

# 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

Sean Kennedy

Kevin Kenow

Mike McDermid

Jeff Timmermann

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF ALBERS PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON September 08, 2025

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

ROLL CALL: Trustees Athmer, Behrmann, Kenow and McDermid and were present at roll call. Kennedy and Timmermann were absent, their absences were excused.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MINUTES MEETING – August 11, 2025: The Board reviewed the minutes from Regular Session Meeting August 11, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve the minutes as presented. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 4 – yeas, 0 – nays; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to approve the agenda as presented. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas, 0 - nays; motion carried.

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

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: Gwyn, Stephanie and Vincent Hemker; Maggie and Michelle Peters; Elliott and Nancy Rakers and Bailey Rinella were in attendance promoting Michelle's Mashers and the 2025 Buddy Walk sponsored by Community Link. Dave Wellen, resident, was in attendance to observe. Clayton Jansen, Central High School student and resident, was in attendance per a civics class requirement. Adam Brooks and Mylon Rice, representing Clearwave Fiber Communications, were in attendance to present upcoming fiber-optics installation plans.

President Schomaker thanked all our veterans, especially those honored on the most recent Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. Veteran's flying to Washington D.C. via Springfield, IL, were recognized as they drove through Albers today; students of Albers Elementary School, residents and supporters lined the route to cheer the veterans.

President Schomaker presented Proclamation #09082025-1, proclaiming Saturday, September 20, 2025, as Shorty's Tavern Day in the Village of Albers. On behalf of all residents, President

*Stephen Schomaker - Village President*

*Trustees - Scott Athmer, Cliff Behrmann, Sean Kennedy, Kevin Kenow, Mike McDermid 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*



Schomaker thanked Glenn & Theresa Behrmann and all previous owners of Shorty's Tavern for being such an important part of the Village of Albers for 90 years.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Athmer to approve Proclamation #09082025-1, proclaiming Saturday, September 20, 2025, as Shorty's Tavern Day in the Village of Albers. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker presented Proclamation #09082025-2, proclaiming September 21-27, 2025, as Mental Health Awareness Days in the Village of Albers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to approve Proclamation #09082025-2, proclaiming September 21-27, 2025, as Mental Health Awareness Days in the Village of Albers. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker recognized Michelle Peters and the members of Michelle's Mashers in attendance promoting the 2025 Buddy Walk sponsored by Community Link and invited everyone to support this very important event.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

IMPROVEMENTS & PARK - Scott Athmer Chairman: Athmer thanked Superintendent Deimeke and Gregg Heimann for recently installing a drainage culvert at Lehrter/JC Park.

POLICE AND DISASTER RESPONSE - Cliff Behrmann Chairman: Behrmann had nothing to report.

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

Chief Vielweber presented Ordinance #622-09082025 for discussion and vote. The ordinance addresses amending liquor license classification to include businesses hosting special events. The Board reviewed and discussed the ordinance with Chief Vielweber.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann to approve Ordinance #622-09082025, amending liquor license classifications. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber presented Ordinance #623-09082025 for discussion and vote. The ordinance designates North Franklin Street at the intersection of Apple Street as no parking, noting that vehicles parked on the street block sightlines for drivers and pedestrians. The ordinance specifies 30 feet north on the west side of North Franklin Street at the intersection of Apple Street 'no parking'. The Board reviewed and discussed the ordinance with Chief Vielweber.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Behrmann to approve Ordinance #623-09082025, amending limited parking streets. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber asked the Board to approve closing West Dwight Street between North Commercial and North Broadway Streets on Saturday, September 20, 2025, for the Shorty's Tavern 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party. Chief Vielweber proposed closing the street from 9a.m. Saturday, September 20, to 9a.m. Sunday, September 21, and advised no parking to be allowed in the adjacent alleys to facilitate emergency vehicles if needed. The Board discussed the proposal with Chief Vielweber.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to close West Dwight Street between North Commercial and North Broadway Streets on Saturday, September 20, 2025, for Shorty's Tavern 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party from 9a.m. Saturday, September 20, to 9a.m. Sunday, September 21, with no parking allowed in the adjacent alleys. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

Chief Vielweber updated the Board that the new speed radar sign has been received and will be installed

in the upcoming weeks.

President Schomaker thanked Chief Vielweber for securing funding for storing a Clin-Clair Fire Department (CCFD) truck in Damiansville in response to the reduced speed order currently in place for railroad traffic.

WATER & SEWER AND TECHNOLOGY - Kevin Kenow Chairman: Kenow invited Milon Rice, representing Clearwave Communications and Adam Brooks, Express Core Drilling, to address the Board. The Board discussed service coverage, construction plans and the installation process of fiber-optics in the Village of Albers.

Kenow presented the updated Amendment to Water Purchase Contract between the Villages of Albers and Damiansville. The Board discussed the contract.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow approve the updated Amendment to Water Purchase Contract between the Villages of Albers and Damiansville. McDermid seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried. Kenow directed Clerk Morris to record the agreement with the Clinton County Clerks

Kenow updated the Board that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Engineering Plan is being submitted on behalf of the Village of Albers by Curry & Associates Engineers, noting that all information requested from the Village of Albers for the plan has been submitted.

Kenow updated the Board that improvements managing the sewer pond are being recorded, including decreasing odors and increasing oxygen levels. He noted the addition of a filter screen installed by Spaeth Welding and reduction of trash are helping clear the system. Kenow noted recent meetings with Curry & Associates identified specific concerns and plans for maintaining the system are being considered.

Kenow noted the sewer plan testing equipment has been installed and is operational. Results from testing will provide information to better address maintaining the sewer pond and improve pond maintenance. Superintendent Deimeke is building an enclosure to protect the equipment.

Water & Sewer Superintendent Report: Superintendent Horstmann reported +26.05% water gain for August with a -4.60% loss year to date. The gain is attributed to a correction from meter reading estimates the previous month.

Superintendent Horstmann updated the Board that he is working on scheduling the tank inspection.

FINANCE - Mike McDermid Chairman: McDermid updated the Board that the new electrical aggregation contract is being prepared and will be presented soon. A current contract has been signed with Homefield Energy at a rate of \$0.11948/kWh. The Village of Albers entered into the electrical aggregation contract on behalf of all residents, authorizing Homefield Energy as the electric supplier for all residential accounts. McDermid recommends residents remain with Homefield Energy as current rates are lower than AmerenIL. Residents may opt-out of the program by contacting AmerenIL or Homefield Energy. McDermid referred to a letter sent to residents concerning the rates update reminding all residents to remain vigilant when managing their residential account and asked all residents to contact him or Village Hall with any questions.

McDermid presented the draft tax levy ordinance for first review and discussion. McDermid noted taxes for Special Service Area #8 (SSA #8) will be assessed by the Village of Albers one more year until Lookingglass Ambulance District begins assessing taxes for the service. Funds collected for SSA #8

will be directly transferred to Lookingglass Ambulance District for operations of ambulance service.

McDermid updated the Board on the Lookingglass Ambulance District, noting the independent ambulance district includes Albers, Damiansville, New Baden and Lookingglass Township. McDermid noted that the ambulance district is opening a checking account and is in the process of setting up operations.

McDermid presented invoices to be paid, the Board reviewed the invoices. McDermid noted that \$39,361.24 is being paid from the General Fund to the Lookingglass Ambulance District for SSA #8 taxes collected from the Village of Albers.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to pay invoices totaling \$117,721.69. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - 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 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

ZONING Sean Kennedy Chairman: Kennedy was absent, his absence was excused.

President Schomaker updated the Board that the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant is being awarded soon and the Village of Albers is looking forward to receiving funding from the grant.

President Schomaker noted Kennedy's recent conversations with HMG Engineers concerning updating the current zoning maps and that more information will be shared as it becomes available.

Zoning Administrator's Report - Jeannie Brendel Administrator: Administrator Brendel was absent, her absence was excused.

STREETS & LIGHTING – Jeff Timmermann Chairman: Timmermann was absent, his absence was excused. President Schomaker 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.

President Schomaker updated the Board that 210' of curbing is scheduled to be replaced on Debra Drive by November using previously approved Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funding.

President Schomaker announced streets are scheduled to be oiled Wednesday, September 10, 2025, with a map of included streets available soon.

President Schomaker noted a new snow blade is being considered with a replacement found at Woody's Municipal Supply.

Streets and Lighting Superintendent's Report Blake Deimeke: Superintendent Deimeke reported that streets will be oiled Wednesday, September 10, and a map has been submitted to residents.

Superintendent Deimeke updated the Board that he will be attending Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) informational training session sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Superintendent Deimeke updated the Board on recent backhoe repairs, including replacing tires and rear cylinders.

NEW BUSINESS: President Schomaker invited everyone to the 2025 Fall Albers-Damiansville Yard Sales on Saturday, September 13. Residents are invited to sign up on the Village of Albers Facebook page if they're interested in hosting a sale at their home.

President Schomaker announced the grand opening of Behrmann Meats & Processing Ready to Eat Plant on Thursday, September 18 and congratulated the business on the impressive expansion.

President Schomaker invited everyone to recognize National Diaper Awareness Week September 15-20, by donating to the Metro-East Diaper Bank. The Metro-East Diaper Bank partners with the Village of Albers providing this most important health care need to local families.

President Schomaker invited everyone to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness & Memorial Walk benefiting the Swing for Sydney Foundation on Friday, September 26 at Lehrter/JC Park.

President Schomaker announced the Illinois America250 Commemoration will be celebrating the United States' upcoming anniversary in 2026 and that the Village of Albers will be participating in the celebration.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider a \$100.00 donation to Michelle's Mashers in support of the 2025 Buddy Walk for Community Link.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY McDermid to donate \$100.00 to Michelle's Mashers in support of the 2025 Buddy Walk for Community Link from the tourism fund. Kenow seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

President Schomaker asked the Board to consider a \$100.00 donation to the Swing for Sydney Foundation promoting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness & Memorial Walk.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Kenow to donate \$100.00 to the Swing for Sydney Foundation promoting the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness & Memorial Walk from the tourism fund. Behrmann seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - 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 Kenow to adjourn the meeting. Athmer seconded the motion. Vote was 4 - yeas; 0 - nays; motion carried.

*Brenda Morris, Village Clerk*