

# 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 January 13, 2025

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 – DECEMBER 09, 2024: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Session Meeting on December 09, 2024.

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

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Wellen, resident, was in attendance to observe.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that a trailer purchased for transporting the alternative vehicle is operational thanks to by donations from Behrmann Meat & Processing and Kalmer Lumber & Pallet. Chief Vielweber also noted that doors for the alternative vehicle are currently unavailable and will be purchased as soon as possible.

*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*

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

WATER & SEWER Kevin Kenow Chairman: Kenow noted no communication with Clearwave Communications on the installation of fiber optics. Kenow updated everyone that Starlink Internet is available if residents are interested in considering that option for services.

Kenow updated noted annual rate increases per the current contract with Waste Management are in effect as of January 01, 2025. Residential rates increase from \$24.70 per month in 2024 to \$25.94 per month in 2025 and non-residential rates increase from \$29.11 per month in 2024 to \$30.57 per month in 2025. Contract rates charged directly to residents, the Village of Albers does not add any management or processing fees.

Kenow noted that the 2025 bi-weekly recycling and yard waste schedules have been posted and residents may contact Village Hall with any questions.

Kenow updated annual rate increases per Ordinance #599-14112022 are effective January 01, 2025 and will be reflected on statements mailed on February 01, 2025.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Report: Superintendent Horstmann reported water tower monitoring is operational with all necessary sensors replaced.

Superintendent Horstmann updated the Board that he is coordinating with Midco Diving & Marine Services to schedule the water tower inspection.

Superintendent Horstmann reported +4.48% water gain was reported for December with a -5.53% loss year to date. He noted the water gain may be attributable to estimated readings the previous month.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid Chairman: McDermid reminded 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. He 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. A letter detailing electrical supply information was sent to all residents and McDermid asked everyone to contact Village Hall with any questions.

McDermid asked Attorney Bruckert to report on the ongoing asbestos lawsuit involving the Village. Attorney Bruckert updated the Board that no updates were available.

McDermid updated the Board on the Lookingglass Ambulance District, noting the independent ambulance district will include Albers, Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township. Establishing the district has been approved by voters and plans are continuing to establish the district. A meeting is set for Wednesday, January 22 to discuss and review the first draft establishing the district with newly appointed Lookingglass Ambulance District board members invited.

McDermid updated Trustees that a draft of the Appropriations ordinance to be approved at April meeting will be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting.

McDermid presented invoices to be paid, the Board reviewed the invoices.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$53,590.40. 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. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

ZONING Kent Schwierjohn Chairman: Schwierjohn reported the Village of Albers was not awarded the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant. The Village of Albers received notification from the grant administrators on November 15, 2024, that the grant was received and was being reviewed. Follow-up notification was received on December 23, 2024, that the Village of Albers was not receiving the grant. President Schomaker noted that \$54,000,000 was initially advertised as the grant award with \$55,200,000 awarded. He shared concerns that 80% of the grants were awarded to Cook County and surrounding counties with only three local communities receiving any funding from the 2024 OSLAD Grant. He stated the Village of Albers will be resubmitting grants in the future and continue working hard securing much needed funds for our community.

Schwierjohn updated the Board that the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant has been submitted on behalf of the Village of Albers with awards being announced in February or March.

Schwierjohn noted a Planning Commission Meeting has been set for Thursday, January 23 at 6p.m. to discuss zoning fees and solar panels.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel Administrator: Administrator Brendel presented the Zoning Administrator's Report. 2 accessory permits were issued in December, 2 accessory permits were issued in January with 10 accessory permits submitted for 2024.

STREETS & LIGHTING – Jeff Timmermann Chairman: Timmermann updated the Board that the Clinton County Highway Department is scheduled to resurface County Road #8 this summer. The Village of Albers will be taking all the chips from the project per an agreement with the Clinton County Highway Department.

Timmermann updated the Board that the sidewalk extension on North Commercial Street is currently on hold and funding for the project is being through a grant application.

Timmermann updated the Board that storm sewer mapping is being considered and a representative from Civil Design, Inc. will be in attendance at the January Committee Meeting to discuss mapping.

Timmermann asked Chief Vielweber to address the Board concerning snow routes. Chief Vielweber stated that 32 vehicles were parked on snow routes in violation of Village ordinances during the recent winter storms and he personally visited with all residences in violation asking for compliance with the snow route ordinances. The Board discussed enforcement options for addressing snow route violations and will be working with Chief Vielweber to correct the issues.

President Schomaker thanked Street Superintendent Rolves, Logan Johnson and everyone who helped clear the streets during the winter storms. He noted that the Village of Albers was the only local community clearing streets in response to the town, showing our pride in Albers and

commitment to serving our residents.

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

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker commended Albers Elementary School for being recognized as 'Exemplary' by the State of Illinois for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Exemplary status is given to the top 10% highest performing schools in the State of Illinois.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Timmermann requested the Board enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel per Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) concerning the Streets & Lighting Superintendent position at 7:26p.m.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to enter Executive Session at 7:26p.m. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker, Attorney Bruckert, Clerk Morris and Trustees Athmer, Behrmann, Kenow, McDermid, Schwierjohn and Timmermann entered Executive Session; all other officials and guests exited the meeting.

Executive Session was held.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to exit Executive Session at 7:56p.m. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Timmermann to offer Blake Deimeke the Streets & Lighting Superintendent position. Mr. Deimeke's employment is contingent on his acceptance of the offer and background check to be conducted by Chief Vielweber. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to pay Superintendent Rolves an additional two-weeks of his current salary at the end of his contract as a thank you for his service. 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 5 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

*Brenda Morris, Village Clerk*