

Village of Albers

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“Providing security and services to improve the quality of life for our residents.”

PRESIDENT, Steve Schomaker

TRUSTEES:

Scott Athmer

Cliff Behrmann

Kevin Kenow

Mike McDermid

Kent Schwierjohn

Jeff Timmermann

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF ALBERS PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON February 13, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: President Steve Schomaker called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Trustees Athmer, Behrmann, Kenow, McDermid, Schwierjohn and Timmermann were present at roll call.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Meeting held on January 09, 2023.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve the minutes as presented. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda was reviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve the agenda as amended. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

OTHER VILLAGE OFFICIALS: Clerk Morris, Chief Vielweber, Water & Sewer Superintendent Horstmann and Attorney Terry Bruckert were in attendance. Zoning Administrator Brendel, Streets & Lighting Superintendent Rolves and Treasurer Hubert were absent, their absence was excused.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Deb Clark, Albers resident and Metro-East Diaper Bank representative, was in attendance to promote the 2023 Spring Diaper Drive and accept a donation from the Village of Albers. Mike Toeben, Albers Elementary School Superintendent with Lynn Boeckmann and Brenda Richter, Albers Elementary School Board Members, were in attendance to present information on the proposed Clinton County Facilities Sales Tax. Hunter Ei, James Ei, Daniel Warning and Grant Winkeler; Central Community High School students, were in attendance to observe per class requirement. Dave Wellen, resident, was in attendance to observe.

President Schomaker presented a \$100.00 donation to Deb Clark, Albers resident and Metro-East Diaper Bank representative in support of the 2023 Spring Diaper Drive. The Village of Albers partners with the Metro-East Diaper bank providing diapers to local families in need. President Schomaker thanked Mrs. Clark for working with the Village of Albers on such a very important healthcare need for babies and their families.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to donate \$100.00 from the Tourism Fund to the Metro-East

Stephen Schomaker - Village President

Trustees - Scott Athmer, Cliff Behrmann, Kevin Kenow, Mike McDermid, Kent Schwierjohn and Jeff Timmermann

Brenda Morris - Village Clerk

Brian Vielweber - Police Chief

Cindy Hubert - Village Treasurer

Eric Rolves - Streets & Lighting Superintendent

Jeannie Brendel - Zoning Administrator

Chris Horstmann - Water & Sewer Superintendent



- We Care, We Recycle

Diaper Bank in support of the 2023 Spring Diaper Drive. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker invited Mike Toeben, Albers Elementary School Superintendent, with Lynn Boeckmann and Brenda Richter, Albers Elementary School board members, to present information on the tax and how it might impact county schools and residents. Mr. Toeben presented the information and answered questions from those in attendance, inviting anyone with further questions to contact him directly at Albers Elementary School. President Schomaker thanked Mr. Toeben, Mrs. Boeckmann and Mrs. Richter for their service to our students and for attending the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING - Kent Schwierjohn, Chairman: Schwierjohn had nothing to report.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel, Administrator: Administrator Brendel was absent, her absence was excused.

STREETS & LIGHTING - Jeff Timmermann, Chairman: Timmermann reported a claim has been submitted to AmerenIL to help off-set costs of the project caused by the incorrectly placed street light pole interfering with storm sewer drainage at the intersection of East Dwight Street / State Route 161. Timmermann will be update the Board on the claim status as AmerenIL responds to the claim.

Timmermann reported the storm sewer replacement at Pin Oak Drive is scheduled to begin soon, depending on the weather.

Timmermann presented the agreement between Clinton County and the Village of Albers for construction and maintenance of the sidewalk at the intersection of N. Commercial Street and Susan Drive, extending north to Court Road.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Timmermann to approve the agreement between Clinton County and the Village of Albers for construction and maintenance of the sidewalk at the intersection of N. Commercial Street and Susan Drive, extending north to Court Road. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried. Timmermann directed Clerk Morris to file the agreement with the Clinton County Clerk.

Timmermann asked the Board to hire Joe Ottenschnieder for yard waste removal for \$500 for the year. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Timmermann to hire Joe Ottenschnieder for yard waste removal for \$500 for the year. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report - Eric Rolves, Superintendent: Superintendent Rolves was absent, his absence was excused.

WATER & SEWER - Kevin Kenow, Chairman: Kenow updated the Board that he is waiting to be contacted by representatives of Clearwave Communications concerning installation of fiber-optics within village-limits. He noted that an engineering plan and bonds will be required if/when Clearwave Communications proposes installation in the Village of Albers.

Kenow updated the Board that the uninterruptable power supply (UPS) has been received and will be installed by Kohrman Electric as scheduling allows. Kenow noted that Chief Vielweber will be coordinating the UPS install.

Kenow updated the Board on recent concerns on the sewer plant, noting complaints of strong odors. He assured everyone that the Village of Albers is committed to managing the issues. Superintendent Horstmann added that sodium nitrate is being used and the plant will continue being treated chemically and biologically.

until the odor subsides.

Kenow noted that water statements mailed in January were estimated due to inaccessible meters due to snow cover. Accounts were estimated using 80% of the average from the previous three months, making the readings lower than average. Actual readings taken in February balanced accounts and all readings are accurate. Estimating readings is very rare and has only been used three times in the past twenty years. An update to the water billing system has been made using 90% of the average from the previous three months if estimating meters is used in the future.

Water & Sewer Superintendent's Report - Chris Horstmann, Superintendent: Superintendent Horstmann reported -11.61% water loss for January, -18.99% water loss for the previous twelve months, noting that the higher than average water loss is due to recent water line breaks, which have been repaired.

POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE - Cliff Behrmann, Chairman: Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber update the Board concerning installation of a 4-way beacons at the State Route 161 / Commercial Street intersection. Chief Vielweber informed the Board that he has been working with representatives at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) on the approval and installation of 4-way beacons at the State Route 161 / Commercial Street intersection. He presented the proposed agreement between the Village of Albers and IDOT on the installation and maintenance of the beacons for review. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposal.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Athmer to approve the agreement between the Village of Albers and IDOT on the installation and maintenance of 4-way beacons at State Route 161 / Commercial Street intersection. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber thanked the Board for their support in installing the 4-way beacons and presented the invoice for purchasing the beacons. The total expense for purchasing and installing is estimated to be approximately \$7,500.00. The Board discussed the purchase and installation of the beacons with Chief Vielweber.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to approve the purchase and installation of 4-way beacons at the State Route 161 / Commercial Street intersection. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker thanked Joe Monroe, IDOT District #8 Operations Engineer, for his invaluable assistance getting the 4-way beacons installed and noted the outstanding relationship between IDOT and the Village of Albers thanks to the involvement of Mr. Monroe.

Chief Vielweber presented Ordinance #600-02132023 to the Board, amending Albers Village Code to align ordinances with current Illinois state law concerning concealed weapons.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to approve Ordinance #600-02132023, an ordinance amending concealed weapons, and asked the Board to dispense with procedures and approve at first reading. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber presented Ordinance #601, amending trapping animals and discharge of firearms or bow and arrow, noting further review and edits are needed before consideration from the Board.

Chief Vielweber to update the Board on security cameras. Chief Vielweber stated the cameras are on backorder and will be installed as soon as they are received, expected to be no later than the end of the month.

Chief Vielweber noted that the License Plate Readers (LPR) are in place and fully operational. One of the cameras may be in need of repair and Chief Vielweber will ensure all cameras are operational.

Chief Vielweber asked the Board to renew membership in Backstoppers, an organization providing ongoing

needed financial assistance and support to the spouses and dependent children of all police officers, firefighters and volunteer firefighters, and publicly-funded paramedics and EMTs who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann to approve the annual membership to Backstoppers. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber thanked the Board for their ongoing support of the police department and all emergency responders.

Police Chief's Report - Brian Vielweber, Chief of Police: Chief Vielweber presented the Chief's Report.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid, Chairman: McDermid presented committee reports to the Trustees.

McDermid presented an agreement from Lexipol, offering grant writing services. McDermid described specific benefits of approving the agreement with Lexipol and presented details of the agreement, noting securing grants for ambulance and fire services may be included in the agreement. The Board discussed the proposal.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve the 2-year agreement with Lexipol for grant searches and grant writing services at a cost of \$6,000.00. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

McDermid updated the Board on the recent electrical aggregation bids presented by Good Energy. He noted that letters we sent to residents announcing that we are continuing our municipal electricity aggregation program with a new supplier, Constellation NewEnergy. Our primary goal is always to protect our residents from rising electrical supply rates. Since June 2019, Albers residents and small businesses have been receiving fixed rates of 4.29 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) versus the AmerenIL market rate currently at 12.236 cents per kWh. This equates to an average household savings of over \$50 per month, with larger households and businesses saving considerably more. Our current contract with Homefield Energy ends December 2022 and we have secured a fixed rate of 12.10 cents per kWh contract with Constellation NewEnergy for a 22-month term beginning February 2023 through December 2024. To provide you the lowest long-term rate, there will be a two-month gap until our contract begins with Constellation NewEnergy. The gap between the two contracts will be filled by AmerenIL as our supplier. The process will be as follows:

Supplier	Dates	Rates per kWh	Action from Residents
Homefield Energy	Contract Ends December 2022.	4.29 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED
AmerenIL	December 2022 – February 2023	Current Market Rate 12.236 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED
Constellation NewEnergy	February 2023 – December 2024	12.10 cents	NO ACTION REQUIRED

Over the next 90 days you will be receiving two letters from AmerenIL and one letter from Constellation NewEnergy.

- Letter from AmerenIL – Notifying you that Homefield Energy contract will end December 2022.
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.
- Letter from AmerenIL – Stating they are the new provider beginning January 2023 until February 2023.
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.
- Letter from Constellation NewEnergy – Notifying you that Constellation New Energy will be our new provider beginning February 2023 to December 2024.
NO ACTION REQUIRED BY RESIDENTS.

McDermid noted that a complete listing of electric suppliers by address has been received from AmerenIL for follow-up by the Village. All residents not currently opting-in the Village electrical aggregation program have been contacted to ensure they understand the details of the program. McDermid also updated the Board that a

new program is offered to businesses in the Village of Albers for reduced gas and electric rates. Business have been notified and are asked to submit account information to be included in the program. McDermid also noted that including residential accounts in the gas aggregation program is being discussed.

McDermid updated the Board on ambulance services provided through Special Service Area #8 (SSA #8). He noted that all entities served by the ambulance service; including Albers, Damiansville, Lookingglass Township and New Baden are working together to revise current operations of the district; transferring district control from New Baden to a formal ambulance district. Approval by the Clinton County Board granting the organization of an independent ambulance district will be discussed at the upcoming Clinton County Board meeting and a required referendum must be prepared for Lookingglass Township for the consolidation to proceed. McDermid added that he is looking forward to continuing the partnership with neighboring entities and serving Albers residents by providing the best possible ambulance service. Attorney Bruckert noted that the Rescue Squad District Act is being reviewed as a template for organizing a new ambulance district and that he will update the Board as more information becomes available.

The Board reviewed invoices totaling \$83,121.34.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$83,121.34. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Cindy Hubert, Treasurer: Treasurer Hubert was absent, her absence was excused. McDermid presented the Treasurer's Report in Treasurer Hubert's absence. A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to accept the Treasurer's Report. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

IMPROVEMENTS & PARK - Scott Athmer, Chairman: Athmer noted that Administrator Brendel is revising preliminary improvement plans on JC Hall from Brendel Architects. Brendel Architects will be providing a contract to create bidding documents. Athmer will be working with Administrator Brendel on revisions to the improvement plans and proceeding on the project, noting that renovations have a preliminary start date in middle of June and with a rough completion in November.

Athmer asked the Board to consider the appointment of Tricia Hubert as Park Board member. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Athmer to appoint Tricia Hubert as Park Board member. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Athmer reported the cameras at the maintenance shed will be installed as soon as they are received.

COMMUNICATIONS: No Communications were presented.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker updated the Board of an error omitting one parcel from the Enterprise Zone, approved in 2014. He asked the Board to consider adding the excluded parcel, which adjoins Enterprise Zone parcels on two sides. Adding the parcel to the Enterprise Zone requires a formal amendment and agreement from all Clinton County entities included in the Enterprise Zone. Moran Economic Development has proposed an agreement to facilitate the amendment. The Board discussed the Enterprise Zone and how best to proceed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve the proposed agreement between Moran Economic Development and the Village of Albers to amend the Enterprise Zone, not to exceed \$20,000. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker presented a request from the Mater Dei Catholic High School Mothers & Friends for a donation to the upcoming Mater Dei Catholic High School annual auction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to donate a one-day rental of the JC Hall, valued at

approximately \$100. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker presented a request from the YMCA for an annual donation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to donate \$100 to the YMCA from the Tourism Fund. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT: A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to adjourn the meeting. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Brenda Morris, Village Clerk