

# 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 April 10, 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 March 13, 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. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

OTHER VILLAGE OFFICIALS: Clerk Morris, Chief Vielweber, Water & Sewer Superintendent Horstmann, John Horstmann of Certop, Zoning Administrator Brendel, Streets & Lighting Superintendent Rolves and Attorney Chad Leitch were in attendance. Treasurer Hubert was absent, her absence was excused.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Eleanora Mueller and Vicky Ernst, her daughter, to accept recognition for Eleanora's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday were in attendance to accept the 'Eleanora Mueller Day' proclamation; Doug Ratermann, of HMG Engineers, was in attendance to review the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) resolution; Brian Engelmann and Dave Wellen, residents, were in attendance to observe; Gary & Kelsie Kharibian, residents, were in attendance to address the Board concerning the sewer pond.

President Schomaker presented Proclamation #03132023, announcing March 26, 2023, as 'Eleanor Mueller Day' in the Village of Albers, in recognition of Mrs. Mueller's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs. Mueller with Vicky Ernst, her daughter, were in attendance to receive the proclamation. The proclamation was announced retroactively by request of the family to accommodate the planning of Mrs. Mueller's surprise birthday party.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to approve Proclamation #03132023, announcing March 26, 2023, as 'Eleanor Mueller Day' in the Village of Albers. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

*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*

President Schomaker welcomed all guests and invited Gary & Kelsie to address the Board. Mr. Kharibian addressed the Board with concerns of an overwhelming odor from the Village's sewer pond. Mr. Kharibian specifically asked what action was taken to address the sewer pond odor, what is being done to reduce the odor and what plans are being made to address an increase in population of Albers in the future. The Kharibian's stated that the strong odor has impacted their daily lives, forcing them to stay indoors and run air conditioning to avoid the smell; it has also impacted their plans to building a new home in Albers. President Schomaker thanked the Kharibian's for their attendance and for voicing their concerns. He assured them that village officials have been working towards a sustainable resolution, including the installation of a new aeration system. Trustee Kenow addressed the sewer pond concerns, noting that the ponds are monitored daily and improvements are being pursued. Kenow stated that all applications to the sewer pond have been recommended by HMG Engineers and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); he noted frustration with poor results of the recommend aeration system and lack of results on the investment. Kenow empathized with the Kharibian's, assuring them that Village officials are taking the matter very seriously and are working diligently towards resolution. Kenow noted specific concerns on the ability of the newly installed aeration system to adequately maintain the ponds, additional bubblers are being added to the aeration system for better cleaning and pond maintenance. Kenow also noted that removing sludge from the pond is being planned, with bids for the project to be received within the upcoming month. Superintendent Horstmann noted that daily recorded results of pond biology are improving, with oxygen increasing in ponds; he also stated that the new bubblers being installed are expected to substantially eliminate odors.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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 on recent concerns on the sewer plant. He assured everyone that the Village of Albers is committed to managing the issues and is aggressively pursuing resolution. Sludge removal on the ponds was discussed, Kenow will report project pricing at the upcoming meeting. Kenow noted that a professional service agreement has been received by HMG Engineers for the sludge removal project.

Kenow noted the water line repair on Albers Road, thanking Superintendent Horstmann and crew for finding and quickly repairing the line. Kenow directed Superintendent to submit all expenses, including water loss due to the water line break, for a reimbursement request from ExxonMobil, as the break is suspected from the result of mine subsidence. President Schomaker also thanked Superintendent Horstmann; Water Operator Logan Johnson, Dave Kassen and everyone who helped repair the water line.

Kenow announced the Southwest Central Water Plant Operators Association meeting and dinner hosted by Certop and the Village of Albers, at the JC Hall on Thursday, April 27. He asked the Board to consider a \$250.00 donation for co-hosting the meeting and dinner.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to donate \$250.00 to the Southwest Central Water Plan Operators Association meeting and dinner hosted by Certop and the Village of Albers, at the JC Hall on Thursday, April 27. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Water & Sewer Superintendent's Report - Chris Horstmann, Superintendent: Superintendent Horstmann reported -34.65% water loss for March, -16.20% 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. A major break was repaired on Saturday, March 18, adversely affecting water loss. An improved water loss report is expected for the upcoming month.

ZONING - Kent Schwierjohn, Chairman: Schwierjohn asked President Schomaker to report the Enterprise Zone amendment. President Schomaker updated the Board that Moran Economic Development is working on amending our current Enterprise Zone. The amendment will correct an error omitting one parcel from the Enterprise Zone, approved in 2014.

Schwierjohn presented a Contract Agreement for Surveying and Engineering Services by TWM Engineering for review of the preliminary plat, construction plans, drainage report and final plat of the proposed Kniepmann Subdivision on Court Road. The Board discussed the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn approve the Contract Agreement for Surveying and Engineering Services by TWM Engineering for review of the preliminary plat, construction plans, drainage report and final plat of the proposed Kniepmann Subdivision on Court Road, not to exceed \$4,000.00. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel, Administrator: Administrator Brendel noted no applications for the month of March. One accessory permit was granted for the quarter, totaling \$25.00.

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 the solar panels for the beacons have not yet been shipped.

Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber to update the Board on security cameras. Chief Vielweber stated the cameras have been installed and will be operational as soon as service is established with Verizon. Cameras at the maintenance shed should also be operational in the upcoming week, as installation of services are scheduled with Charter/Spectrum.

Chief Vielweber noted that the current alternative vehicle permits expire April 30, with 2023-2024 permits currently available. He reminded all permit holders of the importance of legally operating vehicles, including all drivers are to have current driver's license and operate the vehicle per all State of Illinois and Village of Albers guidelines.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that an active shooter training was recently held at Albers Elementary School as part of a recent teacher's institute day. He thanked Superintendent Toeben and everyone in attendance for taking the safety of our students very seriously and for welcoming him to speak.

Chief Vielweber noted that the new squad vehicle has been ordered with delivery expected in September.

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

Chief Vielweber thanked officials of the Village of Albers for their stand with the Proclamation in Support of Ukraine, passed in March 2022. Chief Vielweber noted that Natalia Zurawy of Ukraine, a family friend, thanked the Village of Albers for support of the Ukrainian people during the current conflict.

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

McDermid presented the Ordinance #602-04102023, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations Ordinance, for final reading and vote.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve Ordinance 3602-04102023, Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Appropriations Ordinance. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried. McDermid directed Clerk Morris to file the ordinance with the Clinton County Clerk's office.

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. McDermid thanked Representative Charlie Meier for allowing President Schomaker and himself to speak at a recent committee meeting supporting the proposal of organizing ambulance districts in Illinois, and specifically Clinton County; if approved, the proposal will be in effect as of 2025.

The Board reviewed invoices totaling \$77,423.92.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$77,423.92. Behrmann 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. Behrmann 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, Inc. 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. Bids for the project will be accepted in the upcoming month with bid opening planned at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

STREETS & LIGHTING - Jeff Timmermann, Chairman: Timmermann presented the 2024 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Maintenance Program for review and approval. Mr. Ratermann of HMG Engineers reviewed the program with the Board.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Timmerman to approve the 2024 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Program. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Timmermann reported a claim was submitted to AmerenIL to pay for damages caused by an incorrectly installed street light pole interfering with storm sewer drainage at the intersection of East Dwight Street / State Route 161. AmerenIL denied liability in the claim, directing further inquiries to JF Electric, one of the contractors involved installing the street light pole. Timmermann will update the Board as information becomes available.

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

Timmermann updated the Board that the sidewalk extension agreement on North Commercial Street with Clinton County has been filed with the Clinton County Clerk's office. The project is being scheduled by the Clinton County Highway Department and updates will be shared when available.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report - Eric Rolves, Superintendent: Superintendent Rolves updated the Board that grass mowing season is starting and he has been cleaning storm drains.

He asked the Board to consider installation of gutter guards at Village Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Schomaker shared a letter from Steve Tonnies, resident, thanking emergency responders for their professional, lifesaving aid responding to a recent medical emergency. Mr. Tonnies graciously thanked Clin-Clair Fire Department (CCFD) firefighters and officers along with New

Baden Ambulance service staff.

President Schomaker read a thank-you note from Amy Conaway, of the Daystar Community Program and The Kitchen Table, serving residents of Cairo, IL. Ms. Conaway thanked residents for generously supporting Daystar Programs through the 2023 St. Bernard & St. Damian Lenten Food Drive.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker invited everyone to the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus at Lehrter/JC Park on Friday, April 14, sponsored by the Albers Commercial Club. President Schomaker reminded everyone of the Albers-Damiansville spring yard sales on Saturday, May 13.

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*