

Village of Albers

206 West Dwight Street-PO Box 132

Albers, IL 62215-0132

Phone (618) 248-5154

www.albersil.org

Fax (618) 248-5490

“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 MEEETING #1 OF THE VILLAGE OF ALBERS PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON May 13, 2024

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

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES MEETING – April 08, 2024: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Session meeting on April 08, 2024.

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

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Leonard & Georgia Toennies, Bernie & Lynn and Nichole Athmer were in attendance in support of Leonard’s 90th birthday proclamation. Ashlyn Gebke, Central High School student, was in attendance to complete a civics class requirement. David Gebke and David Wellen, Albers residents, were in attendance to observe.

President Schomaker presented Proclamation #05132024, designating May 22, 2024 ‘Leonard Toennies Day’ in the Village of Albers on Leonard’s 90th birthday. President Schomaker read the proclamation to all in attendance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn approving Proclamation #05132024, designating May 22, 2024, as ‘Leonard Toennies Day’ in the Village of Albers. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

IMPROVEMENTS & PARK - Scott Athmer Chairman: Athmer had nothing to report.

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



POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE Cliff Behrmann Chairman: Behrmann asked Chief Vielweber to report on behalf of the Police Department.

Chief Vielweber noted that decals for homeowners who do not wish to have door-to-door salespeople approach their residences have been ordered and will be arriving soon.

Chief Vielweber asked the Board to consider making photo identification cards for Village officials from Elliott Data Systems at a cost of \$8/card, totaling \$615.00 for all officials. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann approve the purchase of photo identification cards for Village officials from Elliott Data Systems, total cost not to exceed \$700.00. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board on the Illinois state mandate effective in 2025 requiring all police officers to have in-squad video and body worn cameras. He noted that receiving a 50/50 federal grant, if received, will be used for the purchase, installation of the cameras and training costing approximately \$14,000.00. The Board discussed the mandate with Chief Vielweber.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann approve the purchase of in-squad video and body worn cameras, total cost not to exceed \$14,000.00. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that the crosswalk beacon at the intersection of North Commercial Street and Dwight Street will be installed in the near future, weather permitting.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that security cameras at Lehrter/JC Park have been installed and are scheduled to be operating in the upcoming week.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that the radar sign on South Commercial Street is being repaired and will be operational soon.

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

WATER & SEWER Kevin Kenow Chairman: Kenow presented the bid results for the Water & Sewer Sanitary Sewer Extension on County Road #8, the Board reviewed the bids.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder, Kassen Excavating, at a total bid of \$82,090.00. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Kenow updated the Board that a new electrical panel is being installed at the sewer plant and is considered a maintenance expense.

Kenow updated the Board that plans for replacing lines on State Route 161 with flexible lines are being revised due to revisions of elevation changes and updates will be presented when available.

Kenow updated the Board that TWM Engineering is conducting a feasibility study on the extension of water lines on Court Road and that the results will be shared when available.

Kenow updated the Board that Clearwave Communications has Village of Albers recommendations for approving a service contract the response will be shared when available.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Chris Horstmann: Superintendent Horstmann reported -8.06% loss for

April, with an average of -5.32 % loss for the previous twelve months.

Superintendent Horstmann updated the Board that the sewer ponds are being monitored daily and new aerators are operational.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid Chairman: McDermid presented committee reports to the Trustees noting the fiscal year close-out.

McDermid updated the Board that the Municipal Aggregation Agreement with Homefield Energy has been signed and will be effective December 01, 2024, at a rate of 8.954 ¢/kWh, which is expected to be lower than AmerenIL rates.

McDermid noted the current AmerenIL electrical rate is currently lower than the agreed Village municipal aggregation rate with Constellation New Energy, reminding all residents that the rates may change weekly and the Village is currently under contract with Constellation New Energy. McDermid referred to a letter sent to residents concerning the rates update reminding all residents to remain vigilant when managing their household account.

McDermid updated the Board on the Albers Ambulance Special Service Area. He noted that creating the area seems to be on track with cooperation from officials from Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township to partner in establishing an independent ambulance district in the near future. McDermid reported that the Illinois House of Representatives approved the ambulance bill that is currently being reviewed by the Illinois Senate.

McDermid asked that the asbestos lawsuit currently involving the Village of Albers be moved to Executive Session for discussion per Open Meetings Act guidelines.

McDermid presented invoices to be paid, the Board reviewed the invoices. A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$51,014.99. 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. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

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 the MFT submission.

Timmermann updated the Board that he will be contacting Larry Santel of Santel Construction to discuss finishing the project and will follow-up with the Board at the upcoming meeting.

Timmermann updated the Board that the sidewalk extension on North Commercial Street is currently on hold.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report Eric Rolves: Superintendent Rolves updated the

Board that work on repairing Debra Drive and Susan Drive is ongoing with resurfacing and building the bases on both the streets being considered.

Superintendent Rolves noted that he is mowing grass and maintaining Village property for the summer.

Superintendent Rolves updated the Board that the mosquito fogger has been repaired and is operational.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker updated everyone in attendance that a new fire truck will be received by Clin-Clair Fire Department (CCFD) to be stored in Damiansville for improved coverage on the south side the railroad tracks. The firetruck is being provided by Exxon/Mobil and is being received in response to concerns of the current railroad slow-moving order blocking the railroad tracks for up to 15 minutes per train, compromising the health of anyone needing care if/when the tracks are blocked. President Schomaker thanked Exxon/Mobil for the truck and especially thanked Joe Wong, Exxon/Mobil Commercial Portfolio Manager for coordinating the donation.

President Schomaker updated everyone in attendance that discussions are on-going with the Illinois Commerce Commission, Exxon and Norfolk Southern Railroad to find solutions to the railroads current slow-down order and suspected mine subsidence issues.

President Schomaker asked all interested residents to complete the on-line survey concerning internet services in Clinton County. The survey is being conducted through a partnership with University of Illinois and Clinton County officials and may be accessed at <https://go.illinois.edu/ConnectClintonCounty>.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board entered Executive Session to discuss pending litigation involving the Village of Albers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to enter Executive Session at 7:31p.m. to discuss pending litigation per Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2C. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 — yeas; 0 nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker, Clerk Morris, Attorney Bruckert, Chief Vielweber, Trustees Athmer, Behrmann, Kenow, McDermid, Schwierjohn and Timmermann were in attendance for Executive Session. All other guests and officials exited.

Executive Session was held.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to exit Executive Session at 7:39p.m. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 — yeas; 0 nays; motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to retain Attorney Mike McGinley of Lewis Brisbois, Bisgaard, & Smith LLP, to represent the Village of Albers in this lawsuit. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 nays; motion carried.

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