

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 10, 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 – January 13, 2025: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Session Meeting on January 13, 2025.

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 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 Deimeke were in attendance. Treasurer Hubert was absent, her absence was excused.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Haley Lucas, Albers resident and Central High School student, was in attendance to observe per a civics class requirement. Riley Hilmes, Marshall Lucas and Dave Wellen, were 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 asked to remove alternative vehicle accessories purchase pending research and product availability.

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

Blake Deimeke - Streets & Lighting Superintendent

Jeannie Brendel - Zoning Administrator

Chris Horstmann - Water & Sewer Superintendent



We Care, We Recycle

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that the computer for the squad car has been received and will be installed as soon as possible.

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

WATER & SEWER Kevin Kenow Chairman: Kenow asked the Board to consider renaming the Water & Sewer Committee to Public Utilities & Technology Committee and noted the topic will be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting.

Kenow noted that he and President Schomaker recently met with representatives of Clearwave Communications on the installation of fiber optics in Albers. He stated that good coverage options are available by Clearwave Communications and all residences in Albers will be offered fiber-optics services at a cost of approximately \$100.00/month per residence if an agreement is signed. He added that residences on Court Road, Peltes Lane, Sunrise Road, Sunshine Lane and Winter Road will also be requested to be included in the service area.

Kenow updated the Board of a recent water line repair on property adjacent to State Route 161 was recently repaired. Issues requiring the repair are in the area of and directly attributable to mine subsidence. Invoices and losses from the repair will be submitted to ExxonMobil for reimbursement.

Kenow presented a proposal for a water main relocation near Billhartz Road and Winter Road with a projected cost of \$75,000.00. The relocation is being considered to avoid further damage to waterlines from mine subsidence with the cost of the relocation being submitted to ExxonMobil for payment for the project.

Kenow asked the Board to consider updating the computer firewalls at Village Hall, noting that firewalls are required by the State of Illinois for municipalities. Kenow reviewed the proposal by IntegriTel with the Board. The proposal includes three-year firewall protection and on-site visits as needed for a total cost of \$2,006.81.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to accept the three-year proposal by IntegriTel for computer firewall protection at Village Hall and on-site visits as needed for a total cost of \$2,006.81. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

Kenow asked the Board to consider a proposal from IntegriTel updating the official Village web domain and email addresses at a cost of \$308.00/month with further discussion at the upcoming committee meeting.

Kenow updated the Board that purchase of a fire hydrant backflow meter is being purchased to more closely monitor water used from hydrants. The cost of the meter will be deducted from operations and does not require a motion from the Board.

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 -6.52% water loss for January with a -5.93% loss year to date. He noted the waterline repair on State Route 161 reported a 144,000 gallon were lost, adversely affecting the water loss.

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 the Board to consider providing a cell phone for President Schomaker from AT&T at a cost not to exceed \$50/month. The Board discussed the proposal.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid for the purchase of a cell phone for President Schomaker from AT&T at a cost not to exceed \$50/month. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

McDermid asked the established review period be waived for approving the Ordinance #610-02102025, amending section 1-2-112 of the Albers Village Code, with vote be taken on the ordinance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to waive the established review period considering Ordinance #610-02102025, amending section 1-1-112 of the Albers Village Code. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

McDermid presented Ordinance #610-02102025, amending section 1-2-112 of the Albers Village Code. Updates on the section are being addressed to required bonds and resignation of the Streets & Lighting Superintendent.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve Ordinance #610-02102025, amending section 1-1-112 of the Albers Village Code. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

McDermid asked Attorney Bruckert to report on the ongoing asbestos lawsuit involving the Village. Attorney Bruckert updated the Board that the litigation is focusing on larger entities and the Village of Albers is not currently being addressed as a defendant.

McDermid updated the Board on the Lookingglass Ambulance District, noting the independent ambulance district will include Albers, Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township. Meetings by the district are ongoing and progressing with a newly established independent board.

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 \$61,189.20. 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. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

ZONING Kent Schwierjohn Chairman: 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 presented the proposed solar panel ordinance, designating districts for panels, for review.

Schwierjohn noted a Planning Commission Meeting was held Thursday, January 23, at which zoning fees and solar panels were discussed.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel Administrator: Administrator Brendel presented the Zoning Administrator's Report, noting no permit applications were approved in January with one application submitted.

STREETS & LIGHTING – Jeff Timmermann Chairman: Timmermann reported Blake Deimeke has accepted the employment offer of Streets & Lighting Superintendent effective February 01, 2025, at a pay rate of \$30/hour plus 1% of his gross pay to be contributed by the Village to a 457(b) retirement plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Timmermann to employ Blake Deimeke as Streets & Lighting Superintendent as of February 01, 2025, at a pay rate of \$30/hour plus 1% of his gross pay to be contributed by the Village to a 457(b) retirement plan. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker and the Board welcomed Superintendent Deimeke and thanked Superintendent Rolves for his service to the Village of Albers.

Timmermann updated the Board that the Clinton County Highway Department is scheduled to resurface County Road #8 this summer.

Timmermann updated the Board that the sidewalk extension on North Commercial Street is currently on hold and funding for the project is expected to be funded through grants.

Timmermann updated the Board that storm sewer mapping is being considered and he is inviting a representative from Civil Design, Inc. to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss mapping.

Timmermann asked Chief Vielweber to address the Board concerning snow routes. Chief Vielweber stated that snow with extreme winter weather is being predicted he reminded everyone to move cars from Village streets if/when 2” or more is

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 Blake Deimeke: Superintendent Deimeke reported repairs to the backhoe and general equipment maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker reminded everyone of the upcoming election Tuesday, April 01, 2025, Albers Village Hall is the polling place for the Lookingglass #4 precinct.

President Schomaker announced the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to Albers Tuesday, April 22, 2025. The circus is being sponsored by the Albers Police Department benefiting community outreach.

President Schomaker noted the upcoming Albers-Damiansville Spring Yard Sales are scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider donating one JC Hall rental in support of the 2025 Albers Elementary School Booster Club Dueling Pianos Playground Fundraiser.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to donate one JC Hall rental in support of the 2025 Albers Elementary School Booster Club Dueling Pianos Playground Fundraiser valued at \$150.00 to be paid from the Tourism Fund. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider donating one JC Hall rental in support of the 2025 Mater Dei Catholic High School Auction.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to donate one JC Hall rental in support of the 2025 Mater Dei Catholic High School Auction valued at \$150.00 to be paid from the Tourism Fund. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas; 0 – nays; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

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