

Village of Goodfield

BOARD MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting – November 21, 2024

Village President Hank Melton called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Roll call showed the following board members present: Terry Nohl, Roger Mullins, and Terri Kuebler. Also present: Attorney Mike Gifford, Engineer Dave Brown, PWA Josh Nohl, Clerk Sheri Martin, Treasurer Emily Zobrist and 2 visitors.

Absent were Trustees Matt Ginder and Todd Perry.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Citizens Request and Input - None.

Police Report

Chief Lally reported on Police Department items of interest are body cameras are currently in use – meets SAFE-T Act mandates. Had Tazewell County Dispatch edit their CAD information to reflect that Deer Lakes and Lakes at Oak Valley are within Goodfield Police jurisdiction. Traffic citations and NTA's have arrived. Finished first half of department policies. Squad car struck a deer, minor damage to front of hood and grill. Police Department has new phone numbers: Office 309-965-4009 – Fax 309-965-4026. Phone answering service is active. Chief Lally reported that he is continuing to write department policy. He is in the process of hiring part-time officers. Security cameras are being installed. Bill is setting up a meeting with new owners of Timberline Campground. Ordinance violation citations have been designed and are being printed. Physical phones for the office have been ordered.

Meeting Minutes

10-17-24 Regular Board Meeting

Motion made by Nohl, seconded by Mullins to approve the minutes. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes.

Treasurer's Report

Motion was made by Mullins, seconded by Melton to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended to the warrants dated November 21, 2024. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes. Emily reported that in November the Village earned almost 5% interest on their money.

Warrants/Accounts Payable

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

11-13-24	\$187,377.31
10-30-24	\$ 46,355.82

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

Transfers

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

- \$ 19,895.67 from O&M Checking to General Fund Checking
- \$ 0.00 from General Fund Money Market to General Fund Checking
- \$ 4,000.00 from General Fund Money Market to Building Fund Money Market
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- \$ 0.00 from O&M Checking to O&M Money Market
- \$ 10,000.00 from O&M Money Market to Bond Repayment Fund
- \$ 0.00 from TIF Fund to General Fund Checking
- \$ 100,792.75 from Bond Repayment Fund to General Fund Checking
- \$ 2,500.00 from O&M Money Market to O&M Depreciation Fund
- \$ 7,300.00 from General Fund Checking to Police Fund
- \$ 5,000.00 from General Fund Money Market to Equipment Depreciation Fund

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

Payment of outstanding invoices upon request of Village Engineer

There were no outstanding invoices.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATOR/VILLAGE ENGINEER REPORT

PWA Nohl reported that he and James with Lewis, Yockey & Brown have completed the punch list for Tazwood Industrial. Dave Brown commented that Dietrich's had contacted us in late October about the final plat and we sent the required steps and information needed to do that. He hasn't heard anything back from Dietrich's yet.

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 reported he spoke with Engineer Dave Brown and PWA Josh Nohl regarding Tazwood Industrial and finalization of paperwork. Mike also talked with Chief Lally regarding Police Department Standard Operating Procedures.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Melton reported there was an excellent turn out for the General Election, 551 out of approximately 700 voted.

Fire Department is trying to get the car moved out, hopefully it will be moved out by the end of the week. Hank wondered if we should put a sign up saying Fire Department Training Area.

Hank asked PWA Nohl when the pickle ball court will be put in the park. PWA Nohl said next spring.

Hank informed the Board that 3-4 weeks ago a group of 15-20 teenagers came out of the park about 10:30 – 11:00p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Ingress/Egress Easement for Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main

PWA Nohl said he has a new direct phone number for railroad engineer.

Discussion on proposed revisions to Village Code

PWA Nohl said reviewing the code will take a while and a lot of scheduling. We are going to set a Special Board Meeting the second Monday of each month, starting in January. Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chief Lally attended a zoom meeting with Deer Lakes HOA, Cindy Kaiser suggested the creation of a neighborhood watch not only for her subdivision but maybe one that's community wide. Bill said yeah let's move forward on that and see what comes about. President Melton said, speaking for volunteer stuff, we have a pretty hard time getting volunteers on the fire department. I don't know how many volunteers we can get for a community watch program but I would be all for it if that would work.

Timberline Road Improvements & Right of Way

Nothing discussed.

West Robinson Street Improvement

Engineer Dave Brown said this project will be bid after the first of the year.

Donation for New Playground Equipment at Park

Nothing discussed.

2025 Consolidated Election

Filing deadline ended November 18, 2024. We have one person running for Village President and three people running for Village Trustee.

Guard rail – Deer Lakes Drive

Engineer Brown stated back in September we started looking at need for a guardrail because water main feeds down Martin Drive to Deer Lakes Subdivision down Deer Lakes Drive. The Village does have right of way along Deer Lakes Drive so we don't have any potential encroachments on private property with anything that we might choose to do. The location of the water main along Deer Lakes Drive is in conflict with where we need to construct the guard rail foundation. Hoerr Construction potholed to find the main. The main gets close to guardrail on the North 60' of water main. It is our thought that in the interest of not accidentally putting the water main out of commission to the Deer Lakes subdivision, that we have about 60 feet of water main that ought to be relocated at that point. So that we don't have a construction problem at the time the guardrail will be installed, or also a maintenance problem down the road by constructing the guardrail foundation too close to the water main.

Engineer Brown said they went further and developed a complete cost estimate of \$50,000. When it is put out for bid you might get a competitive bid process and that might help the cost go down a little bit. The project was not budgeted for this year so the Streets & Alley Committee will meet to discuss this in March, then make recommendation to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action on adopting Police Department Payroll Procedures and review and possible adoption of Standard Operating Procedures.

Ordinance 24-06

Chief Lally pointed out that there are different rules for calculating overtime for fire and for police. And under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the basic federal law about wage an hour, the basic rule that applies to almost everybody is that if you work more than 40 hours in a single week, you get overtime. But they allow special provisions for fire and police, the provision for police is that if you have a policy adopted, you can pay overtime based on a paid period, a 14 day paid period, rather than a 40 hour paid week, or a 7 day paid week. The criteria is 86 hours rather than 40 hours a week. So what it amounts to is that ordinance the board is adopting the village's current existing payroll schedule as the

official schedule of the police department on the pay period basis and setting overtime to occur after 86 hours in a given pay period rather than 40 in a given week. That gives the chief a lot more flexibility scheduling people. Motion was made by Nohl, seconded by Melton to adopt Ordinance #24-06, an ordinance regarding Police Department Procedures. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes.

Attorney Gifford thought the Board would adopt the Standard Operating Procedures but they are set up as general orders by the Police Chief. It is at the Chief's discretion. The Board does not need to vote on them. If anyone has questions they should talk to Chief Lally.

Tax Levy Ordinance

Tabled until December 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Appointments

President Melton appointed Mark Esme to be on the Planning Commission. He will replace Bruce Martin. Motion made by Nohl, seconded by Kuebler to approve appointment of Mark Esme to Planning Commission. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes.

Christmas Gifts for Employees

Trustee Terri Kuebler presented an article from Edgar County Watch Group saying that Article 8, sec. 1 of the Constitution prohibits Christmas bonuses with tax payer's money.

Mike Gifford remarked I saw this idea for the first time tonight and I have done, I don't know, 10 minutes or so of research. Article 8, Section 1 that is referred to in Terri's article simply says, "Public funds, property or credit shall be used only for public purposes." I would suggest that paying employees is public purpose.

Paying employees, whether it's a regular cash compensation, whether it's paying their expenses, whether it's buying equipment for them to do their work, that's all public purpose. I don't see any way unless someone wants to make an argument that the, you know, giving employees a one time increase, one time annually in their compensation is not a public purpose. What this refers to is if this board voted to give each of the board members or the board members' families money on the side for a non-public purpose. Paying your employees, I think, is a public purpose and I'd be glad to stand up in front of a judge and tell them that.

So that's one issue. The other issue is that's what's cited here is what's called the Wage Payment and Collection Act. Which payment and collection act is an Illinois law that basically defines what employees are entitled to be paid, how often they're entitled to be paid, under what circumstances, how they're entitled to be paid. It talks about provisions for paying bonuses and the particular piece of the, it's not even the statute, its part of the code. Most statutes have a provision in it that says that the department that enforces the code can write regulations to interpret and enforce the statute. This quotation that's in Terri's article is from the code adopted by the Department of Labor under the Wage, Payment and Collection Act and it says," an employee has a right to an earned bonus when there is an unequivocal promise by the employer and the employee has performed the requirements set forth in the bonus agreement between the parties and for all of the required conditions for receiving the bonus set forth in the bonus agreement have been

met.” That provision has to do with the employee's right to enforce it. If I have a contract with you that says if I meet certain performance requirements, if I'm working on an assembly line, assembling widgets, this is law school stuff, and if I'm required to make 100 an hour, and that gets me my pay, but there's a clause there that says if I do a real good job and make 120 an hour, you're going to give me a bonus. And then afterwards when I've made 120 in that hour and you say I don't want to give you the bonus, what this is talking about is my right as an employee to enforce that bonus.

Motion made by Melton, seconded by Nohl to approve Christmas bonuses as discussed. BOA and Planning Chairman were changed to \$50. Motion failed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – abstain, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – no and Melton – yes.

Annual Salary Review – Executive Session 2(c-1) of the Open Meetings Act

Motion was made by Melton, seconded by Nohl to enter into Executive Session for Annual Salary Review 2(c-1) of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes.

Board entered into Executive Session at 8:45pm. PWA Nohl, Clerk Sheri Martin and Treasurer Emily Zobrist left the room.

Motion to reconvene and go back into Regular Session was made by Mullins, seconded by Kuebler. Motion passed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – yes, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – yes and Melton – yes. Meeting reconvened at 9:17p.m.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Melton, seconded by Nohl to approve payroll increases 5% for full and part-time workers and President Melton asked that his be decreased from \$600/month to \$500 per month, as discussed in Executive Session. Motion failed with the following roll call vote: Nohl – abstain, Mullins – yes, Kuebler – no and Melton – yes.

Schedule Committee Meetings

Beginning in January a Special Board Meeting will be set the second Tuesday of each month to review Village Code until it is completed.

Municipal Calendar

Completed.

Other Business

Engineer – None.

Public Works Administrator – None.

Trustees

Nohl – None.

Ginder – Absent.

Perry – Absent.

Mullins – None.

Kuebler Terri voiced her concern about Trustees missing meetings.

Clerk – None.

Treasurer – None.

Next Board Meeting December 19, 2024.

Adjournment

Motion for adjournment was made by Melton, seconded by Nohl. Meeting adjourned at 9:40p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Martin
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Board on _____.