

# 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 14, 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 – March 10, 2025: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Session Meeting on March 10, 2025.

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 EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES MEETING – March 10, 2025: The Board reviewed the minutes from Executive Session Meeting on March 10, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve the minutes as presented and keep them sealed. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 – yeas, 0 – nays; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. McDermid asked the Board to add "Executive Session – Asbestos Lawsuit" to the agenda.

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Jim (Jock) Toennies, Park Board President, was in attendance to update the Board on park activities. Sean Kennedy, Gary Kharibian and Jenna Toennies were in attendance to observe. Hayley Lucas and Teagan Molnar were in attendance to observe per a civics class requirement.

*Stephen Schomaker - Village President*

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

*Brenda Morris - Village Clerk*

*Cindy Hubert - Village Treasurer*

*Jeannie Brendel - Zoning Administrator*

*Brian Vielweber - Police Chief*

*Blake Deimeke - Streets & Lighting Superintendent*

*Chris Horstmann - Water & Sewer Superintendent*



*We Care, We Recycle*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Athmer invited Jim (Jock) Toennies, Park Board President, to discuss upcoming events at Lehrter/JC Park. Mr. Toennies noted a park clean up was recently held and thanked everyone for helping. He also announced an upcoming 18-hole disc golf course is being installed at the park, expanding the current course.

POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE - Cliff Behrmann Chairman: Behrmann updated the Board that pay rates are being increased for all officers and Chief Vielweber. Specific increases will be presented by McDermid, Finance Chairman.

Chief Vielweber updated reminded everyone that the Village of Albers participates in the National Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Take Back Program. Unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs may be taken to Albers Village Hall anytime for approved disposal. He also noted that the Clinton County Sheriff's Department will be accepting medications at various locations Saturday, April 26 from 10a-2p.

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

WATER & SEWER AND TECHNOLOGY - Kevin Kenow Chairman: Kenow reported no updates have been received from Clearwave Communications concerning installation in the Village of Albers.

Kenow addressed everyone in attendance of ongoing concerns with the sewer ponds. He stated that the Village of Albers is seriously addressing operational issues and has been working diligently to eradicate the strong odors from the sewer ponds. He noted that three engineering firms have been consulted over the past five years to address the strong sewer pond odors, all recommendations from the firms have been implemented with varying results. Specific actions that have been taken to eradicate the odors include hourly sampling of the ponds, adding deodorizing agents and continued diligence until the issue is resolved. Kenow invited any residents with concerns to contact him directly, he welcomes all inquiries. President Schomaker thanked Kenow for his time and attention to this very important issue.

Kenow updated the Board that the current contract with Certop, Inc. expires March 31, 2025. He stated that the proposed renewal is being reviewed by the Water & Sewer Committee and will be discussed at the upcoming Committee Meeting.

Kenow updated that the water line relocation at Billhartz Road is being postponed and is expected to be included with future projects.

Kenow updated the Board that the approved computer firewalls at Village Hall have been installed and are operational. He noted that the new email addresses for Clerk Morris and Chief Vielweber have been updated with other officials to be updated soon.

Kenow updated the Board that the fire hydrant backflow meter to monitor water used from hydrants has been received. The required ordinance and policy outlining meter usage is being drafted with review by the Board at upcoming meetings.

Kenow reported the approved tank inspection is being scheduled.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Report: Superintendent Horstmann was absent, his absence was excused. Kenow reported -8.19% water loss for March with a -5.48% loss year to date.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid Chairman: McDermid updated the Board that the 18-month Municipal Aggregation Agreement with Homefield Energy, effective April 8, 2025, has been signed. 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 advised the Board to enter Executive Session to discuss the lawsuit

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 presented Ordinance #614-04142025, an ordinance providing for the annual appropriation for fiscal year 2026, for discussion and vote. The Board reviewed the ordinance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve Ordinance #614-04142025, an ordinance providing for the annual appropriation for fiscal year 2026. 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 presented proposed pay increases to the Board as follows:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Current Compensation</b>	<b>Benefits Offer</b>	<b>Proposed Compensation As of May 01, 2025</b>	<b>Future Compensation for All Employees</b>
Brenda Morris, Clerk	\$43,729.92/year	457b @ 1% match or \$47,889.92/year	\$47,889.92/year	Increase of Federal COLA, 3% maximum. Effective May 01, 2026 and May 01 for all subsequent years.
Brian Vielweber, Police Chief	\$30/hour	457b @ 1% match or \$33.50/hour	\$33.50/hour	
Part-Time Police Officers	\$22.25/hour		\$24.25/hour	
Ron Kehder, Police Sgt.	\$22.75/hour		24.75/hour	
Jeannie Brendel, Zoning Admin,	\$3,200/year		\$3,280/year (2.5% COLA)	
Cindy Hubert, Treasurer	\$5,300/year		\$5,432.50/year (2.5% COLA)	
Deb Athmer, JC Hall Manger	\$2,100/year		\$2,152.50/year (2.5% cola)	
Jim Toennies and Gary Kloeckner, Lehrter/JC Park Board Presidents	\$1,200/year		\$1,230/year (2.5% COLA)	

\*COLA = Cost of Living Allowance

The Board reviewed and discussed the pay increases. Athmer stated that Deb Athmer, JC Hall Manager, declines the pay increase.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve all proposed pay increases effective May 01, 2025, excluding Deb Athmer, JC Hall Manager. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$88,388.92. Schwierjohn 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. Kenow 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 asked President Schomaker to present Planning Commission a resignation and appointment. President Schomaker announced the resignation of William Kramer, from the Planning Commission, he thanked Mr. Kramer for his invaluable service to the Village of Albers during his tenure. President Schomaker asked the Board to consider the appointment of Travis Wuebbels to fill the vacancy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to accept the resignation of William Kramer from the Planning Commission and appointment of Travis Wuebbels to the Planning Commission. Timmermann seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Schwierjohn presented Ordinance #613-03102025 for final review and vote. The ordinance updates specific guidelines for installing solar panels in the Village of Albers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Schwierjohn to accept Ordinance #613-03102025, amending solar panel districts. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Schwierjohn directed Clerk Morris to file the ordinance with the Clinton County Clerk's office.

Schwierjohn presented the draft ordinance amending zoning fees for Board consideration and stated the topic will be discussed at the upcoming Committee Meeting.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel Administrator: Administrator Brendel was absent, her absence was excused. Schwierjohn noted no permits were issued for February and 1 accessory permit was issued for March. 1 accessory permit was issued for the quarter including January, February and March, totaling \$25.00.

STREETS & LIGHTING – Jeff Timmermann Chairman: 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.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report Blake Deimeke: Superintendent Deimeke reported all equipment has been repaired and is operational.

Superintendent Deimeke asked the Board to consider street sweeping in the upcoming weeks. The

Board discussed the request. Timmermann will confirm sweeping may be included in Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funding.

NEW BUSINESS: 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 a \$100 donation to Special Olympics.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to donate \$100 to Special Olympics from the Tourism Fund. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider a \$100 donation to Community Link.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to donate \$100 to Community Link from the Tourism Fund. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business was presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: McDermid asked the Board to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation per Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to enter Executive Session at 7:34p.m. per Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss pending litigation. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker; Clerk Morris; Chief Vielweber; Sean Kennedy; Attorney Bruckert, 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 7:46p.m. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Executive Session ended. The public and all officials were invited to return to the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to authorize up to \$5,000 to settle the pending lawsuit. Schwierjohn seconded the motion. Vote was 6 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker directed Attorney Bruckert to communicate the Board's offer to settle the pending lawsuit and thanked him for his advocacy.

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*