hours/year. Uniform and equipment allowance would be cut in half. This would cost approximately \$111,034.39. Income would not change too drastically. So that brings you to about \$95,524.39 give or take.

There is not a chosen location for the Police Department yet. That would be up to the Police Committee. The Police Committee will meet after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Trustee Kuebler asked about grants. Bill Lally said there are COPS grants, Ballistic Grants and various other grants for equipment and things of that nature. Terri also had questions on the budget. Treasurer DeGrave was not at meeting so she will answer those questions at a later date. The question was asked in police why is attorney fees separate. It is to keep legal fees separate.

The Police Committee will look at ordinances for fines. A Police Committee Meeting will be set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January. Trustee Melton possibly has 2 L shaped desks for Police Department.

Trustee Melton asked if the building fund for Village Hall could be used to put up a 3 stall garage or something like that for Police Dept. Attorney Gifford said it depends on the wording on the appropriations.

**Timberline Road Improvements & Right of Way**

The Annexation Agreement with Darwin Steidinger will be a part of this improvement. Attorney Gifford stated Dr. Merheb's assistant will set up a meeting after the first of the year. Engineer Yockey said if we do not get started on this project soon we will not be able to do it.

**Tax Levy Ordinance**

Treasurer DeGrave prepared the Tax Levy Ordinance after discussion at the Finance and Police Committee Meeting. Motion was made by Melton, seconded by Nohl to approve the **Tax Levy Ordinance 23-10** as presented. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – no.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**IL Funds' Investments**

This was discussed at the Finance and Police Committee Meeting. IL Funds have 5% interest at this time. Years ago the Village used IL Funds. Finance Chairman Matt Ginder recommends the Village use IL Funds again because at Goodfield State Bank we are earning very little on our cash. Motion was made by Ginder, seconded by Melton to authorize Treasurer to begin utilizing IL Funds and to move and determine the amount of funds to be move at Treasurer's discretion. Emily Zobrist said Treasurer said we want to keep in mind our relationship with Goodfield State Bank and not move everything. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

**Illinois Paid Time Off for All Workers Act**

Attorney discussed the Paid Leave for all Workers Act going into effect 1-1-24. Mike mentioned some ambiguities in the statute. It was issued just before Thanksgiving. There is a Safe Harbor provision – if you have a plan already it gets grand-fathered in. The language omits limited notice, no pre-approval but in reg Village should utilize to deny a planned leave on operational necessity. Department heads can create policy as to minimum requirements for what they need for personnel ie. with 6" snow storm. Attorney Gifford said there are 2 alternatives it can be accrued – the employee earns 1 hour of paid time off for every 40 hours worked or front loaded. Part time employees can be prorated. Full time or salaried workers can be front loaded the full 40 hours. The benefit of front loading is it doesn't require carry over and administratively simpler and easier to keep track of. If the Village does front load if some uses their time and then quits the Village loses that money. The State regulations are not final they are proposed, it will be the end of January or March for final regulations.

Motion was made by Melton, seconded by Ginder to adopt a Front Load Paid Leave for All Workers Policy per IL Statutes. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – abstain, Ginder – yes, Mullins – yes, Melton – yes and Kuebler – yes.

**Scenic Drive Cul-de-sac**

This project is an alternate for the Build IL money because of delay with the Timberline Road Improvement Project. The cul-de-sac is on the East end of Scenic Drive. PWA Nohl spoke with the land owner that owns the parcel where Scenic Drive ends. The owner was hesitant and wants to think about it. He will get back to PWA Nohl in January.

**Mackinaw River Watershed**

The Village received a letter from IEPA to inform us the Mackinaw River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load Report for nitrate and fecal coliform was approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency on September 21, 2023. This letter was for information only. In the future IEPA could require the Village to use chlorinated water.

**Schedule Committee Meetings**

A Police Committee Meeting will be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January, 2024.

**Municipal Calendar**

Tax Levy has to be filed by the last Tuesday in December. With Christmas the Treasurer should make sure it is filed by Dec. 22, 2024.

**Other Business**

**Engineer** – None.

**Public Works Administrator** – None.

**Trustees**

**Nohl** – None.

**Ginder** – None.

**Perry** – Absent.

**Mullins** – None.

**Melton** – None.

**Kuebler** – None.

**Clerk** – None.

**Treasurer** – None.

**Next Board Meeting January 18, 2024.**

**Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment was made by Ginder, seconded by Nohl. Meeting adjourned at 8:47p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Martin  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Board on \_\_\_\_\_.